

First Church of Christ, Simsbury

Volume 140

THE CORNERSTONE



July/August, 2011

JULY, 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:30 Worship - Sanctuary 9:30 Church School Summer Program - Children's Library	4 Holiday - Office Closed for Independence Day	5 1:00 Red Cross blood drive	6 7:00 Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall	7 7:30 AA meeting, Room 28	8 3:00 Knust Memorial Service	9 1:30 South Park Inn Meal Prep 4:30 South Park Inn, Hartford Serving Meals
10 9:30 Worship - Sanctuary 9:30 Church School Summer Program - Children's Library	11	12	13 7:00 Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall	14 Storale Wedding Rehearsal, Sanctuary 7:30 AA meeting, Room 28	15 3:30 Storale Wedding, Sanctuary	16
17 9:30 Worship - Sanctuary 9:30 Church School Summer Program - Children's Library	18 1:00 Red Cross blood drive	19	20 7:00 Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall	21 7:30 AA meeting, Room 28	22	23
24 9:30 Worship - Sanctuary 9:30 Church School Summer Program - Children's Library	25 6:00 FMHCC Board of Directors meeting, Parsons' Study	26 10:00 Card making group, Room 28	27 7:00 Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall	28 7:30 AA meeting, Room 28	29	30
31 9:30 Worship, Sanctuary						

August, 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 1:00 Red Cross blood drive	2	3 7:00 Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall	4 4:00 Ontko/Czuchta Wedding Rehearsal, Sanctuary 7:30 AA meeting, Room 28	5 4:00 Ontko/Czuchta Wedding, Sanctuary	6
7 9:30 Worship, Sanctuary	8	9	10 7:00 Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall	11 7:30 AA meeting, Room 28	12 4:30 Sprague/Burke Wedding Rehearsal, Sanctuary	13 8:00 Card Making Class, Palmer Hall & Kitchen 11:00 Wedding, Sprague/Burke, Sanctuary
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21 9:30 Worship, Sanctuary 1:30 South Park Inn Meal Prep 4:30 South Park Inn Hartford, Serving Meals	22 6:00 FMHCC Board of Directors meeting, Parsons' Study	23 10:00 Card making group, Room 28	24 7:00 Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall	25 7:30 AA meeting, Room 28	26 Carbone/Brainard Wedding Rehearsal - Sanctuary	27 2:00 Carbone/Brainard Wedding, Sanctuary
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THE CORNERSTONE

JULY/AUGUST 2011 WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

- July 3rd** **9:30 a.m.—Worship in the Sanctuary—Holy Communion**
~ Kevin Weikel and Mission Trip Participants leading worship
- July 10th** **9:30 a.m.—Worship in the Sanctuary**
~ Ineke Mitchell, North Central Regional Minister—
Guest Preacher
- July 17th** **9:30 a.m.—Worship in the Sanctuary**
~ Diann Bailey preaching
“Surely God Is In This Place!” Genesis 28:10-22
- July 24th** **9:30 a.m.—Worship in the Sanctuary**
~ Kevin Weikel preaching on Genesis 29, 15-28,
“Weaving the Future”
- July 31st** **9:30 a.m.—Worship in the Sanctuary**
~ Erica Nierendorff Petitti preaching
- August 7th** **9:30 a.m.—Worship in the Sanctuary - Holy Communion**
~ Kevin Weikel preaching on Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28,
“When All Seems Lost”
- August 14th** **9:30 a.m.—Worship in the Sanctuary**
~ Alison Buttrick Patton preaching
- August 21st** **9:30 a.m.—Worship in the Sanctuary**
Diann Bailey preaching
“Who Is This Man?” Matthew 16:13-20
- August 28th** **9:30 a.m.—Worship in the Sanctuary**
~ Kevin Weikel preaching on Romans 12:9-21,
“Spirit-Led Giving”

From the Associate Minister for Parish Life and Outreach

On Following Jesus in 2011

On Sunday, June 19th, I preached about what it means to be a "disciple." I observed that the word "disciple" is rarely used in any modern context. It's an archaic term, not one we typically use in casual conversation, on the ball field or in the board room. If we use it at all, it's probably to refer to those twelve guys who worked as fishermen until the day that Jesus told them to leave their nets and 'fish for people' instead. "The disciples? Yeah, I know them. They are the ones lounging around the table in flowing robes, in Leonardo Da Vinci's painting of the last supper." But do we ever think of *ourselves* as disciples? Perhaps not.

