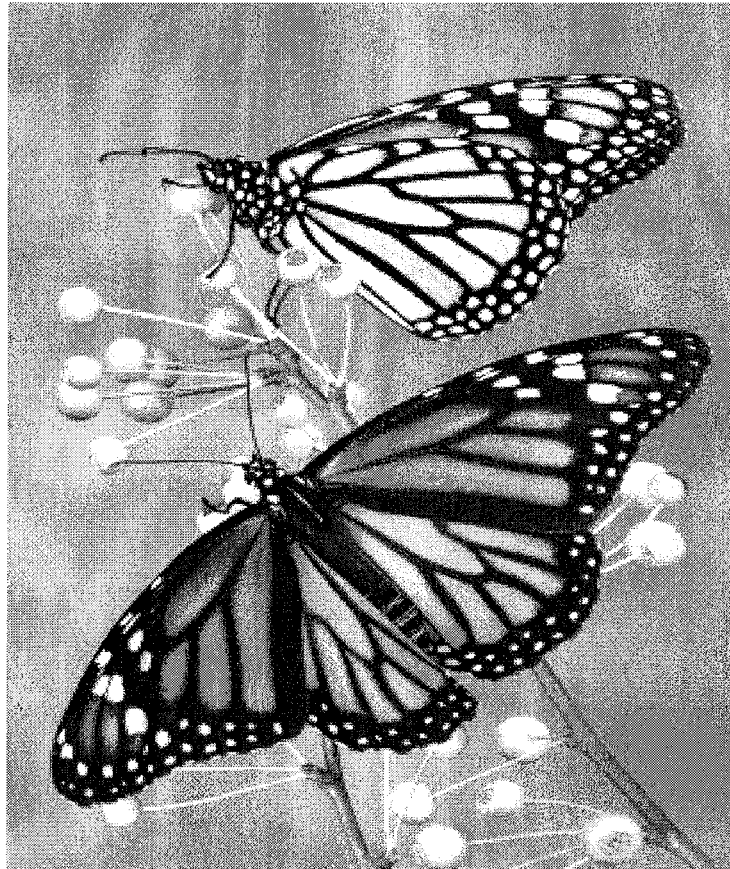


# ***THE CORNERSTONE***

*September: As the Monarchs fly,*



*We begin our own journey...*

*September, 2010*

# SEPTEMBER, 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			7:00 Teacher/Shepherd Orientation, Parlor	1:00 Red Cross Blood Drive 6:30 Troop 76 Leadership & Committee Mtg., Parson's Study 7:00 Hopmeadow Nursery School Parent Orientation, Chapel 7:30 AA - Room 28	9:30 Women's Ministry, Sml Grp., Parson's Study	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:30 Summer Sunday Worship, Sanctuary 11:15 Care Bags, Room 29	Labor Day - Office Closed		6:00 a.m.—Simsbury High School Guidance Dept., Freshman Parents Welcome Mtg., Palmer Hall 3:00 Sr. Youth Choir 4:00 Women's Praise Choir	6:00 Chancel Bells 6:30 p.m. Occasional Choir 6:30 Troop 76 Boy Scout Mtg., Palmer Hall 6:30 Troop 76 Leadership/Comm. Mtg., Parson's Study 7:30 Chancel Choir 7:30 AA - Room 28	9:00 Card making Grp., Rm. 28 & Rm. 29 9:00 First Church Friends 12:00 Sue Pytko Memorial Sys. 2:10 PF Youth Group 5:00 Cole/Biron wedding Reh., Sanctuary	9:00 60B Old Farms Rd Workday 4:30 Cole/Biron wedding
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Fall Festival 10:00 Sunday Worship, Sanctuary 10:00 Church School Cherub Choir (end of Church School) 12:00 Farmington Valley Chorus, (Small Grp) 1:00 South Park Inn meal prep 7:00 Sr. High Youth Group (PF)	4:00 Junior Choir 4:30 Book Group, Parlor 7:30 Executive Council Mtg., Parson's Study	12:00 Retired Men's Luncheon 7:00 Committee of Deacons, Library	9:00 Music Together Classes, Rm 29 3:00 Sr. Youth Choir 4:00 Women's Praise Choir	6:00 Chancel Bells 6:30 Occasional Choir 6:30 Troop 76 Boy Scout Mtg, Palmer Hall 7:30 AA - Room 28 7:30 Chancel Choir	6:00 Pandolfi Eagle Ceremony, Sanctuary/Palmer Hall	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:30 Worship, Chapel 10:00 Worship/Gelinas Baptism 10:00 Church School Cherub Choir (end of Church School) 3:00 Bible Program Workshop 1, (4-6th Grd, Palmer Hall) 6:00 Uncommon Worship in SANCTUARY 7:00 Sr. High Youth Group (PF)	1:00 Red Cross Blood Drive 4:00 Junior Choir 7:15 All Boards Meeting - All Rooms		9:00 Music Together classes, Rm 29 12:00 4th Wed. Study Grp., Rm28 3:00 Sr. Youth Choir 4:00 Women's Praise Choir	6:00 Chancel Bells 6:30 Occasional Choir 6:30 Troop 76 Boy Scout Meeting, Palmer Hall 7:30 AA - Room 28 7:30 Chancel Choir	2:10 JF Youth Group—J Fosters/ Youth Room	
26	27	28	29	30		
8:30 Worship, Chapel 10:00 Worship, Sanctuary 10:00 Church School Cherub Choir (end of Church School) 1:00 Young Families Grp., Apple Picking at Lost Acres Orchard 5:00 Adult Choir Open House, Palmer Hall 7:00 Sr. High Youth Group (PF)	4:00 Junior Choir 6:00 FMHCC Board of Directors Mtg., Parson's Study	10:00 Card Making Group, Rm 28	9:00 Music Together Classes, Rm 29 3:00 Sr. Youth Choir 4:00 Women's Praise Choir	6:00 Chancel Bells 6:30 Occasional Choir 6:30 Troop 76 Boy Scout Mtg, Palmer Hall 7:30 AA - Room 28 7:30 Chancel Choir		

