

THE PARISH POST

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT
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Joyfully Welcoming New Members

By Jeff Braun, Senior Minister

On Sunday, June 21, our congregation will welcome new members into our fold. New members who bring fresh perspectives and questions. New members who bring varied gifts and experiences to Christ's table. New members in whom we see God's Spirit at work and our ability to minister in Jesus' name emboldened. And for that, we are blessed!

Deciding to join our congregation (or any congregation) is momentous. It is a definitive watershed in a sacred conversation that is already underway and that now promises to deepen; a sacred conversation that is vertical (between God and us), lateral (between believers and the broader human family), and always... dynamic.

For each person joining, this watershed is a chance to declare: "This is where my heart feels invited and at home. This is where I see myself (and, as may be the case, my family) continuing the walk of faith." For our congregation, it is a chance to rejoice in our family's growth and to say

to those joining, "You *matter*, you are *loved*."

What's more, it is an opportunity to re-examine and amplify how well we embody the radical welcome we know in Jesus, and to which he calls us. It's a chance to realize that welcome (as well as the peace, joy, fulfillment, and sense of place that welcome inspires) does not begin once someone decides to join. Nor does welcome end once a person becomes a member. Christ offers each of us – in fact, offers the world! – *profound* welcome. And Christ's welcome has no beginning, no end. It is ultimate. Perpetual. Multi-directional. And, of course, joyful.

It is a welcome that makes space for all, that both comforts and yet challenges us. A welcome that is deeper than our differences and bolder than our doubts. A welcome that, both through our effort and through the mysterious movement of the Spirit, affords a glimpse and a *taste*... of the Kingdom to come.

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The Membership Committee and staff are excited about our plans for the new member orientation on June 20. And, recognizing that every person and every committee is an agent of Christ's welcome, we join the entire church in celebrating the blessing of New Member Sunday on June 21. (Just wait to see what we have in store!)

Inspired by this watershed, may we recommit ourselves, with Christ's creative joy, to always ask: "How shall we continuously welcome one another in the Spirit of the One who so welcomed Creation?"

God's Peace,

Jeff



Jazz on the Green June 20

On Saturday evening, June 20, the Board of Music will present its fourth annual Music on the Green, featuring the Heartbeat Dixieland Jazz Band, directed by Bill Logozzo.

This eight-piece jazz ensemble is hailed as "New England's most lovable jazz band." Save the date now to join us on the Green with your ears and dancing feet. Bring a picnic and plan to arrive between 6 and 7 p.m. The music starts at 7 and goes to 9 p.m.

Get ready to experience one of the most enjoyable evenings of the year!

Worship Schedule For June

Sunday, June 7: Services at 9 and 11. Jeff Braun preaching. Communion Sunday. Food offerings will be received; the food of the month is breakfast cereal. Commissioning of Stephen Ministers.

Sunday, June 14: Services at 9 and 11; Alison McCaffrey preaching.

Sunday, June 21: Services at 9 and 11. Jeff Braun preaching. New members will be received.

Sunday, June 28: Services at 9 and 11. Jeff Braun preaching.

Summer Music in Worship

If you would like to sing and/or play an instrument as an offering during one of our summer worship services, please contact Joe D'Eugenio, Music Director, at 272-5323, x18.

Summer worship is a wonderful opportunity for individuals to offer their talents and gifts to God and our congregation. All are welcomed and encouraged!

**Have you remembered
First Congregational Church
in your estate planning?**

New Director of Youth Ministries

The Director of Youth Ministry Search Committee is pleased to announce that Todd Skrzyniarz has been called as our new Director of Youth Ministries.

Todd has been working with our youth ministry program as a resource adult for the past two years, and he has six years of experience working with youth through the Group Workcamps Foundation.

Todd has impressed us with his enthusiasm for nurturing our young people on their faith journeys, with his plans for hands-on community outreach opportunities, and with leadership training.

