

PARISH POST

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

CHESHIRE
CONNECTICUT

Volume XXIV

February 14, 2007

No.2

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Services at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Church School for Pre-school 3 through Junior High and
Nursery/Toddler care at both hours

Sunday, February 18 – (Last Sunday after Epiphany, also known as Transfiguration Sunday): 9 & 11 Worship and Church School, Alison McCaffrey preaching; Coffee hours at 10 and 12; the lessons are Exodus 34: 29-35; Psalm 99; 2nd Corinthians 3:12 – 4:2, **Luke 9:28-36**

Ash Wednesday, February 21:
7:30 in the sanctuary, Lisa Horst preaching; communion and dispensation of ashes; the lessons are Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sunday, February 25 – (First Sunday in Lent): 9 & 11 Worship and Church School; David Buchan preaching; Coffee hours at 10 and 12; the lessons are **Deuteronomy 26: 1-11**; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

THE DACEY FAMILY HAS SETTLED IN AUSTRALIA

Rick, Anne, and the children are now in Epping. They've sent this message to us: "Thank you to the First Church Family for the many kind words, faithful prayers,

and thoughtful gifts you shared with us as we set out on this next leg of our journey. We will always thank God for having you in our lives. We pray that your continuing adventure of faith together will be a blessing to you and to many in the years ahead.

In Christ's love,
The Dacey family

Here's their new address:

The Dacey Family
40 Marcella Street
Epping, NSW 2121
Australia

Phone: 61 (02) 9876 6305

e-mails:

Family: annedacey@gmail.com
Rick: rickdacey@gmail.com

Blog:

TheDaceysDownunder.blogspot.com

If you write to them using postal mail, remember that for air mail to Australia, envelopes weighing up to 1 ounce cost 84¢.

Please Note...

This is a condensed version of the Parish Post so don't be surprised that the content is somewhat different than usual. We thought it important that some news was shared before March and Henry McNulty was kind enough to accept the call of putting it all together. Thank you, Henry.

Another edition will come out the beginning of March and will include the usual Board and Committee updates as well as a message from Dave Buchan. Stay tuned!

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

There will be a New Member Orientation Class on Saturday, March 3, from 9:30-2 in the Whiting House. Lunch will be provided.

If you are interested in becoming a new member, there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the lobby or you may call the church office at 272-5323.

New members will be received on Sunday, March 18 at both the 9 and 11 o'clock services.

REACHING OUT

From Jan Garthwait:

Once again, the wonderful cooks and bakers from our church helped satisfy the hungry at Columbus House! It was a full house on Jan. 31 as Chris and Ed Albrecht, Karen Gravino, Jan Cowles, and Joe and I filled plates with meatloaf, potatoes, green beans and rolls. When the

meal was over, there were only a few small slices of meatloaf and one scoop of potatoes left! The slices of homemade pie went just as quickly and were truly enjoyed.

The residents there are so grateful for this meal and don't hesitate to express it; we left to the sounds of applause. One man asked specifically where we were from and wanted us to be sure to express his gratitude to our congregation.

So a heartfelt thank you to all who contributed: Debbie Sinning, Jan Cowles, Chris and Ed Albrecht, Karen Gravino, Sue Walker, Gordon Hurlbert, Lisa Canas, Nancy Turner, Sally Ziegler, Bev Euerle, Sharon Graver, Emma Norback, Regan Huntley, Emilee Ziolkowski, Marianne Eagleson, Becki Louys, Terri Adesso, Beth Ross, Ruth MacDonald, Bill and Lori Mann, Beth and George Eichelman, and June and Peter Webster. The next meal will be on May 30. (I have a glass pie plate from the last meal there; please call me at 272-5915 if it is yours).

And this from a member of the congregation:

We have read the well-deserved thank-yous from Jan Garthwait to everyone who served the meals at Columbus House. But we need to give a gigantic THANKS to and for Jan herself! She notifies us of the Columbus House meal dates; buys and provides plans for the food; buys green beans, rolls, and butter; arranges for servers; and with her husband Joe transports the food, organizes the kitchen operation, and helps serve the meals – every fifth Monday of the month! We

could not have such a great outreach program with Columbus House if it weren't for the efficient, capable, and gentle work of Jan Garthwaite!



BOOKS NEEDED FOR NEW HAVEN STUDENTS

My name is Gillian Reinhard. I am in the 3rd grade, and I attend Sunday School here at the First Congregational Church. I'm collecting books for a needy school in New Haven, Troup Magnet School. I am looking for books for all reading levels; they should be in fairly good condition. There's a box outside Mrs. Gravel's office (basement level) where books may be dropped off. If you need any more information, please call 272-2449. Thanks!

