

the edge

The First Church in Windsor
United Church of Christ—Gathered 1630
An open and affirming community
for all God's people.



February 2010



From the Minister –

“In the depths of winter, I finally learned that within me there is an eternal spring.”
Albert Camus

We may still be in the throes of winter but the season of Lent reminds us that spring is right around the corner. Lent, which comes from the Teutonic (Germanic) word for springtime signifies the forty weekdays before Easter. Lent has historically been viewed as a time of fasting, repentance, and soul-refreshment in preparation for the great festival of Easter.

In a way, Lent is a kind of spiritual spring cleaning; a time for taking spiritual inventory and then cleaning out all those unnecessary things that hinder our corporate and personal relationships with Jesus Christ and prevent us from growing closer to him in love and service.

Because Lent is a time to renew ourselves in body, mind, and soul, First Church will once again offer a wide variety of opportunities to find spiritual renewal and intellectual stimulation throughout this special season (please see back pages for a complete listing of all our Lenten activities).

The most important discipline to observe during Lent is attending church each week. We will be worshipping in the meetinghouse at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. each Sunday throughout the Lenten season, as well as at 7:00 p.m. on Ash Wednesday, the day that traditionally marks the beginning of the Lenten season. The service that evening will be in the Taize style (sung prayer, scripture reading, and silence).

Since Lent has always been seen as time of commitment and renewal, we will hold our next new member's class on Tuesday, February 23, at 7:00 p.m. in the Morrell Room (new members will be received into the church at our 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, March 7). If you or someone you know is interested in uniting with us in the mission and ministry of our church, please speak with me or contact Mary Phelan in the church office (860-688-7229).

We may still be in the “depths of winter” but even in the depths of winter there lies within each one of us an “eternal spring.” I hope you will take time to prepare for the return of spring and the coming of Easter by participating in as many Lenten activities as possible in the weeks that lie ahead.

Grace & Peace, **RHH**



FEBRUARY WORSHIP

Sundays at 8:00 Holy Communion
10:00 Family Worship

February 7
Char Corbett

February 14
Rick Huleatt

February 17
(Ash Wednesday Service,
7:00 p.m.)

February 21
Rick Huleatt

February 28
Rick Huleatt



The First Church In Windsor

107 Palisado Ave., Windsor CT 06095
Office Hours: 8:30 - 4:30 PM (M-F)
Phone: 860/688-7229
Fax: 860/688-9408

Email: first.church.windsor@snet.net
Web: www.firstchurchinwindsor.org
Senior Pastor

RICHARD HANNA HULEATT
Pastor Emeritus

F. VAN. GORDER PARKER
Music Director/Organist

MARK D. WATKINS
Associate Music Director

VICTOR M. EVANS
Coord. Parish Caring Ministries
SUSAN WILLIAMS

Minister of Youth and Outreach
CHAR CORBETT

Andover—Newton Student
NANCY LOIS

Church Administrator
MARY PHELAN

Treasurer
AUBREY LOOMIS

Bookkeeper
JENNIFER BILODEAU

Sexton

MICHAEL HITE
Custodian

CHRIS HOWELL-LEVINE
Director, Early Learning Center
ELLEN MONCHUN

FEBRUARY LECTIONARY LESSONS

FEBRUARY 7 (Fifth Sunday after Epiphany)
Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

FEBRUARY 14 (Last Sunday after Epiphany)
Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Luke 9:28-36

FEBRUARY 21 (First Sunday in Lent)
Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

FEBRUARY 28 (Second Sunday in Lent)
Genesis 15:1-12
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35

Bake Sale for Haitian Relief:

The 7th and 8th grade class will hold a bake sale in Nelson Hall on Annual Meeting Sunday, February 14th. Cookies will be featured so come to the meeting and help support this relief effort while you enjoy these special treats. Of course, we hope you buy some to take home, too.



New Members Orientation Class

Interested in becoming a member of First Church? The next new member's orientation class will be held on Tuesday, February 23, at 7:00 p.m. in the Morrell Room (Parish House Building). New members will be received at the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, March 7. Please contact the church office (first.church.windsor@snet.net or 860-688-7229) if you are interested.

Lenten Book Study on Sunday Evenings.