The recent success of the Thirty Hour Famine is a testament to his ability to lead our youth and to plan and implement effective ministry. This event attracted local and state media attention in part because of Todd's faithful preparation and planning.

Todd's membership in our congregation and steadfast support of our YUTES program as a resource adult, as well as his education, training, and experience working with young people, make him the right fit to fill our part-time position of DYM.

Being an alumnus of our youth program, he has a thorough understanding of our Church's needs in this area. Todd's experience, organizational skills, confidence, sensitivity, and faithfulness provide him with a solid foundation for leading our youth in their faith journeys. The DYM Search Committee unanimously

agrees that Todd Skrzyniarz is the right candidate for the position of Director of Youth Ministry. He will start with the new program year in the fall.

Please join me in welcoming Todd in this very important role.

Chris Cowles

on behalf of the Director of Youth Ministry Search Committee: Peggy Allen, Will Arpaia, Charlene Black, Hannah Louys, Laurie Mozian, and Lynn Ryan.

New Member Weekend June 20 & 21

The Membership Board invites all who would like to explore membership in First Church to join us for a new member Orientation Class on Saturday, June 20.

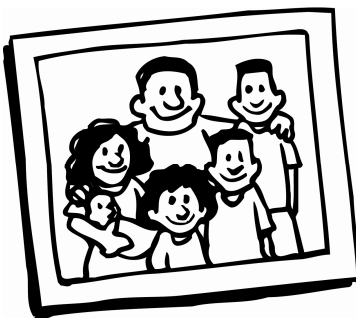
Those who decide to join will be received into membership on Sunday, June 21. There will be a reception between the services to honor the new members.

Babysitting will be provided for both of these events. .

Anyone seeking information about joining the Church should talk with an Usher, Minister, Board of Membership member (identified by a green ribbon on the name tag) or call the church office at 272-5323.

Church Directory Coming

As announced last month, Life Touch Church Directories will produce a Church Family Album for us. Photographs will be taken at the church from Tuesday, August 25 through Saturday, August 29 and from Tuesday, September 1 to Thursday, September 3. Weekdays, the photo sessions will run from 2:30 to 8:50 p.m.,



and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:50 p.m. The sign up process will begin in mid July, but for

those planning to be away during the summer, an early sign up will be available starting June 14.

Final details for the Directory will be worked out with Life Touch at a meeting on June 9, and will be communicated in the Parish Post, by e-mail and by announcements in Church.

If you have questions, please contact the Church office or speak with anyone on the Membership Board.

A number of volunteers will be needed to make the Directory a success. We are asking anyone who can spare two or three hours on one of the photo days to help greet and check in families coming for their pictures to please contact the Church Office, or email the company at churchdirectory@live.com.

If You Go Away, Please Pre-Pay

Going away for the summer? We hope you have fun – and fair weather! But before you go, please remember that our church's expenses don't take a summer vacation. When weekly pledge receipts take a dip, our cash flow is severely affected.

If you can, please consider pre-paying your weekly offerings before you leave. That will let the church continue to pay its bills while you are on vacation. Thanks!

Upcoming Congregational Meetings

At the May Executive Board meeting, tentative dates were set for 2009 congregational meetings and the Annual Meeting to be held in January 2010. They are:

Sunday, September 20, 2009 -
Congregational meeting on preliminary budget (informational, no vote)

Sunday, December 6, 2009 -
Congregational meeting to vote on final budget

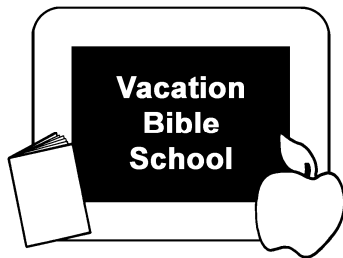
Sunday, January 24, 2010 or Monday,
January 25, 2010 - Annual meeting

**Visit the church web site:
www.cheshirecongregational.org
to keep up to date!**

Christian Education During the Summer

Summer Church School: Church School doesn't take a vacation. We are here in the summer. Join us when you are in town. The theme of this year's summer church school is "God Sightings." Participants are those from age 3 through third grade. Youth helpers are in grades 4 and up.