# THE CORNERSTONE

## Sundays in September, 2010:

**September 5<sup>th</sup> – 9:30 a.m. (last of our 9:30 Summer Worship Services)**  
*"Family Ties", Luke 14: 25-33*  
 -Rev. Alison Buttrick Patton preaching

**September 12<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 a.m.—First Church Fall Festival Sunday**  
**One worship service only today**  
*"Finding Our Way Home...Again"*  
 -Rev. Jonathan Morgan preaching

*Sunday School Begins—be a part of this exciting start to our new church year! There will be lots of food and activities for people of all ages. Bring your neighbors and friends and share the Spirit!*

**September 19<sup>th</sup> – Additional Services begin.**  
**8:30 a.m.—Chapel**  
**10:00 a.m.—Sanctuary**  
**6:00 p.m. Uncommon Worship, Sanctuary**  
*"Why Church?", Matthew 28: 16-20*  
 -Rev. Kevin Weikel preaching at all three services

**September 26<sup>th</sup> – 8:30 a.m.—Chapel**  
**10:00 a.m.—Sanctuary**  
*"Entertaining Angels"*  
 -Rev. Alison Buttrick Patton preaching

UNLEASH YOUR SPIRIT AT ...

## ***THE UNCOMMON WORSHIP SERVICE***

*The Uncommon Worship Service blends traditional with contemporary. It is spirited, inclusive, and contagious.*

***All are welcome.***

***The Uncommon Worship services will now take place in the SANCTUARY.***

*Sept. 19th, 6:00 p.m.*



### **CORNERSTONE – HOW LOW CAN WE GO**

Last year many of you responded to our request to receive notice that the Cornerstone can be viewed on our website, instead of receiving it by U.S. mail. To those people, we thank you very much. But we still have 570 homes which receive a paper copy, and we would like to get that number as low as we can.

So we are again asking: If you are presently receiving the Cornerstone through the mail, ***could we convince you to receive notice to view the Cornerstone on-line?*** When each month's Cornerstone is ready, we will send you an email, ***with a link***, informing you that the monthly issue is available to ***view on the First Church website***. Some of the benefits of this:

- The on-line issue is in "living color"
- We save on paper costs, copying costs, and postage
- You get to read the Cornerstone before the paper copies are received.
- You can view the Cornerstone in as a large print as you want when you can't find your reading glasses.

Please help us save money by receiving our email notifications instead of by U.S. mail. To add your name to that list, contact the church office, 860-651-3593, or email Cathie Behrens at [Cathie.behrens@1stchurchsimsbury.org](mailto:Cathie.behrens@1stchurchsimsbury.org), to let us know you want to be put on this list. We want to be sure everyone is getting our church information the fastest and best way possible.

Thank you.  
Anne Nelson, Church Administrator

## *From the Senior Minister's Desk*

*Therefore will we not fear, though the earth do change...  
Be Still, and know that I am God!" Psalm 46*



Recently, I drove with my 21 year-old son, James, back to Chicago for the start of his Junior year at Elmhurst College. It was a wonderfully long trip as I took in the pleasure of being with my youngest son who brings such light and life to my life. James loves college. He feels so comfortable and at home with his new friends and professors. I am overjoyed as a parent to watch him take in this exciting and growing life experience. It was good to bring him back to so positive a place. At least that was partially how I was feeling... for welling up in me was an equally strong emotion of wanting to pick him up and put him back in the car to bring him home again to his loving family. For something so right ~ letting him go and allowing him to grow and mature almost 1000 miles away ~ there was something inside of me that said, "this is wrong" not to bring him home again so we can enjoy his gentle smile and loving presence. Change is hard.

In the church, we have similar challenges of life and faith. We seek the perceived safety and security of what is known. We resist change because change is risky and we don't like risk in a world that seems so confusing at times. (I think this is especially true in our communities where the main industry speaks of risk as a circumstance to be avoided at all cost.) We try to hold on to what is good and wonderful, (but should be released into the shimmering memories of the past), because we want to extend what is known and right without the challenges of new and different. This was true at the beginning of our faith journey and it is true today at First Church of Christ, Simsbury.

*And yet...* we proclaim a faith that heralds a God who continues to be active and alive in our world. We worship a God who has not yet finished the creative wonders we see and feel all around us. We announce to a world longing for relationship that we have a God who is "still speaking" and wishing to be part of our lives. Change is part of God's plan. It was true over 3000 years ago when the Psalmist wrote to God's people seeking the comfort of sameness... and it is true today. For we have a God who wishes to be active in and through our lives as we make our way along this faithful journey.