The folks who study mainline churches, ministers who plant new churches and clergy who serve thriving churches say that may be changing. Newcomers may not use the word, 'disciple,' but they may say, "I want to learn how to follow Jesus." In fact, more and more people are expressing less and less interest in belonging to an institution (like the church) and more and more interest in learning how to *practice* faith in daily life.

For life-long members, this may sound like a very subtle change. After all, isn't that why we've attended church our whole lives: to practice our faith? Yes! However, we've also devoted lots of time to maintaining the church. The strategic planning team is asking how we might shift that, to free up time and energy for small group study, reflection, Bible Study, vital worship and hands-on ministry.

Together we are asking: "How can we be more *intentional* about cultivating our faith?" That's exciting to me. We can rehab a dozen homes here in Simsbury, but if we don't pause to reflect on the work we are doing, if we don't do a little Bible Study, include a little prayer and make a few connections, then we are missing out on a rich opportunity to deepen our faith – and to be more faithful followers! In seminary, we called this the '**action-reflection**' model. Our actions stir reflection, which inspires more action, which raises more questions for reflection...and so on! So, volunteering at South Park Inn might prompt us to ask, "How did Jesus relate to poor folk?" The answer propels us back to the serving line (or the opinion column, or the voting booth), equipped with fresh insights.

This isn't just about volunteering, either. Being a faithful follower of Jesus means bringing that same depth of reflection to our work-a-day-lives. Do you ever think about Sunday on Tuesday or Saturday? In what ways does your faith help you to navigate family, friendships, work or money? I am not suggesting that being a Christian gives us access to pat answers, but a vital, well-tended faith may help us to frame the questions differently ("How is God calling us to use our resources?" instead of, "Can we afford to live like this?", for example).

So I'm wondering: How could the church help you to develop your faith? What do you need? What intrigues or baffles you? What sustains and inspires you? What could the church do to support *your* efforts to *practice* your faith? I'd love to know.

Grace and Peace,

Alison

Mission & Outreach Starts at Home – the Fatic Family

By now, I suspect all of you in the First Church family are aware that our long time Sexton, Avdo Fatic, died on June 8th. His life and contributions to First Church were lifted up in a very moving memorial service at First Church on June 13th.

That funeral service and much of the associated conversation about Avdo's time at First Church reminded us all of the profound mission commitment we made, as a Church, in bringing Avdo and his family to Connecticut in 1999 from a refugee camp in war torn Bosnia. We all shared recollections - some meaningful, some funny - about that time of adaptation and change for the Fatic family.

Now, Ferida and their two boys will be going through another time of profound change: moving their lives forward without Avdo. For any family, suffering the loss of their husband and father is extremely difficult. For the Fatic family, the challenges they will face are even more significant, given the degree to which Avdo handled most ordinary household matters, not to mention language and other difficulties ahead of them. Because of this extraordinary need for a very central part of our First Church family, I'd like to tell you about two initiatives that First Church members are undertaking as a continuation of our mission commitment to the Fatic family.

First, we have formed a "Fatic Family Team," including Kevin and Alison, as well as congregation members who have been close to Avdo and his family over the years. This group is coordinating the wide range of support that Ferida and the boys require, from securing benefits (e.g., Social Security and health insurance), to legal help and financial advice. Many congregation members have offered to help, but rather than trip over each other with potentially duplicative efforts, we intend this team to serve as a consistent and coordinated resource on all these activities. If any of you are interested in helping the Fatic family, please let either Alison, Kevin or myself (bill@wjgoss.com) know and we may ask you to help out in a specific situation, but based on this team's coordinated awareness of and involvement in the family's needs.

Second, First Church has created a dedicated Fatic Family Fund in the event any congregation members want to make a specific financial contribution for the family as they anticipate the future without their primary breadwinner. If you would like to make a contribution, you can send a check made out to First Church, but with the Note section (lower left side on most checks) identified as "Fatic Family Fund."

In pursuing both these efforts, I'm once again reminded how deep and personal the commitment to mission is at First Church. As happens so often, and in this case in particular, this commitment really does begin at home.

Blessings:



William J. Goss



First Church of Christ

**In Memoriam
*Avdo Fatic***

Monday, June 13, 2011

Dear Members and Friends of First Church,

Our beloved Avdo Fatic, First Church Sexton and Friend, died Wednesday, June 8, 2011, at St. Francis Hospital.