Beginning Sunday evening, February 21, at 7PM, the group will study Brian McLaren's *Everything Must Change: When the World's Biggest Problems and Jesus' Good News Collide*. McLaren's book provides a vision of how Jesus and his message of hope can empower us to change the economic, environmental, political and social crises that have overtaken our world." For more information and to order the book, check with Nancy Clark (688-5771), Lowell Fewster (683-0308) or Jean Kelly (688-7792). Watch the bulletin for the first meeting location.

Thanks to the Relyeas

For many years, Laureen and Alexis have published the Edge. Going forward, this task will be taken on in the church office. You'll still send articles to fcw_edge@yahoo.com but the business of publishing the Edge will take place by staff in-house.

Many thanks go to Laureen and Alexis for their hard work and dedication to getting the Edge out month after month. We couldn't have done it without them!

CHURCH NEWS

AROUND the CONGREGATION

Dear First Church,
When Dial-a-Ride brought me home, I was surprised by a very beautiful red poinsettia on my porch. What a "pick me up" along with the card I received from the children. I know losing a loved one is hard to bear—losing 4 sisters has left a feeling of great depression. But knowing others care I realize how thankful I am for your thoughtfulness. Thank you so very much.

Jacqueline Gilman

Dear First Church friends,
First, on Christmas week we received a beautiful poinsettia plan. Then I was hospitalized and received several visits from Rick, cards from the church including a wonderful one from Emma in the church school, a beautiful prayer shawl and more flowers awaiting me at home. I am indeed blessed to have my First Church family being so thoughtful and considerate.

Thank you, Bruce Goodale

Dear First Church,
Thank you for the cards, calls, prayer shawl, flowers and many other kindnesses shown to me after the death of my son, Tim. All that meant a great deal to me. Sincerely, Elaine Brophy

Dear Church people,
Thank you for all the Christmas remembrances including the magnet man from the church school. Appreciatively, Louise Thomsen

To my friends at First Church,
I want to thank all of you for your love, prayers, good wishes, cards and letters prompted by my recent heart by-pass surgery. What a remarkable, caring, giving group of people you are. You have been a true second home to Ann and me for nearly four decades and have always been the instrument of God's love. And now a very person note. Rick visited us in the hospital and prayed with, and for us, at a time when I was hardly lucid. I was aware, however, of his words and of God's presence in some strange way I cannot explain. I was determined to get out of the hospital in time to attend the Christmas Eve service and somehow managed to do so. Before the service began, Rick strode briskly from the pulpit to the very back of the church where Ann and I were seated. He grasped my hand in both of his, said "Thank God" and returned to the pulpit. It was one of the most moving experiences of my life and I will never forget it. God is still speaking—through Rick and all of you.

Thank you, John Pickens

Dear Rick and First Church Family,
This donation is in grateful appreciation for your generosity in letting our group of autistic youth use the Pierson House. It makes a real difference and we are able to reach out to more young people affected by autism.

Thanks so much, Carol Barans
Autism Spectrum Resource Center

Dear Friends,
Thank you for your donation to IRIS (Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services.) Starting a new life (156 refugees settled in 2009) is not easy for the refugees. But new challenges often become new opportunities and your gift helps embrace new possibilities every day. We are honored to be trusted with your gift.

Thank you again, Chris George
Executive Director

Dear Friends at First Church,
Thank you so much for my gorgeous, huge poinsettia delivered to me by Dorothy Merz. I used it as my Christmas tree! It is still blooming and I enjoy it so much.

Sincerely,
Martha Littlefield

A word or two of thanks for the many words and hugs and prayers of comfort from First Church members following the death of my mother. And for the Christmas poinsettia which continues to brighten my days. It is a joy and a blessing to be a member of this "family" at times like these!

Kate McLean



Barbara Sloan Barnes has moved to 900 Tamiami Trail South, Apt. 411 in Venice, FL, 34285. Her number is (904) 486-5094.

Alexis Relyea and her fiancé Michael Niemann have moved to 11 Shay Street in Windsor.

Heather Sloan and her children, Rebecca and Benjamin Fraley have moved to 46 Hayden Rd. in Windsor.

Births

Addison Page Carillo, born January 13, to Jared and Morgan Carillo. Linda Carillo is the proud grandmother.

Baptism

Isabella Maria Lambert, daughter of Sylvia Caye and Dellas Lambert, granddaughter of Angela Caye, was baptized by Rev. Huleatt on January 24, 2010.