So, where do we find our anchor then in a world full of change? Where do we find our strength as the ever-flowing stream of time flows over us? Where do we find our comfort and hope? In the never changing and always present gift of God's Love and Grace. Let us embrace the newness of our faith in a loving and active God and boldly proclaim this Good News to our thirsty souls and needy world. "*Be Still in your souls and know that I am God!*"

In the Joy of Christ's Service,

*Jonathan*

## First Church 'raises up' candidates for ministry

In August we were privileged to hear sermons from each of our two current "Members in Discernment," Diann Bailey and Erica Petitti. We can testify to all the ways that Erica and Diann have blessed this community – in worship and preaching, and in a whole range of leadership roles. In turn, each of them speaks of the ways that First Church has nurtured and encouraged their emerging sense of call to ordained ministry.

It turns out they are only the most recent in a long line of First Church members who have been so nurtured. Take a look at the list of First Church members who have responded to God's call to serve in ministry\*:

Martha Nilsen—ordained UCC 2005

John Wilmarth – Anna Grupp's son-in-law, son of Gary & Genie – ordained UCC 1997

Gordon Crouch Jr. – Son of Gordon and Nancy – ordained UCC 1994

Jayne (Kalika) Hundley – Daughter of Joyce and Peter – ordained UCC 1986

Cynthia Shepard Cadenhead – Daughter of Mim and Bill – ordained Presbyterian 1981

Robert Tiffany "Tiff" Bates - Son of Nancy and Jack - ordained UCC 1979

Elaine Fairbrother – Ordained UCC 1979

Maybe you remember some of these names? Maybe you even contributed to their budding sense of call – through a word of encouragement, an invitation or a gentle nudge. Helping individuals to recognize a call is a ministry in itself, one at which this congregation is well-practiced. I know there are others in our midst who may yet feel that divine tug to serve God's Church. May we continue to find and fan that holy spark wherever we perceive it!

*\*For a list that goes all the way back to the 1700's, check out pages 156-157 of the official history of First Church, written by the Rev. Lyman Potter.*

*Grace and Peace,*

*Alison*

## South Park Inn

### COME ALONG WITH US OR WORK "BEHIND THE SCENES" PREPARING THE DELICIOUS FOOD FOR SOUTH PARK INN

Each of the opportunities below represents great experiences for bringing a family together, for reconnecting with friends, extend your Women's Circle experience, sharing with your Bible Study friends, adding a new dimension to your Men's group involvement, developing 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*)
- ⇒ 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, 9/12/10; Sunday, 10/ 17/10; Sunday, 11/14/10; Sunday, 12/12/10

## 4th Wednesday Study Group

The 4th Wednesday Study Group will reconvene Wed., Sept. 22nd at 12:00 Noon in Room 28. After catching up on summer vacation news, we have two items on our agenda:

- 1) We ask that you bring a favorite poem or a beautiful and/or thought-provoking bit of prose to share.
- 2) We will select the book we will be studying this year—nominations are welcome!

Please join us to meet some interesting people, make some new friends, and blow those cranial cobwebs away! If you have any questions, contact Pat Ketchpel at 860-658-9357.

## **Opportunities for Personal Growth and Involvement...**

**...still exist at First Church in many, enriching ways.**

We are particularly and specifically inviting you to explore and consider the opportunity of involvement in one of First Church's Boards and/or Committees that continue to have a place for you... namely the Boards of Elders, Christian Education (particularly in the area of Adult Education), Finance, Stewardship (more than just seeking pledges), Trustees, and Personnel.

We encourage you to contact us at church or at home:

Dane Woodberry {860 658-7996} and/or  
Jeff Osborne (860 651-8907)

We would be happy to answer your questions and to discuss your involvement.

This message is being brought to you by the First Church Nominating Committee; and we Approve of this message.

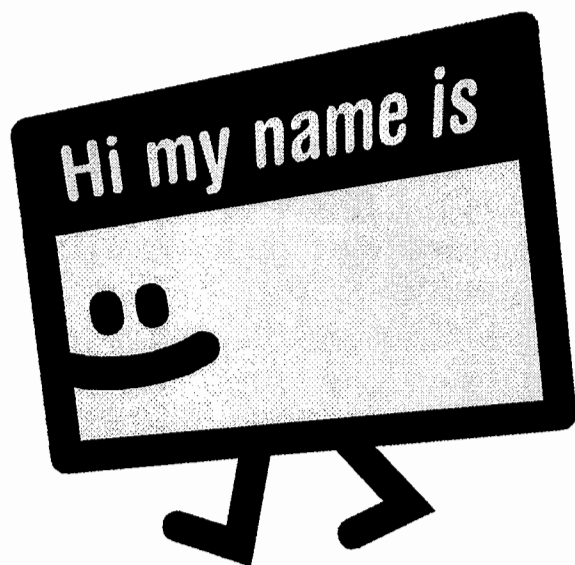


### ***SUNDAY FLOWERS— IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY***

It is never too early to reserve a Sunday during our next church year to commemorate, honor or memorialize with flowers for the altar in the sanctuary.

If there is a Sunday that you would like to reserve, please contact *Bill Lawry* at 860-651-0281 or [wlawry@aol.com](mailto:wlawry@aol.com).

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?



"Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_; what's your name?"