Avdo was the loving husband of Ferida (Tica) Fatic and devoted father of Semir and Nermin Fatic. Avdo was born on June 22, 1960 in Kabas, Bosnia, a small town outside of Sarajevo. In 1988, Avdo and Ferida married and built a home together with their own hands. On April 6, 1992, when the Serbian army attacked Sarajevo, everything changed. The war escalated to the point where Avdo and Ferida, now with Semir and Nermin in tow, were forced to leave the life and home that they knew. They traveled on foot alongside thousands of their fellow countrymen seeking a place of safety in a crowded refugee camp in Zenica, Bosnia. After three years at the camp they received word that they had been granted a visa to leave their war-torn country.

On February 9, 1999, Avdo, Ferida, Semir and Nermin landed in Hartford and began living at the Sexton's house at First Church. While they arrived as guests, they quickly became friends.

Avdo was dedicated to his job at First Church. One could rest assured that the church would be open well in advance of any event and locked at the end of each day, no matter how late the last meeting let out. What Avdo most enjoyed was interacting with the people of First Church, especially those people he saw on a regular basis. He had a terrific sense of humor and a smile that warmed your heart. His personality was endearing.

Alison, Kevin and Jonathan



SUMMER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Come help grow food for Gifts of Love in their own space at the ***Simsbury Community Farm!!***

We would love to have a group of volunteers help maintain (plant, weed, water, harvest) the plot of food. Anne, the Garden Manager, is happy to train those who may be interested. She will have regular volunteer opportunities every week, Monday, 7:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m., Tuesday, 4:00-6:30 p.m., and Thursday, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

For those who want to help but might not want to garden, Anne could use help washing, boxing, and delivering the produce, too!!

If this sounds like something that may be of interest to you or if you have any questions, you can contact Sara Martocchio (smart19@comcast.net, 860-205-8779) or Anne (annepatrie@gmail.com, 701-471-6714). Hope to see you there!



Church School News

CHURCH SCHOOL SPECIAL EVENTS Calendar

Church School Lock-in:

"God Made Me Special,"
Sat., Sept 24th at 6:00
p.m. thru Sept. 25th at
9:45 a.m. in Palmer Hall,
Grades 1-3 (**need a
parent to stay**) Grades
4-6 (can be dropped off)

Kids will participate in
games, crafts, making
food for coffee hour,
candle light mini-worship
service, watching Veggie
Tale movie, and
preparing and serving
coffee hour on Sunday
morning. More info to
come!

Feast & Festivals

Harvest Party, Sun, Oct.
30th, 10:15 a.m. in
Palmer Hall. Wear your
Halloween costume, play
games and do crafts to
learn about the Jewish
holidays that Jesus
celebrated.

**Christmas Movie &
Mission Project, Palmer
Hall, Nov. 27th, 10:15
a.m.**

**Church School
Christmas Service,**
Sunday, December 18th
at 10:00 a.m. (Rehearsals
12/4 & 12/11 during
church school)

**Hometown Nazareth:
Where Jesus was a kid,**
Feb 12th, 2012, 10:15
a.m.

K.I.D.S. @ First

Kids Investigating Divine Stories at First Church

Nursery (ages 3 & under) for July & August

The nursery (Rm. 20) is available during the service for children ages 3 and under. Students ages 4 & up will attend worship service.

IN AUGUST—children ages 4 and up will attend church

Summer Church School Program: Torchlighters, Heroes of Faith series.

Students ages 4 & up begin in church and are dismissed to the children's library, Room 22 for a movie and snack after the children's message.

Torchlighters is a series of animated movies with strong values and educational content. Each *Torchlighters* episode presents the story of a true-life hero from Christian history. Kids will see what God can do through a "Torchlighter" and will be challenged to carry their own torch while learning about the history of our faith.

July 3rd, *The John Bunyan Story* -- John Bunyan spends his days in prison, separated from his wife and children. Living in the cold, stone cell is the price he pays for going against the Church of England. If only he would agree to stop preaching, John would walk out a free man! Why does he stay in jail and how will he continue to serve his Savior in this horrible place? Find out in this episode of *The Torchlighters*.