The summer church school started May 24 and will continue through Labor Day



weekend. Children will dig into the Bible for the treasures of God's

Word. We will learn short verses together, create Bible Crafts and have Bible snacks. They will be looking for God's Sightings in their lives as they go through the summer. As families leave for a summer vacation be sure to take a God Sighting Bag from the Summer Church School room the Sunday before you leave (see Debbie Gravell).

Adult teachers, adult helpers and youth helpers are needed to run this program. Please see the sign up board outside rooms 8 and 9 to sign up to help this summer or contact Pat Noah Scinto at frankscinto@cox.net.

Heifer Project: Some of our youth shared how they used their \$2 Salt and Light Grants from the Outreach board to raise money for animals to be purchased through Heifer Project International.

Animals purchased are given to families around the world who need farm animals to help feed their families. We don't yet have a final total, but it looks as if the youth raised around \$2,000. Many thanks to all the young people and their families, and to all who donated.

Confirmation Mission Project: The 2009 Confirmation class of 12 raised \$600 for AmeriCares Free Clinics in Southwestern Connecticut. These young people spent an entire Saturday morning in early May raising money on the Church Green. They made "Band-aid" shaped cookies and a flyer about AmeriCares Free Clinics and gave them out as thank you gifts for those who donated. Many thanks to all in the First Congregational Church and the Cheshire Community who contributed. As a result of your donations, people in Connecticut who have no health care insurance will be able to be treated through AmeriCares Free Clinics.



First Aid / CPR List

Leslie Holmes Meyer, the Church Administrator, is currently compiling a list of church members who are certified in first aid and/or CPR in case this information is needed in an emergency.

If you are certified and are willing to have your name added to this list, please call the church office and give Leslie your name, phone number and expiration date of your first aid/CPR certification.

Are You Doing Your Fair Share?

We're under some pretty severe budgetary constraints this year at First Congregational Church. In recent months, we've looked at our pledging as a function of our discipleship and observed that, in the aggregate, we are not keeping up with other churches across the country when our pledges are considered as a percentage of our income.

They average about 2.5 percent, whereas we average just a tad over 2 percent, based on census data for Cheshire – at least, for those of us who actually do pledge.

That scant difference of just half a percentage point less in our return to God reduced the current year's budget by nearly \$150,000.

That's about twice as much as our current budget fell short of last year's. And if all those who aren't pledging now at all were also to start contributing at the 2.5% rate of discipleship, we could fix the roof, remove the lead paint, fund dozens of Malawi orphans, hire a couple of extra staff members, and who knows what else?

To give you a context for assessing your financial contributions to the church in comparison to those who sit next to you in the pews, consider the pie chart on the next page.

Each segment of the pie represents a range of giving. The largest wedge is the aggregate contribution of those who annually contribute somewhere between \$1,001 and \$2,000. This includes the most

popular pledge, \$20 a week or \$1,040 annually. So this segment is numerically the most important source of funding for the church.

But now consider this: 78 of our 295 pledges for 2009 went into this piece of the pie.

Similarly, there were 131 pledges between \$1 and \$1,000 that went into the wedge just above it. So that means 209 of our 295 pledges collectively make up less than a third of our pledge total (which is nearly the whole of our budgetary income). By contrast, at the other end of the scale, just 14 individuals and families contribute more than half of our total pledge income, giving amounts between \$4,500 and \$25,000.

The profound difference here is not one of class (although certainly some of us are doing better than others, especially in these times), but rather in the degree to which our common suburban, middle-class values stand in the way of our Christian discipleship.