Is that a question you ask or are asked by the worshiper sitting next to you on Sunday morning? Are you sometimes surprised (or embarrassed) by the discovery that they have been a First Church member almost as long as you? And what's in a name anyway? Perhaps, it is just an introduction to who they are, where they have been, and where they are going. And with a welcoming "Hello," you can begin to share your journey with theirs. First Church's Welcoming Church Ministry Team has created a mission statement which reads as follows:

*"As God welcomes us, we are called to welcome and seek Christ in one another. Therefore we strive to create and foster a sense of welcome at First Church by nurturing engaged involvement in church life and by building spiritual and personal connections - learning from each other and growing in faith."*

We invite your consideration of this statement and participation in it's message.

**What's in a Name?** I'm sure it was not too long ago that during the Sacrament of Baptism, you heard the question asked: ...And by what name shall this child be called/know?

Baptism is a sign and seal of the covenant of grace and of welcome into the household of faith. Knowing and recognizing one another by name is an affirmation of our membership in that household of faith that can begin at First Church and extend outward to our community and world.

**As God welcomes us....**

Some thoughts from the Welcoming Church Ministry Team  
 {Watch for continuing signs of Welcome at First Church}

## **“International Disaster Relief – Pakistan Flooding” – United Church of Christ and ecumenical partners respond to the devastating floods in Pakistan. *Join the relief effort:***

The flooding in Pakistan has evolved into a disaster of massive proportion. According to John Holmes, UN Emergency Relief Coordinator: “The death toll has so far been relatively low compared to other major natural disasters, but the numbers affected are extraordinarily high. If we don’t act fast enough, many more people could die of diseases and food shortages.”

Pakistan estimates that more than 14 million people have now been affected by the emergency, with various degrees of severity. Because the floods have caused extensive damage to crops, livestock, and other food sources in the affected regions, food security issues are paramount, said Church World Service (CWS) staff in Pakistan.

The United Church of Christ has sent an initial \$15,000 from ***One Great Hour of Sharing*** emergency funds to CWS with a pledge to raise additional donations from members and friends.

CWS is responding in a wide geographic area, working with partners in various districts of the affected regions in providing immediate relief aid, including shelter items, food packages and health services. In its overall work, CWS plans to provide assistance to 70,000 people - food assistance to 35,000 people, emergency shelter supplies to meet the needs of 17,500 people and mobile health access for 17,500 people.

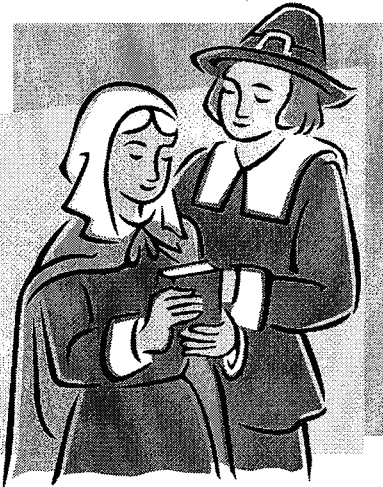
To learn more about our denomination’s response, go to: [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org) and click on link to Pakistan relief efforts under “News.”

### ***How You Can Help:***

1. **Pray** for the people of Pakistan, their leaders, and all emergency response workers.
2. **Donate:** Please help the people of Pakistan by sending gifts payable to the First Church of Christ, Simsbury marked for "**International Disaster Relief - Pakistan Flooding**" to be sent through your Conference office on to Wider Church Ministries.

## A LOOK AT OUR PAST— WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE?

For Mrs. Dorothy Woodbridge  
Wife of our First Minister, Dudley Woodbridge



This is the title of a new exhibit that has been installed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor hallway in the new exhibit cabinets. This little corner by the elevator now has the two cases recently given to the church, and the exhibit case built by Jerry Nason. This case was in the hallway near the parlor for many years. The exhibit on Mrs. Woodbridge shows the visitor what had to be done to make cloth in the colonial times. Dudley was the minister here from 1697 until he died in 1710. His wife had to do the same work at home as other wives.

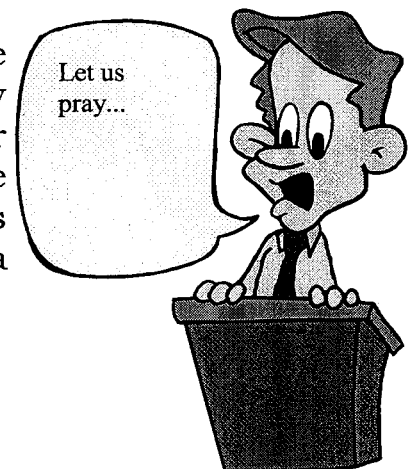
Stop by and take a look at Dudley's inventory, taken right after he died, and at the story of flax and wool production.

Donna Hopkins, Church Historian

## 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 at public speaking, please consider this opportunity to share your skills, time, and heart with your congregation.

You will probably be asked to participate in only one service a month, so the obligation should not be overly time consuming, but we hope will be a wonderful way for you to explore, as well as express, your faith. 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.



*Church School  
News*

**Fall Church school**

**August 29:** Family Service

**Sept 1:** Teacher / shepherd orientation, 7:00 pm, Parlor

**Sept 5:** movie, Abe and the Amazing Promise

**Sept 12:** 1st day of Church School

**Sept 19:** class photo day, pictures will be displayed in the new children's information center on the 3rd floor

**Bible Program for 4th – 6th graders,** Students learn Bible basics through crafts and games.

**Dates:** Sept 19, October 17, Jan 30, March 6

**Time:** 3-5pm

See [www.1stchurchsimsbury.org](http://www.1stchurchsimsbury.org) for further information

**Oct 31, Walk like an Egyptian Event,** Palmer Hall, 10:15-Noon

**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. In September the children will be learning about the Creation story.