July 10th, *The Eric Liddell Story* -- Pressure to follow public opinion couldn't get much stronger. National hero Eric Liddell is Scotland's pride and joy. The entire country is eager for their running celebrity to sprint past the rest of the world and bring home Olympic gold in the 100-meter race. But when Eric makes the stunning announcement that he won't race on Sunday because of his religious convictions, he is soon labeled a disgrace and a traitor. See how Eric's famous stand during the 1924 Olympics prepares him for even greater challenges as a missionary to China during World War II.

July 17th, *The Gladys Aylward Story* -- With war raging about her and soldiers closing in, the wounded missionary Gladys Aylward (as portrayed in the movie, *The Inn of the Sixth Happiness*) sets out on the most difficult journey of her life -- a 100-mile trek over the mountains to a safe haven. But it's not her own safety that concerns this little woman with big faith. It's the safety and well being of the 100 orphaned children in her care. Watch as Gladys' strength and faith are stretched to the limit, all for the sake of the children.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Fall Teacher/Shepherd Opportunities, Sept 11, 2011-Dec 11, 2011

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 to volunteer.

Pre-K—Meredith Dendinger, 1 Teacher needed

Job description: The teachers lead the class each Sunday in learning the basics about faith: our church, prayer, God, etc. The student use 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 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 lives. The teachers lead the students in games, crafts, and reading the Bible story.

Grades 1-6 Rotation Program: Fall units: *“Living as Caretakers”* (Creation), *“Feast & Festivals,”* Christmas

Computer room – Craig Patton, Debi Ackels

Cooking room – Chris Morgan, Linda Peach

Art room – Ann Marie Prabulos, JoAnn Hogan

Game room – Bryan Tawney, Beth Strapp

Movie room – Yolanda Wilde, 1 teacher needed

Shepherds for Sept 12, 2011-Dec. 12, 2011

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.

1st grade shepherd— Erin Naspo

2nd grade shepherd - Jackie Brooke

3rd grade shepherd – Trica Laubscher

4th grade shepherd – **needed**

5th & 6th grade shepherd – Kim Tawney

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

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

Dear Members and Friends of First Church,

I have some exciting news to share. I have spent some time over the last few months applying to be a part of the United Church of Christ's Target 2030 Next Generation Leadership Initiative. Target 2030 is an intensive 10 year continuing education program for clergy in their 20's and 30's. The goal is to energize and sustain younger, emerging United Church of Christ local church pastors, believing that healthy, catalytic pastors lead to healthy, vibrant congregations.

I received word last week that I have been selected to be part of the Target 2030 class of 2023. Each year, the United Church of Christ selects 15 new clergy to participate in the Target 2030 initiative. The 15 of us will attend trainings and programs together over the next 10 years, one week each January, one week each summer, and some time online each spring and fall, before graduating from the program in 2023.

There are many reasons why I am excited to be a part of Target 2030 and plenty of reasons why I think First Church should be excited as well. First, Target 2030 will help to sharpen my skills as a minister by putting me in touch with some of the best teachers, resources and ideas available from within our denomination and across the nation. Second, as part of Target 2030, all program and travel expenses will be paid for by the United Church of Christ. In other words, this program will not cost First Church one penny. Target 2030 is a win for me, for the local church, and for the future of our denomination.

I am excited about the Target 2030 Initiative and I look forward to being a part of this program. If you have any questions about the program I would be happy to talk with you about this exciting opportunity.

Peace to you,
Kevin

Music Notes



This summer, we have a plethora of musical talent sharing their capabilities with us for worship services. From jazz to folk to classical, the music will reflect the wealth of great musical ability with which we are blessed here at First Church. There's always room for more though, as they say, so if there is anyone who has a gift that you would like to share, please get in touch with me by phone, email, or by just coming by. We love to see what members of our congregation are capable of.

But as the summer courses on, we are already making musical plans for the coming fall and beyond. We are selecting music for the various choirs as far in advance as Holy Week of next year, and booking a concert season that we hope will add to the vitality of life that's already here at First. Then again, we always like to be open to inspiration of new activities that may appear as the year goes on - sometimes the joy of music lies in the things that come up along the way. But there is much in the works - if one wants God to come to the table, one still has to set a place and send an invite.