NOTICE OF 2010 ANNUAL MEETING

To Members and Friends of The First Church in Windsor, United Church of Christ:

You are hereby notified that this congregation's Annual Meeting will be held **Sunday, February 14, 2009, at 11:15 a.m. in Nelson Hall located in the church parish house.**

To hear and act upon annual reports of the pastors, officers, committees and departments,

- To adopt the budget for 2010
- To hear and act upon the report of nominations and elect officers for the coming year, and
- To transact such other business as may properly come before this meeting.

All members of The First Church in Windsor are urged to attend this important meeting. Let us gather to give thanks and celebrate our unity, acting as the Body of Christ to conduct the business of the Church in a spirit of faith, hope and love.

In the event of a snow storm, the Annual Meeting will be postponed until Sunday, February 21, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Phelan

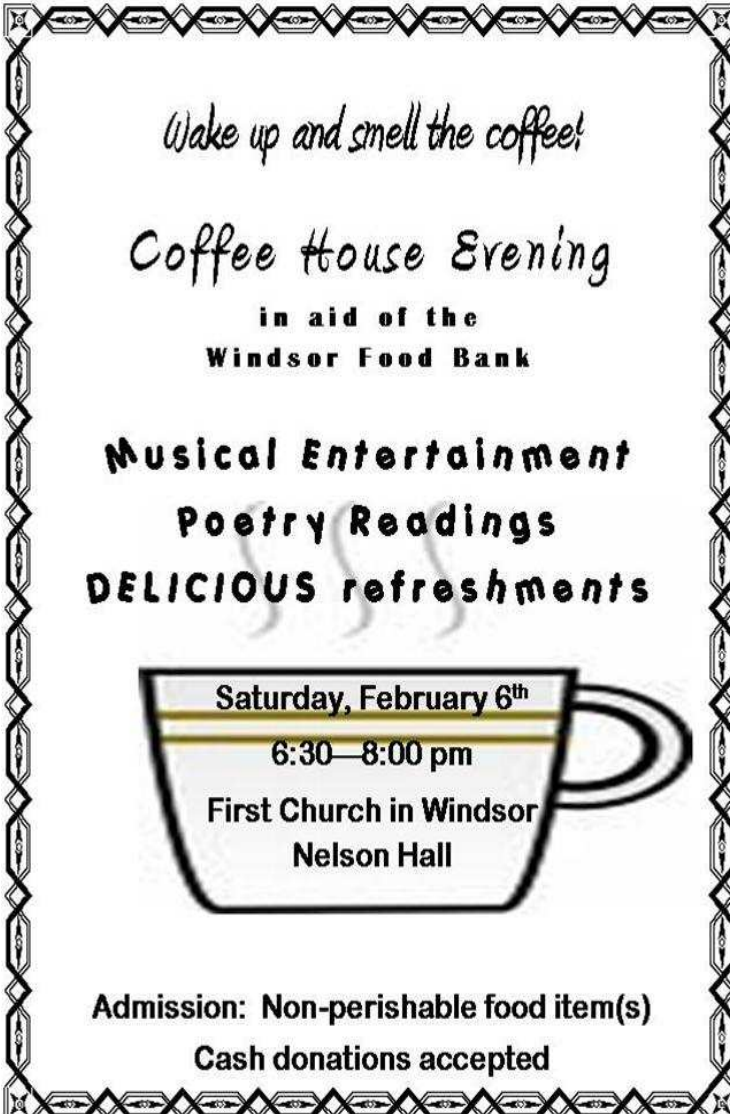
Haitian Relief

OGHS responds to Haiti earthquake: A 7.0 earthquake hit Haiti just before 5:00 pm on Tuesday, January 12, 2010 with several major aftershocks. The United Church of Christ has launched an emergency appeal for Haiti. Thousands of people are dead and countless have been left homeless. To assist impacted families send gifts to the church office or put them in the offering plates on Sunday or make a check out to the Missionary Society of Connecticut and mark in the memo portion "OGHS - Haitian Relief" to CT Conference UCC, 125 Sherman St., Hartford, CT, 06105.

Auction Update

What can you bid on at the upcoming church auction on Saturday, March 20th at Loomis Chaffee school? How about a maple child's Shaker rocking chair with a woven patterned seat in your choice of colors? OR, one week this summer on the beach at Buzzard's Bay, West Falmouth in two connected houses that sleep nine people? OR, tickets to the Hartford State production or a Hartford Symphony concert? Just a few of the tempting items you'll find when you join in fun and fellowship with your friends at the auction.