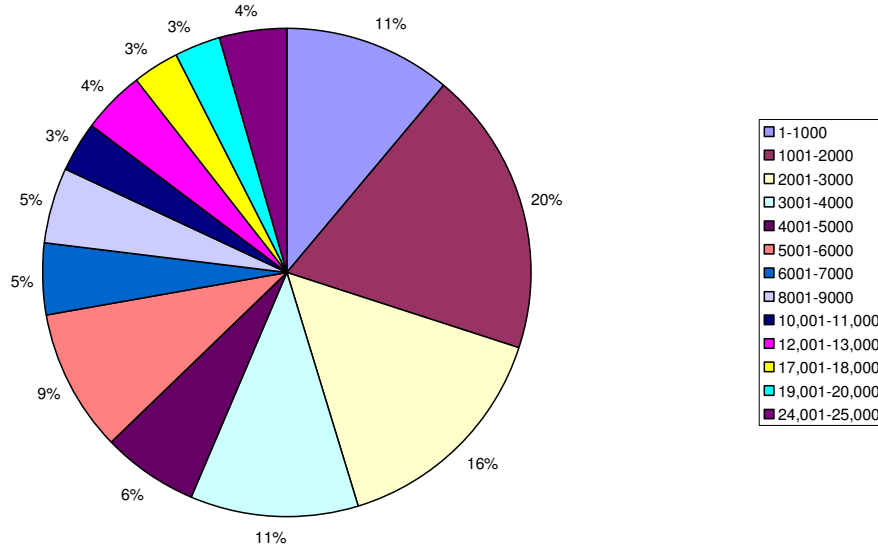
The Board of Stewardship



Hospitalized?

If you or someone you know is in the hospital, please tell First Congregational Church. Federal privacy laws now forbid health care providers from informing others, including churches, when someone is admitted to the hospital. We want to care! But we can't do it without your help.

Contribution by Pledge Range (Total = \$572,479)



Serving at Columbus House

On April 29, the Albrechts, Euerles, and Garthwaits headed down to Columbus House in New Haven to serve our “signature” meal of meat loaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls and pie. The number of guests there was over 100, which is more than we’ve been seeing in the past. As always, we had plenty of food, enough for seconds, and were again given a standing ovation when the meal was over.

Many thanks to all the wonderful, faithful cooks who time after time make this possible: Chris Fitzmaurice, Sue Chatfield, Carol Cummings, Becky Cavazuti, Terri Adesso, Donna Mead,

Carolyn Brown, the Albrechts, Beth Ross, Emilee Ziolkowski, Nancy Brunetti, Stacey Groshart, Jenell Janes, Betsy Mulé, Jan Cowles, Lisa Canas, Gretchen Bates, Karen Gravino, Peggy Allen, Jen Granoth, Beth Eichelman, Sally Ziegler, Ruth MacDonald, Pam Euerle, Pam Cappiello, Hope Reinhard, Joel Kelleher, Sarah Liebeskand, Bobby Hedden, and especially Emma Norback.

I also want to thank Carol Cummings for the wonderful job she did in coordinating the painting and cleaning of the kitchen: It looks great! Our next meal there is July 26.

Jan Garthwait

More Christmas Fair Planning

Continuing the planning for the all-church Christmas Fair to be held on Saturday, December 5, 2009, the following people have volunteered to coordinate specific Fair activities.

If you can volunteer on the day of the Fair, provide items, or have a suggestion for the activity, please contact the coordinator.

Cookie Walk/Cupcake Walk—Jan Cowles (272-8441) and Regan Huntley (272-8467). Artwork/photography (silent auction)—Martha Lape (272-9327). SERRV—Kate Altobello (271-2425) and Martha Lape (272-9327). Jewelry, Knives, Pecans—Sharon Perry (250-0009) and Esther Moffatt (272-3759). Poinsettias—Martha Lape (272-9327). Children's activities—Beth Ross (426-0702) and Jan Garthwait (272-5915). Wreaths and Christmas trees—Ann Izzo (272-9014). Used book area—Susan Hostage (272-3664). Granny's attic—Debbie Wylie (272-4723). New and gently used Christmas items/ornaments—Anne Giddings (272-9347).

