

THE PARISH POST
*FIRST UNITED CHURCH
 OF CHRIST
 (CONGREGATIONAL)
 MILFORD, CT*

END JUNE - AUGUST 2010



11TH ANNUAL
 FIRST UNITED
 CHURCH OF CHRIST
 CONGREGATIONAL

Golf Tournament

Monday, August 16, 2010
 ORANGE HILLS COUNTRY CLUB

\$150 per person

8 am Shotgun Start
 7 am Continental Breakfast

SINGLES WILL
 BE ASSIGNED
 TO A FOURSOME.

INCLUDES: Dinner at the Bridge House in Devon,
 Awards Presentation, Large Assortment
 of Raffle Prizes and more!

FOR MORE DETAILS, PLEASE CONTACT
 Tournament Director: Chuck Roy 203-876-1451
 the Church Office: 203-877-4277
 or go to: www.tiny.cc/FirstChurchGolf

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CHURCH STAFF
 AND OFFICERS

Church Staff:
Senior Pastor

James P. Tusedso x302

Associate Pastor

Adam E. Eckhart x303

Minister of C.E.

M. Ashley Grant x309

Music Directors

James Balmer and Mary Nelson x308

Church Secretary

Debi Mastroni-Kenyon x300

Sexton

Roger Brockett x306

Church Officers:

Moderator: Mike Tylutki

Vice Moderator: Bob Macklin

Clerk: Allison Britting x305

Treasurer: Jim Sparks x301

Financial Secretary:

Nancy Macklin x301

Church Historian:

Ardiene Damicis

Members-at-large:

Caitlin Mundy, Patti Rutherford

Diaconate: Karen Helene, Stacie Plaut

Trustees: John Toronto

Christian Ed.: Lara Edmondson

Music: Gary Becker

Outreach: Marlene Sanchez,

Robbie Silver

Stewardship: Letty Corrado

Phone: 203-877-4277

Fax: 203-877-4279

email: milfordfirstucc@yahoo.com

website: firstchurchofmilford.org

**Save the date
 for the 2010
 Homecoming Picnic:
 September 26th!!!**



In the month of May, we celebrated the end of a busy and successful Church program year with Sundays dedicated to confirmation, our music ministries and our Sunday School programs. I want to thank all who participated in those programs, choir members and choir parents, Sunday School teachers and children, our confirmands and their parents, and of course our talented program staff, Adam and Ashley, Jim and Mary.

Although church life seems to slow down in the summer, major programs take place as the members of First Church generously give of their time to events like the **Mission Trip to New Orleans in June, Vacation Bible School in July, and the First Church Golf Tournament in August.** The work of the **Emma Davis Medical Equipment Ministry** continues throughout the summer with daily calls to borrow equipment, the deacons carry on their ministry of flower deliveries and visits to the sick and the shut ins while the Trustees continue to work on our properties and look for solutions to the challenging financial and property issues that face our congregation. The pace may be slower but we worship together each Sunday at 8:00 and 9:30 and the work of the Church continues.

One of our goals at First Church is to make people feel welcome as they come through our doors. Whether someone is a visitor or a regular member or friend, we want people to feel welcome when they come to First Church and the first step in that process happens when they are greeted at the door and then in the aisles by the ushers. We know that there many of you who can participate in this ministry and we want to involve as many people as possible. In the summer with many people away on vacation, we have a special need for ushers and greeters. Each of these tasks involves coming early to Church welcoming worshippers, answering questions, and handing out bulletins. We also ask ushers to collect the offering and to stay for a brief time after church to do a quick pick up in the sanctuary. If you are willing to cover a Sunday, there is a sign up sheet in the narthex, speak to one of the ministers, or call the Church Office and we will pass on the information to the deacons.

Finally, I would like to remind you to keep in touch with your church throughout the summer. Worship when you are able and help out when you can. Please let me, Adam or Ashley know if a loved one or friend needs to be included in our prayers on Sunday morning or if they are hospitalized or in need of a pastoral call. In order to build a healthy congregation where God is praised and the work of the Holy Spirit is sustained through our ministries and programs, we need your active participation in the life of our church through *your presence, your prayers, your gifts and your service.*

With God's Blessing,
Jim

Adam continues his year-long series on the Lord's Prayer Challenge, inviting members of the congregation to recite and reflect on the Lord's Prayer every-day.