Tickets are \$40 each and are on sale in Nelson Hall after church or in the church office. Your ticket includes hors d'oeuvres, a choice of prime rib au jus, chicken Française, or baked cod, salad, rolls, vegetable medley, chocolate mousse and wine, soft drinks and coffee.

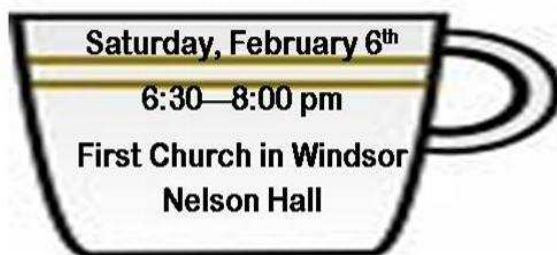


Wake up and smell the coffee!

Coffee House Evening

in aid of the
Windsor Food Bank

Musical Entertainment
Poetry Readings
DELICIOUS refreshments



Saturday, February 6th
6:30—8:00 pm
First Church in Windsor
Nelson Hall

Admission: Non-perishable food item(s)
Cash donations accepted



Parish Caring Ministries

Help Wanted

Does anyone in the congregation know of someone who would be willing to go to an elderly parishioner's home to cut her hair? If you are able or know of someone, please call Sue Williams at 860 688-1038. Thank you!

Here is a meditation from the January edition of *The Upper Room*. Does it remind you of a familiar parable?

Power to Forgive

"I've called to ask for your forgiveness." The call came out of the blue, one year after Greg disappeared, having squandered the help we gave him to get out of trouble. "Please forgive me," he added. I was glad to hear from him but surprised and taken aback. I don't recall ever receiving such a request, so clearly and directly. It called for an equally direct response.

But in a flash, questions flooded my mind? Am I ready to forgive so suddenly, so easily? Will he repay the money he wasted? Does he really deserve the grace he is asking for?

I breathed a prayer, "Lord, help me out here. What should I do?" Again, in a flash, words entered my mind: "Do for him what I have done for you." Softened by this prompting, I said sincerely, "Greg, I do forgive you. What we care about is you finding what you need. Let's talk about how we can best support you at this point."

The experience taught me that "power belongs to God". Forgiving Greg did not depend on my limited human capacity to care but on my willingness to let Christ's unbounded love work through me.

An old Chinese proverb says, "When we live with resentment, we dig two graves." In forgiving Greg, I had to relinquish my "right" to hold him in judgment, to punish him endlessly in the court of my heart. Choosing to forgive means giving people what they need, not what they deserve.

News from the Associate Minister Search Committee...

The Associate Minister Search Committee thanks everyone who took the time to complete the Leadership Expectation Survey that will be included in our local church profile. Members were asked to choose 12 out of the 45 qualities on the survey that describe our priorities for our church's Associate Minister position. The consensus of the survey results are these 12 priorities:

- Is an effective preacher/speaker
- Helps people develop their spiritual life
- Is a helpful counselor
- Ministers effectively to people in crisis situations
- Is effective working with children
- Builds a sense of fellowship among the people with whom he/she works
- Has a strong commitment to the educational ministry of the church
- Is a person of faith
- Is effective in working with youth
- Encourages people to relate their faith to their daily lives
- Is mature and emotionally secure
- Is a compassionate and caring person

We appreciate your participation as we continue to develop our local church profile.

Members of the Associate Minister Search Committee: *Scott Burghoff, Claudia Jones, Betsy Kenneson, Marilyn Loomis, Brittany Napiorkowski, Steve Porcaro, Penny Richard, Bob Stisser*

Lenten Retreat

David Roozen of Hartford Seminary will lead a Lenten retreat with church members on Tuesday, March 23, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Mark your calendars! More information will be coming shortly.

Thank You February Volunteers

Care Notes – Sue Porcaro

Flowers – Ronnie Mantel

Meals and Transportation – Beth Horlitz

Friendship Team – Sue Williams

Prayer Team – Sue Williams

Charitable Gifting—Not Just a Benefit for the Recipient Organization

At our recent budget hearing on January 10, Davida Crabtree spoke compellingly about charitable giving, emphasizing the benefits not only to the recipient organization but also to the donor. Here is a reprint of an article Davida wrote for ConnTact soon after the death of her mother about 10 years ago. If this strikes a cord with you, talk to your accountant, attorney or other advisor about what you can do to increase your income, lower your taxes and in the end make a charitable gift to the organization(s) of your choice.