Volunteers, men or women, are needed to coordinate and staff the lunch, food table, babysitting, present wrapping, handcrafted items, and gift baskets.

We welcome homemade jams and jellies, dried flowers and herbs, and handcrafted items for both the Christmas season and other use.

Donations we need:

- Someone to serve as Santa, a Santa suit for the Santa to wear, and someone to take photos that can be printed right then.
- New items that children can buy as presents for their family members.
- Plastic berry baskets
- Gently used books
- New and nearly new Christmas decorations and ornaments
- New or nearly new gift items you can't use
- Large mayonnaise jars
- Small jam jars with matching lids

We are planning a Gingerbread House workshop. We welcome suggestions and ideas and hope to involve all groups and individuals in our church family.



Summer Choir

If you sing, and have been wanting to blend your voice with others during worship this summer, please consider joining our summer choir, which meets three times: Sunday June 14 for both the 9:00 and 11:00 services; and Sundays July 12 and August 2 for the 10:00 service. The choir will meet 45 minutes before the start of the service to rehearse an easy Offertory anthem. It has been particularly wonderful in years past for people who normally do not sing in the choir during the year to help form a choir during the summer. All are invited to sing!

Remembering the Military

As a congregation, we have been remembering members of the military in our prayers. You may have noticed that we have attempted to place their names with their respective branches of service on the Prayers of Intercession page in the Sunday Bulletin.

However, we have a few for whom we could not readily identify in which branch of service they serve. If you have information that would help us identify the branch of service, please call the church office (272-5323) and tell Leslie, the church administrator, or Donna Mead, the Parish Care Coordinator.

The men we need to know about are: Col. Daniel Allyn, Lt. Andrew Ashcroft, Capt. Christopher Rehnberg, Maj. Charles Roede and David Rogers.

Caring Crafts Dinner

On Monday, June 29, at 6:30 p.m., the Caring Crafts Ministry will hold their annual end of the season dinner. We will meet in Cugino's Restaurant, located at 1410 Highland Avenue, Cheshire. We invite anyone who has made an item for this ministry or has attended our meetings to come join us for good food and conversation. Please call Donna Mead (248-9576) if you plan to attend.

The Parsonage's Future

The Board of Trustees has been discussing how we can make best use of the Parsonage, but the Board is not close to a decision. We have to finish gathering information related to specific uses, such as what the taxes might be if we rented it to a family.

We have brainstormed possible uses and received suggestions from members. Please be patient as we wrestle with the many details involved in this complex situation. If you have a suggestion, please speak with a Trustee. (The list of Trustees is in the Annual Report, or you may call the church office.)



Katy Carlow Voice Recital

Katy Carlow of Cheshire will present her senior voice recital in our sanctuary on Thursday, June 11, at 7 p.m. All are invited, and a dessert reception will follow the performance. Katy has studied voice with Dorothy Mutkoski, former music teacher at Cheshire High School, since 2001, working on a range of music, from Italian ariettas, to the old standards, to Broadway hits.

The recital will include a sampling of Katy's work over the past eight years. Katy will be graduating from Hopkins in June and will attend Harvard. Katy's recital will be one of several this summer at First Congregational Church.

Outreach Updates

Thank you for your generous support of the Church World Service blanket project, and thanks also to Sarah Sullivan for her help as a blanket model in church on Mothers Day.

In June, watch for the Outreach booth at the Strawberry Festival, where you can get information about many of our projects and also purchase seedlings grown by Outreach members. The proceeds will be used as 'seed money' for future mission trips.

In early May, Joy Biggart filled her van with boxes of cereal that you have donated on Communion Sundays over the past few months and delivered them to FISH in East Haven, a volunteer organization that provides food to those in crisis in the Greater New Haven area. They were thrilled to receive the donation.