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

The Pre-K class (rm. 38) will be learning the about the church with a unit titled "Let's Go to Church" by doing crafts, playing games, and singing in the month of September. Each week a student will have the opportunity to be chosen to bring the Jesus doll and journal home to spend the week with Jesus. Parents record what the "Jesus" and the family did together during the week and the journal entry is read in class on Sunday morning. Students will start in church and be dismissed to their class after the children's message.

**Kindergarten Class**

The Kindergarten class (rm. 37) will be learning the Bible story about Joseph through games, crafts, and activities. This story focus is on getting along with others, doing our best, forgiving others, and helping others. Students will start in church and be dismissed to the chapel after the children's message.

**Rotation Program for Grades 1-6, Abraham & Sarah:**

God called Abraham and Sarah and all their descendants into a special relationship as people of God. God promised to be with them just as God is with us today.

**Bible story reference:** Genesis 12; 13:14, 12:17; 18:1-15; 21:1-8

**Bible verse:** God said, "I will bless you and make your name famous, so that you will be a blessing...through you I will bless all the nations." Genesis 12:2-3.

**The students will explore these concepts:** 1) In the book of Genesis, we find how Abraham and Sarah were the first people to be called the People of God. God promised Abraham that a great nation would come from his and Sarah's descendants. 2) Although Abraham and Sarah were beyond the customary age for starting a family, they trusted God and left their home as God told them. 3) Many years passed, while Abraham and Sarah had to wait, until God fulfilled the promise made.

	B.L.A.S.T Rm.35-Art	Mouse Pad Rm.32- Computers	Creation Station Rm.34-Cooking	Coliseum Rm.29- Games	Blockbuster Rm.27- Movie
<b>Wk. 1 (9/12)</b> PreK-6 Begin in Church	Gr. 1	Gr. 2	Gr. 3	Gr. 4	Gr. 5 Gr. 6
<b>Wk. 2 (9/19)</b> PreK-6 Begin in Church	Gr. 2	Gr. 3	Gr. 4	Gr. 5 Gr. 6	Gr.1
<b>Wk. 3 (9/26)</b> PreK- 6 Begin in Church	Gr. 3	Gr. 4	Gr. 5 Gr. 6	Gr. 1	Gr. 2
<b>Wk. 4 (10/3)</b> PreK-6 Begin in Church	Gr. 4	Gr. 5 Gr. 6	Gr. 1	Gr. 2	Gr. 3
<b>Wk. 5 (10/10)</b> PreK-6 Begin in Church	Gr. 5 Gr. 6	Gr. 1	Gr. 2	Gr. 3	Gr. 4

## Fall Teachers

The church school is a co-operative program in which parents work together to teach their children about their faith.

**Nursery-** Ashley Cole, Cheryl Robucci; Teen Aids: Laura Morgan, Stefanie Mueller, Oliva Tawney

**Pre-K**—Kate Bruno, **parent helper needed each week. Sign-up in classroom**

Teen Aids: Sarah Medve and Marrison Hedman

**Kindergarten**—Pattie Scanlon, Erin Naspo; Teen Aid: Lydia Wartens

**Two Fall teachers are needed for each workshop from Sept 12-Dec 12.**

**Computer room** – Craig Patton, **1 additional teacher needed**

**Cooking room** – Charmaine Arena, Erica Pandolfi; Teen Aides: Taylor and Jamie Stephen

**Art room** – Ann Marie Prabulos, Beth Strapp; Teen Aides: Ashley Uliasz and Andrew Yanik

**Game room** – Heather Bobinski, Sarah Wilmarth Gusta

**Movie room** – Linda Peach, Yolanda Wilde

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

**1<sup>st</sup> grade shepherd**— Jackie Brooke, **teen aide needed**

**2<sup>nd</sup> grade shepherd** - Trica Laubscher, **teen aide needed**

**3<sup>rd</sup> grade shepherd** – **Needed**

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

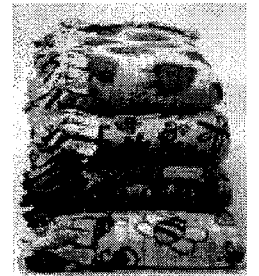
**5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade shepherd** – Bryan Tawney, Teen aid: Ethan Pandolfi



Stefanie Mueller, Patrick Long, and Alison and Matt Greiten for helping prepare for the fall by working on bulletin boards, painting backdrops & props, etc.

## Fall Church School Mission Project

**Tied Fleece Blankets for South Park Inn**  
Most of our children



have a blanket or stuffed animal that offers comfort in times of stress. The students at First Church will be making blankets for the children at South Park Inn, a homeless shelter in Hartford, to help comfort and keep them warm. Student offering from September through December will be used to purchase fleece for the blankets.

## New K.I.D.S. @ 1st Information Center: work in progress

Information about the church school will be available in the lobby by the 3rd floor elevator instead of on the table by the chapel.

- Painting of hallway is under way
- Baskets and shelves for Crayons, Children's bulletins, offering envelopes, mission project collection will be available next to the elevator.
- Class pictures of each grade will be displayed on the wall above the pews. (Sept 19 class photos taken)
- Table and stools available to fill out registration forms and sign up for activity sign.
- Activity panels will be made and mounted on the wall.