“She was an amazing woman, that mother of mine. Of course, I recognize that we all feel that way about our mothers. Still, I have the power of the pen here, so I’ll ask you to indulge me a bit as I celebrate one aspect of her life and ministry.

I am profoundly grateful to her for the way she made decisions in these late years of her life. Beginning just a few years after my father’s death, Mother made every single decision about downsizing her home, curtailing and eventually stopping driving, moving all the way to California to be nearer me, shifting from a cottage to an apartment, simplifying her life, and signing a very explicit Living Will. I never had to urge any of them. What a gift! And at the end it was that Living Will that was the greatest gift in some respects, because it freed me of any question about her desires. Hard as it was, I cannot imagine what it would have been like if she had not been so explicit in her directions.

Years ago, Mother also participated in the Planned Giving program of the UCC. She made gift annuities to her little Northfield UCC church, to the village library, to the Connecticut Conference, and then later to the Southern California Conference. She received a higher income from those annuities than from any other investments, and got a tax deduction to boot! More important was the peace of mind it gave her to know that the institutions she had nurtured throughout her life would continue to be nurtured by her giving after her death. As her resources declined in these last years, she took great joy in her planned gifts.

Like most mothers, Davida Blakeslee Foy was a generous giver. She understood that to be one of the deepest ways we are created in God’s likeness -- the capacity to be giving. Her care extended beyond her own world to those she only knew through Conference Annual Meeting or the mission reports she read so avidly (and kept!)

It has been a joy to me in the midst of all my sorrow to know that her wishes and prayers are being answered, in her death as in her life. I commend similar generosity and forward thinking to all of us, for the peace it brings and for the future it builds in the midst of God’s world!”

More information can be found at the following UCC web address: <http://www.ucc.org/giving/> or call the church office for conference materials.

Memorial Gifts Received

First Church was recently blessed with a generous memorial gift given by our recently departed church member, Carolyn Conklin. Carolyn left this gift in trust in the memory of her parents, Carrie Louise Conklin and John Charles Conklin. In addition, we have received an unrestricted gift from the estate of Marjorie (Midge) Bennett White. Both of these gifts are a legacy for which we and future generations will forever be grateful.

Opportunity to Save Money and Make Money!

Here's an opportunity for First Church members and friends to save money and make money at the same time! It's easy. Thanks to deregulation, you can choose the least expensive supplier of electricity to your home. CL&P still has responsibility to send your bill, handle any service issues and deliver the electricity to your home. But you have a choice of supplier.

Public Power and Utility, headquartered in Danbury, CT, is committed to help residential and commercial customers reduce their energy costs. The church and a number of our members have been getting the benefit of lower energy costs each month. PP&U is able to supply electricity at a 10% to 15% savings per month. Your savings could be as much as \$50 to \$100 per year. And on top of these savings, here's how you can make a \$25 contribution to First Church.

PP&U is giving a \$25 check for each new person that is referred and signs up with the company through March 31, 2010. You can sign up online at www.PPandU.com or call them at (888) 354-4415. When you sign up, indicate you were referred to them by First Church in Windsor.

Act now. This is a simple way for you to save while helping the church with your \$25 referral fee. If 100 members and friends sign up we will have raised \$2,500 which would help to balance our budget. If you have questions call the church office at (860)-688-7229.

Submitted by Randy Clark

Thanks to your generosity!

Because of the generosity of this congregation, we sent checks in the amount of \$1,135 each to the following organizations: Pension Board UCC (Retired Ministers Fund), Immaculate Conception Shelter, our Pastor's Discretionary Fund which is used to support people in need in our community and to the church's operating budget.

First Church Women's Club

We will meet next on Tuesday, February 9th, 2010, at noon in Nelson Hall. We invite you to join us for lunch followed by a presentation by Ford Parker from Northwest Park. He will speak about "Northwest Park, Naturally" from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm.

Bring your own sandwich, and a \$2.00 donation will cover the cost of beverage and dessert. The Hostess this month is Buddy Donovan, 860-688-1752.

Please consider joining our group on the second Tuesday of each month to promote a spirit of Christian fellowship and enjoy each others company.