With almost half of 2010 behind us, I have noticed that the Lord's Prayer continues to make small impacts on my daily life that accumulate in spiritually challenging yet mostly beneficial ways.

As of late, I've sensed God speaking to me most clearly in the petition: "Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil." Back in the early spring, a couple of young women from the Confirmation 2 class wondered why Jesus would urge us to pray specifically that God NOT lead us into temptation, as if Jesus assumed that God might actually want to tempt us. "God, you keep leading me into temptation: Stop that!" is what could be inferred from the phrase. Such an interpretation would reinforce the idea that God tests us throughout life--'God puts temptations in our way to see if we will be faithful to God or to idols like money, sex, power or whatever new fad springs up.' This perspective jives with Exodus 20, where after the Ten Commandments are shared with the Israelites, God declares that they are offered in a sense to test the people.

But I believe that interpretation temptations and life in general as a test overestimates human ability to pass such tests and can color God as not just testing us but also toying with us. Instead, I make the perhaps subtle distinction that we have a choice instead of a test--choices by our free but broken wills to choose life or death, community or isolation. And God does not wait to see how we will fare, but is deeply concerned and active in removing us from destructive thoughts and behaviors. God's activity in our tempted lives can begin in the Lord's Prayer itself, when by praying it we can be equipped with God's message that we can ask for God to lead us away from temptations and to deliver us from certain evils.

Many of those evils are seemingly small: wanting to eat and drink unhealthily; admiring the distorted images of ideal women and men in the media; defining oneself by competition instead of collaboration; becoming detached from the political issues that impact the lives of people across the world. But when I pray, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil," I remember that God desires my righteousness and that others are praying along for God's help and are available as friends and fellow disciples to overcome temptation and evil in its ever-present forms. In that way, God answers our prayers before we even ask because God provides us with resources outside ourselves and the grace to confront temptations through faith and prayer as we never could do alone.

Peace, *Adam*

William Sloan Coffin, the former Chaplain at Yale, wrote this: *It is a mistake to look to the Bible to close a discussion; the Bible seeks to open one. God leads with a light rein, giving us our head. Jesus spoke in parables because these stories have a way of shifting responsibility from the narrator to the hearer.*

Here is a poem written by one of our members, David Gregory, who opens a discussion on the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37).

Jim.

I step away and around and move on

A man lies on the sidewalk
His piece of cardboard a mattress
Possessions bundled behind him
I step away and around and move on

In my town we don't have these things
Well maybe I just don't see these things
I'm going here to there so
I step away and around and move on

I see the man asleep in the daylight
I'm not comfortable, somewhat frightened
He hasn't threatened me, still
I step away and around and move on

Do I want to know his history?
What blows life and society have struck?
What wars has he fought? Forget it
I step away and around and move on

Has he been cast on the street?
Released from somewhere or down on luck?
Or has he chosen this, I don't know
I step away and around and move on

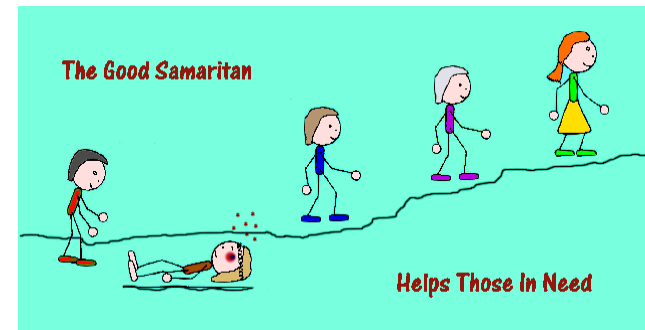
If he were awake, would he speak?
Would he tell me his tale or lie for a buck?
Is he drunk? Is he crazy?
I step away and around and move on

What battles are inside his head?
Why am I more suspicious than compassionate?
If he asked me, what would I say?
I step away and around and move on

Does he sleep the day to survive the night?
Is he really tough or really scared?
If I reached to him would I be hurt?
I step away and around and move on

Do I thank God I am not him?
And yet ignore God by passing him
I am disappointed in me
I step away and around and move on

David Gregory



FROM THE MODERATOR

Fellow members:

Thank you very much to everybody who has been responding so faithfully and consistently to the financial needs we discussed last fall on Stewardship Sunday and at January's annual meeting.