Have you heard of Good Search.com? It is an Internet search engine powered by Yahoo. Every time you use GoodSearch.com to do an internet search they'll donate a penny to your favorite cause.

There are a number of nonprofit causes to choose from right here in Connecticut. Check out the complete list:
<http://www.goodsearch.com/charitylist.aspx>

Local recipients include Columbus House New Haven and the Connecticut Food Bank. Those pennies really do add up to a meaningful contribution.

Notes from the Executive Board

As you will read in more detail elsewhere in this Parish Post, we are pleased to announce that the Search Committee charged with finding a permanent Director of Youth Ministries has successfully fulfilled its calling. Todd Skrzyniarz will soon step up to take on this vital role in the life of our church.

The entire Executive Board expresses our sincere thanks and praise to Roger Olander for his dedicated and enthusiastic leadership as the Interim Director of Youth Ministries. Our Youth Group has prospered and grown during Roger's tenure. Special thanks, also, to Chris Cowles and the entire Search Committee for their extra efforts in finding Todd.

Just as it is vital that we fill the church's program and support staff positions, it is also critical that we continue to replenish our boards and committees with new members who bring new and fresh ideas to our lay leadership team. Soon, your Nominating Committee will begin seeking candidates for next year. Answering the call of Nominating is yet another way to grow your faith and serve the Lord.

It also offers a great opportunity to learn more about your church, help shape its future and to build new friendships. Better yet, don't wait for the Nominating Committee to seek you out.....stand up and volunteer. Your church could use you.

Parish Care in April

Here is what your Parish Care Committee and its volunteers did in April:

Baptism/Births: There were four baptisms in April. A plaque was given to each family commemorating this special event in their lives. Three baby blankets were given to babies born to members of the church.

Bereavement – The Bereavement group continues to meet on the last Thursday of every month in Room 10 at 7 p.m. If you have suffered the loss of a loved one, please join this group. The Grief Series held in April 16 had four participants.

Cards – 13 cards were sent containing sympathy, get well, encouragement, and anniversary of deaths.

Caring Visitors – New Caring Visitors are always needed. Please consider becoming one. Call Donna Mead if you are interested.

Chores – John Bates helped a parishioner by moving some porch furniture. If you have a small chore that needs to be done, please call John Bates (272-6389) to arrange a meeting.

Meals – Three meals were delivered to two recipients. Jackie Cole is the contact person for June. Bobbie Porter will be the contact person for July and August. We would like to thank everyone who made a frozen meal for our freezer ministry. It is now stocked very nicely and the meals are being distributed to those in need. We do not require any more meals at this time.

Prayer Pagers – Six of our pagers were used during the month of April. If you, or someone you know, is going in for surgery or going through a difficult time and would benefit from knowing that others are praying and thinking of them, please call Donna Mead and she will deliver a pager.

Stephen Ministry – 11 care receivers were ministered to by nine Stephen Ministers. They spent 18 hours. Three new Stephen Ministers finished their training and will be commissioned on June 7. If you or someone you know could benefit from having a Stephen Minister, call Sue Chatfield (235-6294) for a consultation.

Telephone – Perry Stevens made the May calls. Thank you, Perry, for performing this important ministry.

Parish Care Coordinator – I have begun work on compiling lists of ongoing needs that will assist the ministers in making pastoral visits. It will also assist me in identifying those who may require the aid of one of the Parish Care ministries. If you know of a parishioner that may need help in some way, please let me know calling or emailing me. The Parish Care Ministry can help only those who we know about; we rely on you, the congregation, to keep us informed. Thank you for all the help, guidance, and encouragement you have given me over the past year.

The Parish Care Coordinator spent a total of 64 hours in April.

Donna Mead

A UCC Event for Women Only

On March 12-14, 2010 in Burlington, Vt., a United Church of Christ event for women will be held. The theme is “Together Building Bridges...a time to break down and a time to build up.” (from Ecclesiastes 3:3.)