An area of concentration this year will be our Chancel Choir. We are, to put it bluntly, in great need of new members - not just to maintain the quality that has been a hallmark of this wonderful group - but to maintain its very existence. I think that this is the time for everyone - all of you - to look inside to really find out why you haven't participated so far, and what you can do to help keep this organization vital. We have looked at alternate rehearsal times; at seasonal participation; even at single event participation, and even though we have gotten several new and valuable members from this (each of whom has added much - thank you!), generally the response from the congregation has not - ahem - set the world on fire. I am interested in hearing your thoughts on this, and meanwhile, we are not merely asking you to think about the importance this group has played over the years in our worship; we are honestly appealing to you to contribute by joining us in this important group.

To be candid - it does take a commitment - anything that is done well takes time and effort. But the rewards are immeasurable. And our aim is to have a Chancel Choir that not only is an important part of Sunday worship, but is also an organization that takes part in many other programs and events as well, and that shines on the whole community like a light. A group that explores many types of music, and that strives to do them all as well as possible. A group that is willing to work together - side by side - to offer to God their best. We need you to keep it going and to make this happen. I know we can do it.

Meanwhile, here are some important dates to keep in mind for the Fall:

Wednesday, September 7th, 4:00 p.m.- First Women's Praise rehearsal for the year.

Thursday, September 8th, 6:00 p.m.- First Choral Bells rehearsal for the year.

Thursday, September 8th, 6:30 p.m.- First Occasional Coir rehearsal for the year.

Thursday, September 8th, 7:30 p.m.- First **CHANCEL CHOIR** rehearsal for the year.

Monday, September 12th, 4:00 p.m. - First Junior Choir rehearsal for the year.

Saturday, November 26th, 5:30 p.m. - Women's Praise in the sanctuary for *Simsbury Celebrates*.

Saturday, December 3rd, 7:00 p.m. - Farmington Valley Chorale in the sanctuary for their winter program.

Have a great summer, and thanks for the opportunity to work and be with you.

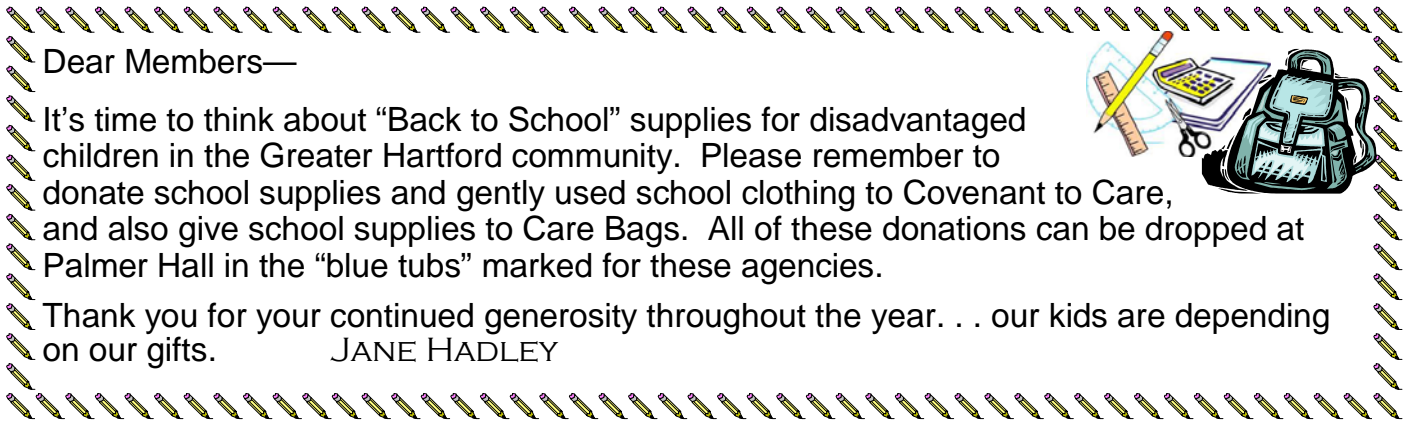
Mark

JUNE 2011 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SUMMARY

Following are the highlights of the June 2011 Executive Council meeting:

1. Reverend Patton commented on the rehab project at 60C Old Farms Road to be held during the weekends in June and that she had a need for a project coordinator. She is making selective use of First Church Friends for pastoral assistance during Jonathan's sabbatical. A new town collaboration is underway at the Simsbury Community Farm with respect to the weekly maintenance of the growing of vegetables for not for profit organizations.
2. Reverend Weikel reported that the Confirmation program this year was successful and that eleven of the confirmands plan to attend the mission trip to Neon, Kentucky beginning June 18th. He is planning changes for the 2011/2012 confirmation program that will allow him to become more involved monthly with the confirmands, and to implement more interaction with the parents of the confirmands
3. Financial results to date indicate that we are running \$7,000 ahead of budget primarily due to the fact that expenses are down \$27,000 and income is down \$20,000, primarily in pledge income to date.
4. Anne Nelson updated the meeting on coverage plans in place due to Avdo's illness.
5. It was moved; seconded; and carried that Mary Porter Wright be added to Alison's Pastoral Relations Committee, and that Betty Keirstead be added to the Board of Personnel.
6. Due to lack of representation by Trustees at the May meeting, Todd Bailey was given the opportunity to discuss the view of the Trustees related to the Simsbury Library proposed roadway connection to the Boy Scout parking lot. The meeting clarified that the Trustees are expected to follow the May Executive Council decision to support the installation, with a controlled access mechanism.
7. President Goss announced that John Wright will assume leadership of the Strategic Planning Committee due to the departure of Billye Auclair. In the absence of Billye Auclair, a progress update was provided by Dave Wadhams, Todd Bailey, and Bill Ketchabaw. Following discussion it was agreed that the Executive Council would receive a directional sense of the project at the planned September meeting of the Executive Council.
8. Todd Bailey commented on the recent garden shed fire and that the shed was a total loss, with no insurance recovery due to our deductible. A replacement shed, when constructed, will be placed further away from our main buildings.
9. President Goss welcomed the new Board Chairs attending the meeting and extended his appreciation to those departing Board Chairs.

Bill Ketchabaw, Clerk



Dear Members—

It's time to think about "Back to School" supplies for disadvantaged children in the Greater Hartford community. Please remember to donate school supplies and gently used school clothing to Covenant to Care, and also give school supplies to Care Bags. All of these donations can be dropped at Palmer Hall in the "blue tubs" marked for these agencies.



Thank you for your continued generosity throughout the year. . . our kids are depending on our gifts.
JANE HADLEY

**Women's Small Group Studies
Starting the Week of Sept. 19th**

Women's Small Groups (6-8 women) are an opportunity to deepen your faith and your friendships as we study the lectionary from which the ministers will be taking their sermons. Please call Nancy Crouch at 860-658-1894 or Sara Burrows at 860-408-1459 if you would like to join us.

The **4th Wednesday Study Group** begins a new season **September 28th** at **12:00 Noon in Room 28**. This year we will be using Philip Yancey's "What Good Is God? In search of a faith that matters," as a basis for our wide-ranging discussions. We welcome new travelers to join us on our spiritual journey! Call Pat Ketchpel at 860-658-9357 and she will order a book for you.

RETIRED MEN'S LUNCHEON 2011-2012 SCHEDULE

Second Tuesday each month, as follows:
2011: Sept. 13th, Oct. 11th, Nov. 8th, Dec. 13th
2012: Jan. 10th, Feb. 14th, Mar. 13th, Apr. 10th, May 8th *Join us!*



SUNDAY FLOWERS—IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY

It is not too early to reserve a Sunday during our next church year to commemorate, honor or memorialize with flowers for the Communion table 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.

Historically Speaking:

What was Life Like?

Antoinette Eno Wood & Ice Cream Socials

Antoinette was the daughter of Amos R. Eno; she married a diplomat and lived in Washington DC during the winter. She enjoyed her summers in Simsbury at her ancestral home that is now the "Simsbury 1820 House" on Hopmeadow Street. The family called it "Eaglewood" and it was built in 1822 by her grandfather, Elisha Phelps. The name is now applied to the road into the public library that was built on land that used to be the gardens and greenhouse for Eaglewood.

She was a generous sponsor of First Church and gave money for such things as a new organ in 1896. Above the center door to the sanctuary is a brass plaque that dedicates the organ to her niece, Antoinette Wood Eno, who died at the age of twelve. This plaque survived the 1965 fire. When she died, she left money in her will to the church and to the town. She instructed that Eno Memorial Hall be built in memory of her parents, Amos R. Eno and Lucy Jane Phelps Eno. The Hall was dedicated on May 30, 1932 and is still in use for the benefit of town residents. She died in January 1930.