## Additional Church School Improvements Made Over the Summer (thanks to the Tag Sale):

New cabinets and two new shelving units in the art room, two new acoustical buffers in the computer room, eight new dies for the AccuCut machine, new software for the computer room, a hard drive for the computer room, and the 3rd floor lobby.

## The Word in Motion Liturgical

**Dancers** : Students in grades 2-12 (female and male) are invited to participate in the Word in Motion Liturgical dance group. The dance group will participate in the Children's Christmas Service. Rehearsal is at 11:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary starting on Sept 19th. If you are interested, please contact Ashley Cole through email: ashley.e.cole@gmail.com.

## YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT OVERVIEW

With the beginning of a new school year, I thought it might be helpful to give an overview of the youth and young adult ministries that are available to young people at First Church. I often get questions such as, "What's the difference between PF and JF?" Or, "When do the young adults meet?" See the overview below. For more detailed information, visit the Youth and Young Adult Website at <http://tinyurl.com/1stchurchY-YA> ~Rev. Kevin

**What is Junior Fellowship?** Junior Fellowship (JF for short) is youth group for 7th and 8th graders. JF meets every other Friday after school from 2:10-4:00 p.m. It's simple, students hop on the church bus in the parent pickup loop in front of Henry James and we go from there. Sometimes we stop for ice cream or a kickball game and other times we'll head straight back to the church for games and an engaging discussion. Students attending a middle school other than Henry James are welcome, they just need to contact me so we can find the best way to meet up.

**What is Confirmation?** Confirmation is a concentrated time for 8th graders to explore what it means to be Christian. We do this through small group study, large group programs, mission/service work, experiencing and reflecting on worship, going on retreat, and participating in the events and activities of Fellowship (JF). The goal is for 8th graders to build positive and grace-filled relationships with one another, a deep understanding of God's love for all people, and a desire to follow Jesus. At the end of the Confirmation journey, our young people will affirm their Baptism and officially join the church.

**What is PF?** PF stands for Pilgrim Fellowship. This has been the name of the Sr. High Youth Group at First Church for hundreds of years. It dates back to the pilgrims who first came here in search of religious freedom and it still fits because all of us, especially teenagers, are pilgrims on a journey. PF is for all 9th through 12th graders no matter their religious background, ideas about God, or anything else. Everyone is welcome. It is a place for teens to play, discuss, worship, grow, serve, and love. PF meets on Sunday nights from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Youth Room for games and conversation on relevant topics from a faith perspective. PF also does many special activities and events. PF serves meals at soup kitchens, tutors elementary school students in Hartford, goes on an annual summer mission/immersion trip, and much more.

**What is Youth Sunday School?** Youth Sunday School is pretty self explanatory - it's Sunday School for 7th through 12th graders. Those who attend Youth Sunday School sit together for the beginning of the 10:00 a.m. worship service and head down to the Youth Room for a Bible lesson after the children's story.

**What are Young Adults?** We consider a Young Adult to be 18 years of age through 30ish. The "ish" is important. If you feel like a Young Adult, you probably are! Our Young Adults are mostly off at college or engaged in full-time work making it difficult to meet on a consistent basis. However, our Young Adults participate in an annual mission trip each January (most college students are off at that time), and meet sporadically throughout the year for fellowship and conversation.

**REV. KEVIN WEIKEL—YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY**  
**PLAY, DISCUSS, WORSHIP, GROW, SERVE, LOVE...**

Go to <http://tinyurl.com/1stchurchY-YA> for more detailed information

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

- Friday, August 27th,**                    **2:10-9:00 p.m.** JF is kicking off the year with a trip to Lake Compounce! Go to <http://tinyurl.com/27ll4fk> for more information.
- Friday, September 10,**                **2:10-4:00 p.m.** Hop a ride on the church bus from Henry James and we'll head back to the church for icebreakers, team-building games, and a conversation about how "The Great Banquet" relates to JF.
- Friday, September 24,**                **2:10-4:00 p.m.** Hop a ride on the church bus from Henry James and we'll head to J. Fosters for ice cream before heading to the church for games and conversation

**CONFIRMATION (for 8th graders)**

- Tuesday, September 7th**            Enrollment Forms/Waiver Packets/September 19th RSVP Due.
- Sunday, September 19th**            Kickoff Picnic for Students and Parents. We will go over the details of the Confirmation process, enjoy fellowship and food, and attend Uncommon Worship together. Please let us know how many from your family will be attending (i.e., 1 or 2 parents plus Confirmand).

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

- Sunday, August 29th**                    **8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.** PF is kicking off the year with an all day whitewater rafting trip on the Deerfield River in Northwestern, Mass! Go to <http://tinyurl.com/22rs7vp> for more information.
- Sunday, September 12th,**                **7:00-9:00 p.m.** Icebreakers and team-building games in the youth room.
- Sunday, September 19th,**                **7:00-9:00 p.m.** Walking to J Fosters for ice cream and then back to the church for games and conversation.
- Sunday, September 26th,**                **7:00-9:00 p.m.** Games and conversation TBD.

**YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL (for 7th-12th graders)**

**Youth Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 12.** Meet outside the Youth Room at 10:00 a.m. to meet your class. In the weeks to follow, those attending Youth Sunday School will meet 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.

## *Music Notes*

The new church year is upon us! It seems like no matter how much time we have spent preparing during the past three months, there is still an overwhelming amount of work to do.