FOOD OF THE MONTH

The Food of the Month of Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministries for March is corned beef or roast beef hash. Food offerings will be collected on Sunday, March 4 (the first Sunday of the month). Please remember that the Waterbury Food Pantry is always in need of powdered milk, small boxes, and both paper and plastic grocery bags.

Food Count for February – 257

RETIREMENT LIVING TALK

Gail Gianelli, Administrator at Elim Park here in Cheshire, will describe the different levels of care offered at Elim Park and at private facilities at a talk in May. As senior citizens downsize, they ask questions such as "where should I be?" Independent living, assisted living, skilled nursing facilities, and other choices are all available. Gail will give a detailed overview of the many options. **When:** Wednesday, May 2, 7 p.m. **Where:** Whiting House.



TRANSITIONS

WEDDINGS

January 6

Erin Watrous (Alison McCaffrey's daughter) and Anthony DesJardin

BIRTHS

December 14

Alyssa Kate Shoals, granddaughter of John Afman and Sue Chatfield

January 29

Mairead Joan Martin Hall, daughter of Mark and Kate Hall.

BAPTISMS

January 21

Alexandra Pierce Benni, daughter of Victor Alexander and Catherine O'Leary Benni

DEATHS

December 28

Wally Darling, Donna Mead's father

January 3

James Tabor

January 6

Eleanor Caldon, former member

January 29

Daniel Allen, Ken Allen's father

February 6

William (Bill) Stevenson

HOSPITAL STAYS

If you are hospitalized, it is important that you or a family member call one of the ministers or the church office to let us know so we can visit and care for you properly. Federal law prohibits hospitals from giving us any patient information so we will not know you are there.

THANK YOU

For Poinsettias ...

Thank you very much for the beautiful poinsettia that my husband, Roland, received. It was very much appreciated and is being enjoyed by us both.

Lorna Fowler

Thank you so much for the beautiful poinsettia plant and the nice visit from the Mazzaferro family. It brightens my living room!

Shirley Cogle

I wish to thank you for the lovely poinsettia I received at Christmastime, and also for the thoughtful card in remembrance of my husband, Ray's death last year.

Irene Drufva

A day or two after Christmas, someone from the church brought me a beautiful plant. It meant so much.

Phyllis Eddy

Thank you so much for the beautiful poinsettia that Kevin and Beth Ross delivered. We had such a good visit.

Fred and Doris Mullaney

Thank you for the beautiful poinsettia that was delivered to me at Christmas. Also thanks to the Ladies Aid for remembering me with a card.

Blanche McKeagney

It was so thoughtful to have John Crowell deliver a poinsettia to my husband, Bert, at the Masonic Home.

Dolores Bozzuto

Nancy Brunetti delivered a lovely red poinsettia to me. I wish to thank you all and to wish you a very peaceful and happy New Year.

Marge Beard

Other thanks ...

Thank you for the lovely shawl. Every time I wear it, it will remind me of the church and of your warm wishes. I really like this church and its activities, friendship, and sermons.

Norma Lucas

Many thanks for the beautiful bouquet Karen delivered on my birthday. It put the final touch on the dinner table!

E. Ernest Oberst

Thank you for your card and prayers on the passing of my father. They meant a lot to Bob and me.

Donna Mead

Thank you so much for the cards and telephone calls during my hospitalization and recuperation. I appreciated the visits. Thank you, Don Lee, for delivering the beautiful flowers, and John Crowell for delivering the poinsettia. It's wonderful to belong to such a caring church.

Rich Grudzias

SETTLED SENIOR MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE 2007

In August 2006, Senior Minister Richard L. Dacey announced his decision to accept a call to the West Epping Uniting Church in Australia. With the announcement of his upcoming departure, Senior Deacon Susan Mancinelli and Church President Susan Hostage formed a search committee for an interim senior minister. This search committee's work resulted in the calling of the Rev. David Buchan as our interim senior minister.

The deacons then turned their attention to their work of constituting a search committee for the settled senior minister position. They began by defining the gifts and talents of individuals who would undertake this important work on behalf of the

congregation. They also sought to include representatives from all ages of our congregation: from young families, those who are young, middle aged as well as older members. They looked for new members as well as those who have been members for many years. They looked for a balance of those who attend the 9 and 11 am worship services, as well as a gender balance. Finally, the deacons determined that it was important to have individuals with either previous **search committee** experience or professional experience with reviewing resumes and conducting interviews.