Because of the good response in pledging to the Stewardship Committee's appeal, your diligence in meeting those pledges thus far, good fortune in not experiencing any winter expense surprises and the very disciplined expense management by our staff and committees, I am pleased to relay on the behalf of the Church Board a heartfelt thank you as we approach the summer months and we continue planning for the fall program year.

We are tracking very well to the budget presented at January's meeting. Continuing to do so will depend on your continued consistent support, especially during the summer when vacations and other distractions impact regular Sunday attendance. Please try to keep up with your regular pledging schedule to assist the staff, Trustees, the Treasurer and all our lay volunteers - - summer can be a cash-flow "drought" in any church and our budget, although being met, is still tight. Remember that our 2010 budget was balanced only because we included \$13,000.00 in endowment principal, a practice that we should not depend on and hopefully can avoid if our donations and expenses management make up that amount. To do so will require members' pledge donations slightly exceeding your commitments made last fall, and doing so in 2010 will be good evidence of our commitment to First Church and a confidence-builder to church leadership in considering how to continue to provide the excellent ministries available here. It is a modest, but significant challenge, which I'd ask you to consider.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support, and I look forward to providing you another positive update in the fall. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Mike Tylutki
Moderator

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL July 12-16, 2010 9 am-12 pm



Register online at
www.firstchurchofmilford.org!
Still Need TEACHERS and class helpers!!

Information packets will be mailed/emailed to those registered.

Speak with Rev. Ashley or Lara to sign up to bring any of the following from our Need List. More as we get closer to VBS.

“Growing” VBS NEEDS LIST

6 bags of pretzels
Cookies—6 packages per day—24 total
1 canister of grape Kool-Aid or Gatorade mix
1 canister of red Kool-Aid or Gatorade mix
1 canister of orange Kool-Aid or Gatorade mix
2 gallons of milk
6 bottles of wood glue
Glue Sticks (40)
Sheets of sand paper
Rope (2 hundred feet, cotton)
2 containers of Moon Sand
Cube Tissue Boxes (empty) (30)
Lego set (Borrow)
24 bed sheets/large beach towels (borrow)
Box of Zip Sandwich bags
Napkins
Monopoly Board game little green houses

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SCHEDULE

Summer Kids' Program 2010



Each Sunday of SKP, kids, age 4 through 6th grade, will leave from the Meeting House for a cool program integrating worship, spiritual gifts, story, and play. Youth in 7th grade and older are welcome to assist leaders. Join us when you can, but you won't want to miss! Nursery Care for children 3 and younger will be available every Sunday. To volunteer to help, speak with Rev. Ashley.

SKP Schedule:

June 20th
July 4, 11 & 18 (special VBS worship)
August 1, 8 & 15

FROM THE C.E. CHAIRPERSON

The Christian Education Committee is pleased to inform you that Rev. M. Ashley Grant is now in the settled position of Minister of Christian Education. Ashley joined the First Church staff in June 2007 on Interim status, which was later changed to Acting status. This change in status does not affect Ashley's current role, office hours, responsibilities or salary. It does however, establish her with the UCC as no longer being in transition. This affords both Ashley and us here at First Church the additional resources and support that the Connecticut UCC offers. We look forward to the continued leadership, encouragement and spiritual guidance that we as a committee feel Ashley has graced all of First Church with during the past 3 years. Thank You, Ashley....for all that you do for our church family.

Lara Edmondson, CE Chairperson

Thank you to all of our Teachers and Helpers this past year: 2009-2010

Nursery

Kristin Griswold
Ruth McLaughlin, Mae Bennett,
Marisol Cummings

Second & Third Grades

Trish Cobain
Cindy Volpe
Joan Canavan
Mathewe Schofield

Three & Four Year Olds:

Elisa Kingsley
Edith Kopp
Jen Brothers
Bethany Niebanck
Emily Roy
Addie Schofield
Stephani Rivera

Fourth & Fifth Grades

Keith Charron
Michele Olsson
Brandon Hayden
Kyle Charron

Sixth & Seventh Grades

Sue Bernor
Samantha Gilbert
Ryan Hayden

Kindergarten & First Grade

Anne-Marie Alderman
Wendy Bauer
Emily Alderman
Christopher Cobain



Special Thanks to Kristin Griswold our Nursery Attendant for the last 3 years. Kristin will be returning to regular worship with her family beginning in June. We will have temporary but able coverage of our nursery in the summer and have begun the search for a regular attendant. If you have suggestions or interest, please speak with Rev. Ashley.