Women's Club Recipe

Moist 'N Creamy Coconut Cake

This recipe from Doris Butler was served by hostess Pam Sweeny at the recent Women's Club meeting. You'd never know the cake wasn't homemade with boiled frosting!

- 1 package (2 layer size) yellow cake mix or pudding included cake mix.
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 cups Baker's Angel Flake Coconut (whatever kind you have will work)
- 1 container (8 oz.) COOL WHIP thawed.

Prepare cake mix as directed on package, baking in 13 x 9 inch pan. Cool 15 minutes then poke holes down through cake with a utility fork. Meanwhile, combine milk, sugar and 1/2 cup coconut in a sauce pan. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer 1 minute. Carefully spoon over warm cake allowing liquid to soak down through holes. Cool completely. Fold 1/2 of remaining coconut into the whipped topping and spread over cake. Sprinkle with most or all of the remaining coconut.



Cluster 13/Youth Mission Trip Update

Individual applications and deposits for anyone interested in participating in the 2010 youth mission trip with Cluster 13 in Camden, NY from July 17-24, 2010 were due January 31st. However, space is still available and applications will continue to be received and placed on a wait list as spots fill up. First Church members and youth are encouraged to apply, as well as friends of our community, so please spread the word! Applications are available on-line at www.fcwucc.org under the "Youth Activities" tab or can be picked up from the church office. Training dates and fundraisers have been set as follows:

Sunday, February 7, 9:00AM (Nelson Hall) Super Bowl Grinder Sale



SUPER BOWL SUNDAY GRINDER SALE SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7 TO SUPPORT THE YOUTH MISSION TRIP! Getcha grindas heal! Why worry about cooking and all the kitchen prep for the Super Bowl game when you can sit back, enjoy the game AND support our youth mission trip to Camden, NY with an already-made Cluster 13 Grinder! Now that's a TOUCH DOWN! Cost is \$5.00 per grinder (ham, turkey, veggie or combo), which will be ready for pickup on Sunday, February 7 between 11:00 – 12:00 noon. **Orders help us to have a successful game plan so call in your order TODAY at the church office, 688-7229!**

YOUTH EVENTS UPDATE

(TO RSVP FOR ALL YOUTH EVENTS, SIGN UP IN THE NEW YOUTH GROUP SIGN UP BINDER IN NELSON HALL!):

Saturday, February 6, Open Coffee House, 6PM, Nelson Hall – FOR ALL AGES! Open mic, music, poetry, you name it – come listen or participate! Check the music section of this newsletter for more details!

Sunday, February 14, 2:00 – 3:30 PM, Free Swim for All at Loomis Chaffee Pool. Hosted by the Boy Scouts. Open to all families, life guard on duty. Changing rooms available, BYO towel!

Tuesday, February 16, 5:00 – 7:00 PM, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, All ages! Pancakes, games and fun for everyone!

Silver Lake Registration has BEGUN! Silver Lake's 2010 Summer Conference Calendar and camp registration is now available. Calendars can be picked up outside the church office. Registration is on-line at <http://silverlake.ctucc.org/>. Partial scholarships are offered by First Church and some scholarships are available through the CT Conference office. Want more info? Check out the video in the Computer Room, speak with a former camper or talk with Char Corbett, Minister of Youth and Outreach.

Be a Camp Counselor at Silver Lake! Youth and adults ages 16 and older are invited to apply as volunteer counselors for the conference (s) or week (s) you prefer. What a great way to meet new friends, celebrate the outdoors and share your gifts with others! Please see Char Corbett, Minister of Youth and Outreach for more information.

Back by Popular Demand – a summer trip to Overlook Farm August 16- August 20! In support of Our Church's Wider Mission and our commitment to Heifer International, we are returning for a third year to Overlook Farm for an experiential opportunity to explore the root causes and possible solutions of global hunger and the unique way in which Heifer International empowers communities to lift themselves out of poverty. Fourteen youth age 12 and older will have the opportunity to live in tents (and other housing structures!), cook a simple meal, care for the farm animals and gardens and assist with other farm chores. It's fun, it's educational, and this is an amazing way to grow in awareness, appreciation and understanding of other global cultures. Information packets are available in Nelson Hall. Space is limited and on a first-come basis. The cost is \$75 for the week. Scholarships are available. Contact Char Corbett for more details.