At the Annual Meeting on January 28, 2007, the deacons presented the proposed slate of members for the senior minister search committee, which was then approved by congregational vote. Following below are brief biographies of the search committee members, who deserve our thanks in advance for their willingness to serve our congregation in this very important and time-consuming process.

Harry Black

Harry has been a member of the First Church since 1989 and a Cheshire resident since 1961. He is a CPA and has been a partner in the firm of Bowman, Monaco and Black and in public practice for 22 years.

Church

Service: Board of Stewardship,
Associate
Minister Search Committee, the
Financial Review Committee, and a
Confirmand Mentor.

Ford Cole

Ford has been a member of the First
Church since 2003. Prior to
attending
FCC in 2000, he spent most of his life
as
an Episcopalian where he held
leadership
roles in two churches, one with a
membership of over 1,000. A
Cheshire
resident for six years and a retired
FBI
agent, Ford works part-time as a
football and lacrosse coach for
Hopkins
School in New Haven. Ford is
currently
serving as Assistant Senior Deacon.

Joy Deegan

Joy is a lifelong resident of Cheshire
and
member of the First Church. Joy
served
as the Assistant Treasurer of FCC for
24
years. She also served 16 years as a
Women's Fellowship Representative
to
the Executive Board. Joy is currently
serving on the Board of Deacons. She
taught nursery school for 34 years
and
continues to work part-time at the

Cheshire Public Library.

Patti Dickinson

Patti has attended First Church since
January 2006 and became a member
in
the fall of that year. In previous
churches
she taught Sunday School and was a
member of the Altar Guild and
Flower
Committee. She started a Prayer
Shawl
ministry and "baby basket" ministry
(collecting clothing and blankets for
newborns). She is currently a
member of
the Caring Crafts ministry at FCC.
She is
a Literacy Support teacher at Norton
School. She grew up in Cheshire and
has been back living in town for the
last
10 years.

Regine Hahn-Selzer

Regine has been a Cheshire resident
Since 2001 and joined the First
Church
with her two children in 2002.
Regine
and her husband Jon, who is Jewish,
have
raised their children in respect
towards
other religions. Through her
experience
with the 'Scripture by Heart' group
and
the 'Mark Project' at the FCC, Regine

has enjoyed the friendship and the spirituality that can transform lives. Regine presently works as a clinician at the Child Guidance Clinic in New Britain.

David Hostage

David was baptized in the First Church in 1954 and confirmed in 1969; he moved back to Cheshire and rejoined this church in 1997. He served on the Music Committee (chair, including heading search for new Music Director) and Board of Trustees (co-chair) at the First Congregational Church of Watertown. Here, he has served as Youth Usher Chair, Co-chair of the Board of Trustees and the Board of Stewardship and a member of the Challenge Committee. He also served as a mentor for four Confirmands. He has been a Science Master at The Taft School since 1984 and has been the head of the Science department for the past eleven years.

Jack Sellati

Jack has been a member of the First Church since 2002 and a Cheshire

resident since 2000. Prior to joining FCC, Jack held a variety of leadership roles at The United Church in New Haven where he was a member for 25 years. An active FCC choir member and soloist, Jack is employed by Edge Technology Services as a consulting business analyst and Director of it's Media Practice, currently on assignment with ESPN in Bristol.

Kirsten Sullivan

Kirsten has been a Cheshire resident Since 1991. She joined the First Church shortly after moving to town with her husband Mark and their two children, Sarah and Tim. Kirsten has served on the Executive Board and the Board of Christian Education. She has also led small groups and plays handbells. Kirsten works part time with Thompson Brands (Thompson Candy) as the Technical Director, and is a passionate baker!

Amy Webb-Mower

Amy has attended First Church since 1988, joining in 1993. Her son, Steven,

was baptized in 1989 and confirmed
in
2005. She belonged to the Senior
Choir
for 8 years and was Interim Director
for a
time in 1998, also working with the
Junior Choirs. She serves as a song
leader for the Sunday school
children.

Amy has studied at Hartford
Seminary,
Manhattan School of Music, and
Westminster Choir College to name a
few. She was very involved in the
Malawi
Orphan Project which began in
2003.

Amy has organized several benefit
concerts to support the project.



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
111 CHURCH DRIVE
CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT
(203) 272-5323
OFFICE HOURS: M-F 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM**

**WORSHIP
9 AM AND 11 AM**

**CHURCH SCHOOL
9 AM – 10:30 AM AND 11 AM – 12 PM**