Musically, this is going to be an exciting year. We have concerts planned, including an organ concert on May 3rd at 3:00 p.m. commemorating First Church's Bagnall Organ Scholarship, which presented its final awards this past spring. The featured guest will be Renee Louprette, who was the first recipient of the scholarship and is now an organist of international renown. Save the date - this is going to be a marvelous concert. The January concert will be the return of guitarist Doug Maher, who presented a spectacular cabaret last June - those who attended are still raving about it.

Rehearsals are starting up for all choirs - adult and youth alike. Check the schedule below, and please join us.

### Adult Choirs:

Chancel Choir: Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

Occasional Choir: Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

Women's Praise Choir: Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m.

Chancel Bells: Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

### Youth Choirs:

Cherubs (Pre K, K & 1): Sunday at the end of Church School

Junior Choir (2 through 6): Mondays at 4:00 p.m.

Senior Youth Choir (7 through 12) Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m.

We look forward to some great events - workshops, concerts, and festival worship services with musical styles that have something for every taste. Here are some:

- There is a choir exchange being planned which will team us with an excellent choir from Gorham, Maine, and we will sing there for a Sunday service and program, then have them join us here in Simsbury the following week. We will be performing the Mozart Great Mass in C Minor - a mid-winter concert - along with the choirs from Simsbury and Avon United Methodist churches and others.
- We will once again be part of Simsbury Celebrates in November
- Programs for all our various services on Christmas Eve are finalized
- Annual Music Sunday in January.
- Our Junior and Senior youth choirs will once again be a larger part of our Sunday worship
- Other appearances are in the works, including another exchange with the Simsbury Methodist Church, which we hope will be an annual event.
- The Chancel Bells will once again be performing at Bell Festivals in the area in the spring.

We would like you to know, though, that we have to have participation from *you*. We are looking to involve more people, and need not only the support, but also the active involvement of people in the church to continue the music here. Listening to the music here at First Church might be great, but actually making music is so much better.

So we're holding a **First Church Choir Open House** to which everyone is invited (whether you can sing or not) - on **September 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. in Palmer Hall** - starting with a pot-luck supper and ending with some music. You'll get to check out all the adult choirs - the Chancel, the Occasional, the Women's Praise, and the Chancel Bells. You don't have to have the intention of joining anything - there won't be any high-pressure recruitment - we just want to show everyone how great making music really can be. We might ask you to join us in a song or two. And if you feel you don't know how - remember we all weren't born knowing how to swing a bat, ride a bike, or cook a steak. We shouldn't expect ourselves to be "American Idol" stars right away - we just want everyone to have fun. You don't have to be a soloist or the center of attention - just a regular person who is sitting beside someone who is on the same team as you - and when we band together, we're all that much better for it.

Mark the date - stop in for a couple of hours - have fun, and then hopefully come away from it knowing why music is such a great thing in our lives.

See you there- *Mark*

## 350 Day of Action – *A Global Work Party*

On **October 10, 2010**, thousands of groups around the world will undertake work projects to help reduce carbon emissions, encourage green technologies and work toward a healthier, more sustainable environment. “In Auckland, New Zealand, they’re having a giant bike fix-up day, to get every bicycle in the city back on the road. In the Maldives, they’re putting up solar panels on the President’s office. In Kampala, Uganda, they’re going to plant thousands of trees, and in Bolivia they’re installing solar stoves for a massive carbon neutral picnic.”



This event is being organized by [350.org](http://350.org), an international movement started by author and environmentalist Bill McKibbin to unite the world around solutions to the climate crisis (you can learn more about the group, its mission, and this initiative at [www.350.org](http://www.350.org) ). First Church member Jeremy Osborn is a 350.org team member.

The book of Genesis reminds us that we are called to be stewards of God’s good creation. In response to that holy mandate, we are exploring ways to participate on October 10. *Stay tuned* for an invitation to join a First Church work party! For more information or to get involved, see Steve Osborn, Tina Osborn or Rev. Alison Patton.

## FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Trustees want to thank all those who have contributed to improvements in the third floor hallway and chapel this summer. The list is too large to include here, and it is always amazing how our congregation comes together and works hard toward a common goal.

As we move our services back to the Meeting House this September you will notice the cooperative efforts of representatives from all the boards and ministry staff to brighten-up the third floor and chapel. We appreciate the contributions from the Memorial Fund towards making this all happen.

We have had our struggles this summer as well, as the church experienced some vandalism and we pieced together the air-conditioning system to keep us cool in Palmer Hall. These unexpected items stressed the Trustee's budget in a time of overall economic crisis. We are very mindful of the current economic climate and work hard to optimize every dollar spent, but at times we experience unexpected costs. We are grateful however, that pledges continue to be honored and there is economic support within our congregation to overcome these issues.

Todd Bailey

## On the Journey—Exploring our Faith Questions Together

*A Large/Small Group Opportunity Coming Wednesday Evenings  
October—November, 2010*

Have you ever wrestled with your faith?

Do you ever feel like you are the only one with questions?

Do you hesitate to ask those questions, for fear of seeming foolish or unfaithful?

***Fear not! Join*** the Revs. Jonathan Morgan and Alison Buttrick Patton, and other First Church friends and members as together we explore those questions that shape our faith: Where is God in our lives? How can we understand suffering? What is a 'life in Jesus'? We will listen to each other, and to the insights of a range of pastors, teachers and theologians on the **Living the Questions** DVD for Christian formation.