Third Graders to receive Bibles in September

If you have a rising third grader who regularly attends Sunday School and who would like to receive a Bible when we begin the new program year, please contact Debi in the Main Office with your child's full name.

CHURCH NURSERY ATTENDANT JOB DESCRIPTION

OVERVIEW: The Nursery Attendant will be the person, working under the C.E. Minister and Committee, who is primarily responsible for the care of non-school age children during Church services. This is an hourly position.

Job Requirements:

- At least 23 years of age
- 3 years childcare experience in group setting
- Must have reliable transportation
- Background check compliance

Job duties:

- Oversee care of non-school age children
- Communicate with parents, volunteers and staff regarding needs of children and child care area
- Insure and maintain a clean and safe environment at all times
- Responsible for children until relieved by responsible parent or guardian

Hours and expectations:

- The position requires 3 hours every Sunday morning during the program year and <2 hrs on Sunday mornings during Summer months.
- Extra days/hours may be required for special Church events/ services. Any extra hours/needs will be accompanied by a minimum of two weeks notice from the C.E. Minister.
- The rate of pay for this position is \$15.00 per hour.

Time Off/Sick Days:

- Any leave or absence requires a minimum of 24 hours notice to C.E. Minister and will be granted under C.E. Minister's discretion.
- Excessive absences can result in termination.

If you are interested in this position, please contact Rev. Ashley Grant at 877-4277 x 309.

2010-2011 SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHING TEAMS

Pre-K: Jen Brothers, Bonnie George, Sam Gilbert,
Emily Roy

K & 1: Wendy Bauer, Karen DeLucia, Edith Kopp,
Bethany Niebanck

2 & 3: Trish Cobain, Jennie Bihary, Tifani Gilbert

4 & 5: Michele Steinlauf, Lynn McMaster, Emily Alderman,
Joan Canavan

6 & 7: Sue Bernor, Keith Charron, Katie Alderman

If you would like to be a part of the Sunday School Leadership, please speak with Rev. Ashley. We are also looking for helpers and nursery volunteers.

MISSION TRIP 2010: On Our Way to Louisiana

From June 27 through July 3, more than 25 high school young adults and 11 adult advisors will be in Louisiana, staying at Good Shepherd UCC in Metairie and volunteering with St. Bernard Project, rebuilding homes in the parish just southeast of New Orleans. During the week, we will meet many of the residents whose homes they work on. In addition, we will take a driving tour of New Orleans, visit the French Quarter (and eat some beignets), and spend some time with members of Good Shepherd U.C.C. finding out how God inspires them to persevere and give thanks for their community.

After Senior P.F. returns, we plan on informally showing pictures from the trip after worship on July 11 and giving a more formal presentation during worship in late September.

Thank you once more for all of your support and prayers for Senior P.F. and the mission trip crew. We truly couldn't go to New Orleans if it weren't for the church and community's support of our fundraisers and the generous donations of several members in the past months. Please pray for the people of the Gulf Coast as they continue to rebuild from the devastation of hurricanes and deal now also with the ramifications of the oil leak; and please pray for the mission trip crew's safe travels and for transformative experiences as we seek to follow Christ in all that we do!

A Different Kind of Stewardship

What comes to mind when you hear the word “stewardship”? Pledge drives? Committees? Money? Sharing time and talents? Stewardship Work Day? For many, it causes us to focus on our own church and the needs of our immediate faith community. However, we know that stewardship is not limited to the financial care of the church and its people. We are taught that we are all connected; we are all brothers and sisters to each other in this world, across oceans and across generations. Many cultures believe that we are also spiritually connected to all living things and that by taking care of the earth and sky we are really taking care of ourselves. In this manner, let’s expand our concept of stewardship.

Merriam-Webster’s dictionary defines stewardship as: “the conducting, supervising, or managing of something; especially: the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care <stewardship of our natural resources>”. Furthermore, we read in Genesis 1:26 that God entrusted the care of the earth to man: "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." (NIV 1984) Yet news of natural disasters, oil spills and global warming are grim reminders of how humans can negatively impact the environment and of how fragile our world is. The good news is that we can also take steps to help. We all know to Reduce, Recycle and Reuse; we can buy energy-efficient appliances and use eco-friendly products. Many people bring their own grocery bags to the store, have reusable water bottles and pay more attention to Fair Trade and sustainable products—like First Church’s coffee and tea!