While she was in residence in Simsbury during the summer on the Fourth of July, she gave a popular social on the lawn at Eaglewood. She invited the whole town and served ice cream, held a band concert and dances. Townspeople flocked to greet this generous woman who was one of their own. This event was the social highlight of the summer in Simsbury. In 1989 the town held a revival of her ice cream social on the lawn at the Simsbury 1820 House. It was popular then, too.

*Donna Hopkins,
Historian*

*81 years after the death of Antoinette Eno Wood.
Time for an Ice Cream Social.*





Board of Mission and Outreach *South Park Inn*

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

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.

Each of the opportunities below represents a great experience to bring a family together, to reconnect 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, or to develop relationships with board members.

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

- Cooking a meal (approximately 1:30—4:30)
- Serving a meal (4:20 to about 6:30)
- Training to be a lead cook (Jeff is a great trainer)
- 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

Meal Dates for 2011:

July 9
August 21
September 18
October 22
November 12
December 10



Update on the Masooli Project



Many of you recall that several years ago, the idea of building a healthcare center in the village of Masooli, Uganda, was just an idea talked about by Nancy and Gordon Crouch and their dear friend, Faith Mulira. Since then, with much hard work, perseverance and the faithful support of First Church and others, the dream of an outpatient clinic to serve the people of Masooli has become a reality. On January 3, 2011, the staff of Faith Mulira Health Care Centre reported for orientation, and on January 10th, the clinic opened its doors to begin treating patients.

The primary beneficiaries of the new health care facility are the over 2,000 residents living in Masooli, a village located in the Nangabo Sub-county of Uganda's Wakiso District. Wakiso, with a population of approximately 908,000, is one of the most populated of Uganda's 111 districts. Our Uganda partners report that the clinic also has received and served patients from neighboring parishes. They are confident that in time, Faith Mulira Health Care Centre will benefit all nine parishes in the Nangabo Sub-county region.

Although the clinic staff hopes to serve up to 600 patients each month, service has begun more gradually, with 192 patients served by the end of March. But with consultation rooms, a pharmacy, and a laboratory, all of which are well equipped and stocked to facilitate diagnosis and treatment of common illnesses in the area, the patient population is likely to increase as word gets out about the new center. Not surprisingly, goals for the next several months include increasing the quantity of services provided to the community, improving the monitoring and evaluation system and increasing the Centre's revenue. Although the clinic does charge modest user fees to patients, organizing community outreach events to "market" the clinic and offering selected services on a no-cost basis are some of the ways the Uganda board has identified for increasing patient awareness of the new facility and helping to meet the healthcare needs of the broader community.

One area where the clinic has already started to make a difference is in the provision of comprehensive, goal-oriented prenatal care. During the first quarter of 2011, the staff began providing six mothers with prenatal care, five of whom had never received any prenatal care during previous pregnancies. In fact, none of these moms had ever delivered at a health facility but instead had delivered from home, unattended by a healthcare professional. Receiving services early in pregnancy and being able to deliver with the assistance of a health worker can make a significant difference in the wellbeing of a new mother and the survival of her child. The Centre can now follow up on these mothers-to-be and ensure that they give birth in a healthcare facility, offering their babies a more healthy start on life.

Update on the Masooli Project (cont.)

The challenge of building Faith Mulira Health Care Centre has now been replaced by the challenge of operating the facility and ensuring its sustainability. Both the U.S. board and the Uganda board will be working to help the clinic achieve a solid financial foundation. This includes maintaining our current base of support and identifying new funding sources, such as grants from institutions. We also will be hosting several local fundraising events this summer and later in the year, and we invite the First Church community to join us as we work to raise awareness of this remarkable project. Please watch the Sunday bulletin and the weekly emails for more details.

First Church has been a faithful supporter of the Masooli project, and your unwavering commitment to this effort is deeply appreciated.