If you have any questions about Celebration VII, ask Martha Lape or Karen Gravino, who have attended many times. A bus will be going from Connecticut; contact Martha for more information.

Here are some testimonies from women who have attended other Celebrations:

“There was NO way I could give up a whole weekend to attend Celebration VII in Burlington! It was certainly not something that was feasible for me, a 37-year-old wife and mother of two children with a full-time job and many commitments within the church.

“With some coaxing by church friends, I was convinced to join a carpool of women from my church, and as the date approached I wondered what I was thinking – how could I give up this much time? From the moment I walked into the registration area I could feel the amazing spirit and energy. Nearly one thousand women: all there to grow and learn and worship.

“The weekend was filled with shining moments, useful information, inspiring messages. I returned to my husband, children, job, and church renewed in spirit and with a better sense of the wider UCC

community. I hope to bring my teenage daughter with me to Celebration VIII in 2010.”

And another:

“Around the time I graduated from college, my mother and I began the tradition of an annual mother-daughter retreat. It has been a wonderful way for us to move beyond simply filling each other in on our daily lives and really getting to

know each other as adults. Mom invited me to Celebration VII after finding out about it at her church.



“What impressed me most was the planning that had to have gone into the

weekend: our every want and need was anticipated and taken care of, from quiet time to discussion to snacking to supporting the global community.

“And the music! Singing with over 900 other women is a moving experience; I was in tears more than once throughout the weekend. There was time to take walks (though we had to wear long johns!), time to meet and chat with other participants, and time for just the two of us to talk and share.

“It was a powerful, strengthening three days. In the doldrums of a gray, cold winter, our experiences at Celebration VII made me feel alive and new, and that spring definitely was on its way.”

Youth Group News

The YUTES will be assisting at the Strawberry Festival. (If you are a young person who has signed up for a specific time, please be sure to be there on time. There are more than 30 assignments, and all of us need to be sure of our roles and our time commitment.)

Our Mission Trip to Groton, Conn., from July 19 to 25. Since we still have some slots open, we are extending an invitation to YUTES alumni of college age and to incoming high school freshmen that would like to attend. At this point it's first paid, first to secure a slot. If you would like to be a part of this life-changing experience, please finalize your payment now. More detailed information is available on our website: www.yutes.org.

Sunday June 14 is Senior Recognition Sunday. This is for all high school seniors, not just those who attend YUTES. If you are graduating from high school this year please let either Roger or the church office know so we can recognize you at either the 9am or 11am service. Congratulations! You've reached an important milestone and the church would like to share your joy with you.

That same evening, the graduating seniors who are a part of Youth Group will be honored at a special dinner in their honor. All adult volunteers are invited to attend as well. We'll meet at the church at 5:30 p.m. RSVP to roger@yutes.org as soon as possible.

Prayer Shawl Quest

In an effort to have a record of who has received prayer shawls or lap blankets, the Caring Crafts Ministry is sending out a request to the congregation: If you have either received or given a prayer shawl or lap blanket since 2002, please tell Donna Mead in person, call me (248-9576), email me at donna.mead@comcast.net, or tell any of the following Caring Crafts members: Phyllis Balsler, Sue Chatfield, Patti Dickinson, Kathy Duffendack, Marianne Eagleson, Marilyn Gordon, Regan Huntley, Susan Mancinelli, Arleenn Reid, or Carol Tucker.



We will probably never know everyone who received them, but we would like to try! Since we started making these items in 2002, we have made 104 shawls and 72 baby/lap blankets. We have also made 48 fleece throws, 11 Alzheimer quilts, and 115 teddy bears (for the Christmas Child boxes).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the ladies who gave of their time and talent (and the cost of the yarn!) to make these meaningful gifts of God's love for others.