In her book, Random Acts of Kindness, Dawna Markova suggests numerous ways in which we can make a difference in our world. Here are a few that speak to this concept of environmental stewardship:

- Plant a tree in your neighborhood.
- Yes, it’s a drag, but why not put your shopping cart back in its appointed place in the parking lot?
- As you go about your day, why not pick up the trash you find on the sidewalk?
- Spend a week just being aware of things in nature that befriend you.

If we’re all interconnected, then everything we do--every effort, every attitude, every gesture--*will* make a difference. In the words of Mother Teresa, “Let us not be satisfied with just giving money. Money is not enough, money can be got, but they need your hearts to love them. So, spread your love everywhere you go”.

In God’s Service,
The Stewardship Ministry

MUSIC NEWS

* Thank you to all of our wonderful choir members and our music committee for their dedication and service to First Church this past year! As we look forward to fall ... please consider joining us!
*
* Rehearsals begin:
*
* • **SEPTEMBER 8th** for Junior Choir, Boys and Girls Choir, and the Adult Choir
*
* • **SEPTEMBER 12th** for Pilgrim Chorale
*
* • **SEPTEMBER 13th** for Meetinghouse Ringers
*
* Please check the bulletins for our upcoming news!!!!
*
* Have a Blessed Summer ... and we’ll see you in church!!!!
*
* Mary Nelson and James Balmer
*

Volunteer Needed

Someone with Excel experience to enter data into the Emma Davis Ministry data base.

Job would take approximately two hours per week. The committee meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 PM.

Contact Tom Isaac at 203 874-4612 for more details.

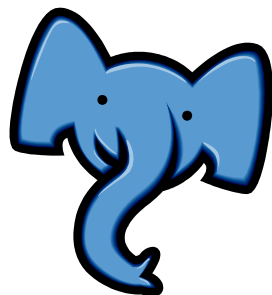


PLYMOUTH MEN'S CLUB NEWS

A great big THANK YOU to all who both donated items and bought treasures at the June 5th White Elephant Sale!

Proceeds benefit the church, Beth El Shelter, Red Cross, Cub Pack 7 and Boy Scout Troop 1.

Harry Byrne, President, Plymouth Men's Club



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIPS NEWS

Mystery! Mystery! Mystery!

Evening Women's Fellowship will be meeting on Monday, July 12th at 6:30 P.M. This is a change from the normal first Monday of the month, due to the holiday. What we will be doing and where we will be meeting will be a surprise. Come join us and find out where our adventure will take us. Call Donna at 203-878-6620 and let her know that you will be coming.

Women's Fellowship will continue to meet Wednesdays at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall throughout the Sumer!

**Save the date for the 2010
Homecoming Picnic: September 26th!!!**

NEWS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Baptisms

Daniel Thomas DeSousa, son of Daniel and Marybeth DeSousa
Rainey Marie Haramis, daughter of Zeke and Michele Haramis (George)
Gabrielle Victoria Steinlauf, daughter of Michele and David Steinlauf
Gabriel Martinez, son of Lynn MacMaster
Jackson Trevor VanHise, son of Trevor and Denise VanHise
Nyla Reese Jaser, daughter of Tarik and Heather Jaser

Weddings

Jamie Lynch and Stuart Hawkins, April 17, 2010
Courtney Winn and Austin Cahill, June 5, 2010
Lindsey Hutchison and Ryan Murphy, June 26, 2010

In Memoriam

Judy Lewis, Della Ponganis (Marlene Sanchez' Grandmother)

PARISH POST SPONSORS

This issue of the Parish Post is being sponsored by the following businesses and individuals. We thank them for their ongoing support of our Church programs and ministries.

Anastasia Devon Blaisdell

Stacie Plaut Travel Time – full service Travel Agency,
46 Whalley Avenue (874-7996)

Bob and Ann Sabo

Smith & Sefcik Funeral Home and Cremation Services,
135 Broad Street, Milford 06460 (874-2588)

If you would like to sponsor the Parish Post and have your name or business listed here, please contact Debi Mastroni-Kenyon in the Church Office at 877-4277.

Vacation Bible School

July 12th - 16th



**Save the date for the 2010
Homecoming Picnic: September 26th!!!**