Come, not to get the answers, but to explore the questions with others who share this journey of faith. **You, and ALL your questions, are welcomed!**

## Who are the First Church Friends?

*First Church Friends is a visiting ministry of First Church.*

The group had its beginning just over one year ago, in the spring of 2009. It grew out of a congregational commitment to expand our visiting and pastoral care ministries. In March of 2009, 40 people gathered for a two-session workshop called "Introduction to Care-Giving." Out of that workshop, a team of eight people volunteered to start visiting First Church members who couldn't get to church regularly or who might welcome the company.

In the fall of 2009, we offered a 10-week (30 hour) class called "Developing the Caring Community," with 18 participants. Together we explored listening skills, praying with others, understanding grief, maintaining healthy boundaries and tips for visiting in hospitals and in homes (among other topics). At the conclusion of the class, several participants agreed to join those first eight visitors, who had dubbed the group "First Church Friends."

First Church Friends (FCF) now has 18 participants who are paired up with about 30 First Church members. Some FCF's go in pairs to visit, others go one-on-one. They may make a visit every month – or more or less often, depending on requests and schedules. When they do go, we ask them to do four things:

- Let the person know that they are *visiting on behalf of First Church*: These visits are an expression of the church's care and concern for our members. We want those who are visited to know that they are in the thoughts and prayers of First Church members and ministers.
- *Offer or invite a prayer* during the visit.
- Ask the person being visited to *hold First Church in prayer*: Prayer goes both ways! Just as we are praying for those who can't be with us on Sunday morning, so we need *all* our members and friends to be praying for First Church and its ministries.
- Let Pastor Alison know after each visit so the church can stay connected.

*Maybe you have received a visit?* Maybe you wondered why a couple of friendly faces came your way? *They* are our First Church Friends! If you have feedback about the visits, or if you would like to suggest someone who might welcome a visit, please contact Pastor Alison.

*And, if you would like to join First Church Friends:* you are most welcome! We meet once every six weeks for support and continued learning. We would love to have you share your gifts of care and compassion. Please contact Alison for more info.

Our next meeting will be **Friday, September 10, 2010 from 9:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.**  
in the **Parson's Study.**

# Women's Ministry Meeting

*"Living Life as  
God's Beloved"*

**Monday Night, October 4**

**7:00 - 8:30 p.m.**



The heavens opened and the voice of God proclaimed at Jesus' baptism,  
*"You are my Beloved... On you my favor rests".*

The good news is that we, too, are ALL God's beloved daughters. Claiming our Belovedness and living our lives grounded in the knowledge that we are truly God's Beloved -- no matter what -- can center and steady us to walk in strength and power through the peaks and valleys of our relationships and our lives.

Come, spend time in the sacred embrace of the Women's Gathering, and learn how to claim the gift of your Belovedness.



We are very excited to begin our Women's Ministry Program again this year! Last year, over 130 women from First Church and beyond came to one of our Women's Ministry Meetings and May Retreat! We are looking forward to inviting you back to this very meaningful and uplifting program this year!

And if you haven't been to a meeting yet... *let this year be the year!*

Please sign up during Coffee Hour or by calling the church office at 860 651-3593.

If you have any questions please speak to Nancy Crouch at 860 658-1894.

*Come! And bring a friend.*

# Fall Festival Church Picnic

*September 12, 2010*

*Worship at 10 Picnic at 11*



**Enjoy a music-filled gathering with fun and games for all ages!  
Enjoy delicious food and meet some new friends and become  
reacquainted with old friends!**



***Come and bring a friend!***

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Fall Festival Picnic** – – First Church will launch the fall season with a Fall Festival Church Picnic (in place of the “Fall Festival”) **after 10:00 a.m. worship on Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>**, in the upper parking lot. Lunch will be provided. *(There will be no 8:30 a.m. service this day.)*

**BACK TO FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE**— Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> begins our fall worship schedule with two services on Sundays, **8:30 a.m. in the Chapel and 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.**

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**—The first fall **Executive Council Meeting** will be **Monday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m. in the Parson’s Study.**

**ALL BOARDS**—The first fall **All Boards Meeting** will be **Monday, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:15 p.m. in all rooms.**

**WORK DAY AT 60B OLD FARMS ROAD** – scheduled for **Sat., Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00-12:00 Noon.** Join us as we complete the yard work around **60B Old Farms Rd.**, a house we have helped rehab to be rented as a unit of affordable housing here in Simsbury. The weeds and brush have been cleared away; now we need to distribute soil and mulch. No experience needed! Just bring yourself, gloves and shovel if you have them. **There is a sign-up sheet outside the Sanctuary.** Contact Pastor Alison with questions at 860-651-3593.

**HAYSTACK CIRCLE** will not meet in September. The first meeting will be on **Wed., Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m., Room 28.**

**DEVELOPING THE CARING COMMUNITY** - Interested in a **10-week Care-giving course this fall?** Pastor Alison is exploring whether to repeat the 10-week care-giving class, “Developing the Caring Community,” as a day-time class this fall. The course is for *anyone* who would like to deepen skills in care-giving – for yourself, your work, your family, or as part of a lay ministry. Class meets once a week for 3 hours; participants work in small groups, practice skills and reflect on key issues together. **Sign up on Sunday, call the office or contact Pastor Alison with your questions.** Please indicate your preference for a Tuesday or Wednesday morning or afternoon class.