Donna Mead

Expressing Our Thanks for Kindnesses

My family and I thank you, members, friends and staff, for the many and varied tangible expressions of care, concern, and support shown to us around the recent death of my father. Your gracious gift of time allowed me to travel to his bedside and spend those last few days of his life with him; a gift I will always treasure. Our deepest thanks for the flowers sent for his North Carolina funeral, and to Kirsten Sullivan who took time away from a family vacation to attend the service and visit with us, embodying your love and care. You have given from the depths of your hearts; our hearts have been filled, our spirits blessed.

Alison McCaffrey

Patty Syme, Peggy Conant, and I all thank you for your lilies at Easter. We all miss Bert this first Easter without him, and your thoughtfulness helps.

Dolores Bozzuto

Thank you for my Easter Lily and all the other plants, flowers, cards and visits I have been receiving. It is nice to know my church remembers me.

Marie Venter

Thank you so much for the flowers, cards and visits from Dave and Jeff during my illness. I am at home now, and improving with each day.

Faye Gagne

Thank you so very much for the prayer shawl and get-well card that you sent my way. In spite of its challenges, my journey

with cancer has been accompanied by many wonderful blessings. Your expressions of caring have added substantially to those blessings! I will always cherish the memories of the time I spent in your midst, and for the way you nurtured my call to ordained ministry. It is a true gift to be reminded of the lively and caring connections forged during those years -- many, many thanks!

Caroline Murphy

You, my church family, have sustained me through our recent family ordeal. Your compassion, prayers and hugs were and will remain a special source of love and comfort.

Emma Norback

Many thanks for the prayers, cards and flowers I received in the hospital and after my return home. Thanks especially for the visits Dave, Alison and Donna made to Hartford Hospital. Words can't express my gratitude for all the meals, phone calls, rides, prayers, cards and Easter lily I received for several months after I returned home. I'm now much stronger, and attending rehab at New Britain Hospital for Special Care three days a week. Thanks to all of you for your generous support and prayers during my lengthy recovery.

Jessie Waszmer



Lectionary for June

Sunday, June 7: Isaiah 6: 1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8: 12-17; John 3: 1-17.

Sunday, June 14: 1 Samuel 15:34 – 16:13; Psalm 20; Ezekiel 17: 22-24; Psalm 92: 1-15; 2 Corinthians 5: 6-17; Mark 4: 26-34.

Sunday, June 21: 1 Samuel 17: 1-23, 32-49; Psalm 9: 9-20; Job 38: 1-11; Psalm 107: 1-3, 23-32; 2 Corinthians 6: 1-13; Mark 4: 35-41.

Sunday, June 28: 2 Samuel 1: 17-27; Psalm 130; Wisdom of Solomon 1: 13-15, 2:23-24; Psalm 30; 2 Corinthians 8: 7-15; Mark 5: 21-43.

Milestones

In the Life of Our Church Family

Baptisms

Lila Elten Devine, daughter of Brendan and Courtney Barber-Devine, on April 26.

Kaitlin Ryan Spring, daughter of Kevin & Paula Spring, on May 17.

Deaths

Robert Denton, husband of JoAnn Cousineau, on March 26; memorial service held May 2.

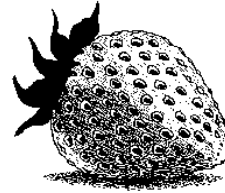
Bernice Anderson, mother of Diane McEwan, on April 21.

Dr. Robert Nims, husband of Doris Nims, on May 4.

Lois Splain, May 13.

HOT DOGS & HAMBURGERS
KIDS' GAMES ★ CLOWNS
MAGIC SHOW ★ PONY RIDES
MUSIC ★ PETTING ZOO

AND



STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE!

THE 72ND ANNUAL

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

CHESHIRE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL



**SATURDAY, JUNE 13
ON THE GREEN**

11 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.

FREE PARKING BEHIND THE CHURCH
RAIN MOVES THE FESTIVAL INDOORS