Frank Roswell Fuller Scholarship Available: If you are a confirmed member of First Church, a senior in high school, planning to attend a four year college and can demonstrate financial aid, you may be eligible for the Frank Roswell Fuller Scholarship. An application, eligibility requirements and the application process are on-line at our website, www.fcwucc.org under the "Scholarship" tab. Call the church office for more information.

School Scholarships Now Available Applications are Due May 1

First Church youth members graduating from high school and continuing their education are encouraged to apply for First Church school scholarships, which are available through the generous donations of current and former church members. Please visit "Scholarships" on the church website www.fcwucc.org for details and an application or contact the church office for more information.

Looking at Colleges? Considering Seminary? UCC related college, universities and seminaries exist from coast to coast, with many programs, degrees and opportunities for students seeking to explore their vocations. Visit the www.ucc.org website for more information or see Char Corbett, Minister for Youth and Outreach.



Lenten Offering: Art as Spiritual Practice

Join Char for one, two or three Sunday evenings (Feb. 21, March 7 and March 21) from 6:00 – 7:30 PM during Lent to explore the arts

as a spiritual and transformational personal practice. This is an introductory hands-on opportunity for all skill levels of art and spiritual discipline. Youth and adults wishing to explore a spiritual practice during Lent are encouraged to participate. Modalities explored will include poetry/writing (Feb 21), movement/labyrinth (March 7) and mandalas (March 21). Each gathering will include a short participatory worship as centering, an introduction to the art form being explored as spiritual practice, sharing and a brief closing. In addition, participants will be encouraged to journal and/or engage in spiritual practice at their own pace at home throughout Lent. Suggested readings and materials will also be available. Come learn, explore, have fun and engage the Spirit with others! Child-care can be arranged upon request.

Lent

Beginning with Ash Wednesday, Lent is the 40 days of preparation, excluding Sundays, leading up to the grand & joyous celebration of Easter. Lent ends with the special services of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday when we remember the death of our Savior Jesus Christ on the cross. For many Christians, Lent is a deepening and reflective time to "reconnect with what is most important in our lives" - A time to focus on our relationship with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Lenten Highlights

FEBRUARY:

February 16: Fat Tuesday from 5:30 to 7:00 pm in Nelson Hall. Details are on page 5.

February 17: Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. This year we will hold an Ash Wednesday Taizé service in the meetinghouse at 7:00 pm. There will be no morning service.

February 17: The labyrinth will be open in Nelson Hall.

February 21: "Art as a Spiritual Practice" - Morrell Room at 5:00 p.m.. Journaling and Writing.

MARCH:

March 7: "Art as a Spiritual Practice: - Movement and labyrinth in Morrell and Nelson Hall at 5:00 p.m.

March 14: One Great Hour of Sharing offering for God's wider mission will be received.

March 21: "Art as a Spiritual Practice" Mandalas; Morrell Room at 5:00 p.m.

March 27: Parish Caring Ministries Knitting Lenten retreat in the Morrell Room from 10—12 noon.

March 28: Palm Sunday: The Hosanna Fair will be held at 11:15 pm in Nelson Hall.

APRIL:

April 1 Maundy Thursday: Service of Tenebrae in the meetinghouse at 7:30 p.m.

April 2: Good Friday: Musical Meditation will be held at noon in the meetinghouse and the labyrinth will be open in Nelson Hall from 11-4.

April 4: Easter Sunday—Identical services at 9:00 and 11:00 am. No church school; childcare only.

There will be other scheduled events so look for updates in the Sunday bulletin insert and Edge.

Our Fourth Annual Cub Scout Pancake Breakfast

Hosted by Cub Scout Pack 203

Saturday, February 6th

Cub Scout Pack 203 in Windsor will host a pancake breakfast on Saturday, February 6th, 2010 from 8-10 am at First Church in Windsor's Nelson Hall. Take a well-



deserved break from cooking and enjoy delicious pancakes, sausages, coffee, milk & juice. The cost is a mere \$7 per adult, \$4 for children ages 5 and up, maximum \$20 for a family. Little ones under 5 eat for free! Help build character, confidence & leadership for the boys in our community by supporting your local Scouting program, now celebrating 100 years!. Tickets are available at the door. For more information call Jenn Owen at 860-687-9950. For more information please visit the pack website at www.pack203.org. The First Church in Windsor website is www.firstchurcheinwindsor.org.