~ Melinda Westbrook



June 12th Presentation
Strategic Planning Committee
Draft Vision

Conceptual Framework

- ◆ Committee began work in March
- ◆ Worked with consultant Paul Nickerson
- ◆ Solicited input from ministerial staff
- ◆ Provided updates via emails, Cornerstone articles, coffee hour, church meetings
- ◆ Now ready to provide draft vision for congregational input

What We Have Learned So Far

- ◆ 80% of churches (of all denominations) are experiencing declining membership and attendance.
- ◆ 87% of people who join a church, do so because they were invited by friends or family members.
- ◆ 125,000 churches have closed in the last 20 years.
- ◆ Less than 18% of Americans attend church on a regular basis. New Englanders are even less likely to go to church, with less than 10% saying they attend on a regular basis
- ◆ Many people are “seeking” but are leery of “organized religion”
- ◆ People want to be part of something that is both meaningful and can be accomplished in a short period of time.
- ◆ People want to be “invited”

Who is First Church?

- ◆ As a UCC church we “Welcome all of God’s people”
- ◆ Strong commitment to mission
- ◆ Diverse in age, religious background, theology
- ◆ Participating in Strategic Planning from a position of strength
- ◆ Challenges
 - Don’t have a clear vision
 - Financial stability
 - Declining membership
 - Hard to staff boards and committees

**June 12th Presentation
Strategic Planning Committee
*Draft Vision (cont.)***

**First Church of Christ, Simsbury
*Draft Vision***



**Rooted in Faith and
Growing in Spirit
We Invite All of God's People to
Gather in Joy, and
Reach Out to the Community
Near and Far**

Vision Statement

"To gather together, in worship and learning
To care for one another, as Jesus would want us
to care for the world
To live as disciples, according to Christ's teachings
To grow and change together, in the life of faith
To serve God, by serving others and by using our gifts.
We strive to foster an inviting, loving, and welcoming community
We strive to expand spiritual growth for all ages
We strive to create a culture of discipleship
We strive to be joyful!!"

**June 12th Presentation
Strategic Planning Committee
*Draft Vision (cont.)***

**First Church of Christ, Simsbury
*Draft Vision (cont.)***

Six Pillars of First Church

- 1) To emphasize active and growing discipleship, instead of passive membership - "How can we foster spiritual growth?"
- 2) To renew our sense of mission and outreach - "Can I make a difference by extending my talent and treasure?"
- 3) To develop a new governance model that frees up talent and energy so we can more actively grow our ministry - "Can I develop and grow my faith, rather than maintain an institution?"
- 4) To connect with our community through fellowship, outreach, and leadership - "Do I want to be a fortress on a hill, or join God's faithful in the fields?"
- 5) To be a ministry by the people and for the people - "How can I make things better?"
- 6) To staff for growth and outreach - "How should we allocate our resources?"

Suggested Changes

- ◆ We embrace a commitment for First Church to tithe to support our mission and outreach
- ◆ We need a permission-giving, team-based model of governance
- ◆ We need a customized system of pledging

June 12th Presentation
Strategic Planning Committee
Draft Vision (cont.)

First Church of Christ, Simsbury
Draft Vision (cont.)

- ◆ This is a time for renewal and celebration, let's keep moving First Church forward
- ◆ We must commit to a sustainable budget and secure future
- ◆ Yes, these changes will feel different, yes the transition may feel uncomfortable, but we need to change in order to keep growing
- ◆ Working together, we can move First Church into a bright future.



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Save the Date!

Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2011 Executive Council Meeting
 Thursday, Sept. 8, 2011 Bell Choir, Occasional Choir,
 and Chancel Choir begins
 Sunday, Sept. 11, 2011 Fall Festival
 Monday, Sept. 12, 2011 Junior Choir begins
 Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2011 All Boards Meeting
 Sunday, Sept. 18, 2011 Retired Men's Luncheon
 Start of 8:30 & 10:00 services
 11:15 Committee of Deacon's
 Meeting

Starting the week of
 Sept. 19, 2011 Women's Small Group Study
 Sunday, Sept. 24, 2011 Church School Lock-In begins
 thru Sept. 25, 2011 Church School Lock-In
 Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2011 UCC/Disciples Missionary to
 Columbia with Michael Joseph
 Wed., Sept. 28, 2011 4th Wednesday Study Group

**FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE
 FOR JULY & AUGUST, 2011**

JULY

7/3/11—OPEN
 7/10/11—Board of Elders
 7/17/11—Board of Music Ministries
 7/24/11—Church Officers/Exec. Council
 7/31/11—Board of Personnel

AUGUST

8/7/11— Board of Christian Education
 8/14/11—Pastoral Relations Committees—Sr., Assoc. &
 Youth
 8/21/11—Board of Stewardship
 8/28/11—Faith Circle