Thank you, Scoutmaster Ed Kirk!

Boy Scout Troop 203 would like to thank Ed Kirk for his years of dedication to the Scouting program. After 7 years as Cubmaster, then 7 more as Scoutmaster of the Troop, he has officially stepped down as Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 203. Happily, he has not left the troop, but, stepped into the role of Assistant Scoutmaster and Eagle Coach.

Steve Porcaro has taken over for Ed as the new Scoutmaster.

For more information please visit the Troop website – www.troop203ct.org.



Lofty Thoughts. . .



Dear First Church Family, This is an official invitation to anyone interested in Handbells...we've been on a brief sabbatical, and it's time to start swinging those bells again! We have several openings. Music

reading skills are helpful but not essential, as "on the job training" is an included perk. What is essential is willingness to meet regularly: Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm in the Music Room. I'd really like to have some bell music for Lent and Easter this year. There are some who have expressed interest; now is the time to act! We will resume ringing rehearsals on Thursday, February 11.

Speaking of February....want to warm up a February evening and help the hungry at the same time? Plan on attending our Coffee House Evening, benefitting the Windsor Food Bank. Several of our choir members and my voice students have already been working on songs, poets have dusted off their quills, and talented bakers are heading for their kitchens to prepare toothsome goodies. The fun happens on Saturday evening, February 6th at 6:30 PM. Admission will be charged: one or more non-perishable food items for the WFB. We will also accept "tip jar" donations,. Of course, the plight of the Haitian people is on our minds and hearts. Therefore, "tip-jar" donations will be accepted for OGHS—Haiti Relief.

Can you think of a better way to get that warm feeling?

Peace,

Mark.

February Highlights at The First Church in Windsor

Saturday, February 6 at 8:00 a.m.: Cub Scout Pack #203 Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, February 6 at 6:30 p.m.: Coffee House in Nelson Hall, Parish House

Sunday, February 14 at 11:30 a.m.: Annual Meeting in Nelson Hall, Parish House

February 16 at 5:00 p.m.: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Wednesday, February 17 at 7:00 p.m.: Ash Wednesday service in the meetinghouse

Sunday, February 21 at 5:00 p.m.: Art as a Spiritual Practice—a Lenten series

Tuesday, February 23 at 7:00 p.m.: New Member meeting in the Morrell Room.



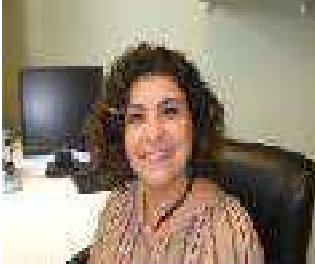
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February can seem like one of the longest months in New England, and year after year, I try to trick myself into thinking that we're half-way to Spring. Technically that's probably not true, but I take comfort in thinking that the worst of cold weather is starting to slip behind us. Each February 2nd I cross my fingers and pray that Punxsutawney Phil will emerge from his burrow and see his glorious shadow, and that spring might arrive just a wee bit earlier that year.

With warmer weather headed in our direction it's not too early to start thinking about summer camps. If your child will be entering 4th grade this coming school year, then Silver Lake is calling their name. Signups for Silver lake summer camp have begun and the camp is open to all students entering grades 4th-12th. Vacation Bible School is on the calendar for August 9-13 and this year's theme will be announced soon.

Our Annual Budget Meeting is February 14th and childcare will be provided while the budget meeting is in session. We are planning to show a movie, make a few crafts and have snacks to keep all the young ones busy and entertained.

Shrove Tuesday is February 16th. As usual we will be having our all you can eat pancake, sausage and ice cream extravaganza. Dinner starts at 5:30 and will be followed by our annual pancake flip off contest, a Mardi Gras mask making workshop, musical chairs, a parade for all. Everyone is encouraged to come out for this special event and friends are always welcome. Just make sure to bring your frying pan. Free night out!!!

The church auction committee has asked the Sunday school classes to donate a gift basket for the March 20th auction. We will donate two baskets for this year's auction. The first one will be donated by the preschool thru sixth grade classrooms and the theme will be an arts and crafts basket. The second basket will be a movie night theme and will be donated by the kids in grades 7-12. Please see either me or Gary for more details or ideas on how to contribute.

Helga Finlay

Happy Birthday!

Hunter Desrocher
James Pickney
Aaron Taplin

