

# THE PARISH POST

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT  
[www.cheshirecongregational.org](http://www.cheshirecongregational.org)

Volume XXVII

June, 2010

No. 6

## Taking Time to Look Back ... and Ahead

By Jeff Braun, Senior Minister

As I read about the myriad college and university commencement exercises that took place across the country in May, and as communities across the nation, including Cheshire, prepare for high school graduations this month, I'm reminded that this is the season of diplomas and mortar boards. (If you or a loved one will be receiving and wearing one, respectively, your church congratulates you!)

Graduation or, as it is also called, commencement, is a "both/and" occasion. It's a moment when we measure and reflect on what has been. And, it is also a moment when we look ahead with wonder and excitement toward what is next. It is both an end (of one chapter, of one season) and a beginning (of another).

In a way, June is the same for our congregation. Surely, church goes on in July and August. And the Spirit is no less present to us during summer. (The fact that we are offering Vacation Bible School is but one example!) Nevertheless, July and August have their own pace, their own "school's out" feeling, before we kick off

the new program year in September. So it's not surprising that June inspires in our congregation very much the same feelings and questions it inspires in our graduating and commencing students.

What over the past program year (September through June) has moved or challenged us? What new enthusiasm are we feeling? What do we feel we've accomplished since last Homecoming's festivities? And what about the future feels hopeful and engaging?

Neither a commencement address nor our church's year-end reflections would be complete without an expression of gratitude. Gratitude, in particular, for all the people, both living and deceased, who have sacrificed and helped us to get where we are. Gratitude for that ever-growing communion of saints on whose steadfast shoulders we stand.

As the current "semester" winds down and the new one approaches, our gratitude inspires another question: Who is it that we will lift up? Through our collective

*Continued on the next page*

*Continued from the previous page*

efforts, how will we allow others to stand upon our shoulders?

As we perch upon June's threshold, let us give thanks for the broadest shoulders of all: Christ's. For it is on Christ we stand, Christ who is our firm foundation. And it is through him that we are empowered to pay his love forward by helping to lift up others.

God's Peace,  
*Jeff*



### Acolyte Appreciation

On Pentecost Sunday, May 23, we shared our appreciation and thanks to our youth who serve each week as Acolytes – leaders in our worship services.

Acolytes carry the flame into worship to symbolize the light of God's love among us, and they carry the flame out of the service to symbolize our taking the light of Christ out into the world. Their presence and actions are visual reminders of God's presence and of our call to be Christ's followers at work in the world.

The Acolyte ministry began two years ago when one of our youth, David Dickinson, brought the idea from a previous church he had attended. From the start, this ministry has been met with excitement from our youth participants and with smiles and deep appreciation from all who sit in the pews.

Serving this year are: Alyssa Adesso, Quentin Arai, David Dickinson, Jeffrey Dickinson, Blake Giosa, Trai Gozzi, Justin

### June Worship Schedule

**Sunday, June 6:** Services at 9 and 11. Youth Sunday; our young people will lead worship. Communion will be served. You are urged by our youths to bring a canned good or other nonperishable food item.

**Sunday, June 13:** Services at 9 and 11. Alison McCaffrey preaching.

**Sunday, June 20:** Services at 9 and 11. Jeff Braun preaching.

**Sunday, June 27:** Services at 9 and 11. Jeff Braun preaching.

Guerrera, Phoebe Hall, Andrew Hart, Catie Kelchner, Sean Kelchner, Emma Lasher, Steven Mulholland, Thomas Mulholland, Beth Parys, Jimmy Parys, Gillian Reinhard, Alex Shoop, Jeremy Shoop, Jillian Stronk, Sarah Sullivan, Caroline Thompson, and Maya Wylie.

Many thanks to the ushers who light the candle lighters and help the acolytes down the aisles: Hugh Larson and Mark Hostage at 9 a.m., and Glenn Thompson at 11 a.m. Thank you all!

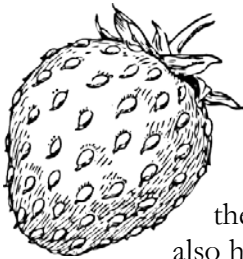
**Have you remembered  
First Congregational Church  
In your estate planning?  
There are many ways that  
your gifts can assure  
a bright future  
for our church!**

## Help with the Strawberry Festival

June 12 is approaching quickly, and there are still plenty of open spots to help with the Strawberry Festival.

Hullers are needed on Friday, June 11, beginning at 9 a.m. and ending at 2 p.m. Even if you can just work for an hour or two during that time period, your help is still needed. A free pizza lunch is provided.

If you can, add your name to one (or more) of the two-hour shifts available on Saturday, June 12, between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Many hands are needed after the festival to help clean up. The sign-up



board will be in the Parish Hall right up until the time of the festival.

If you can't work at the festival this year, we also have opportunities to make a cash donation to help defray the large festival overhead. Information is on the board in the parish hall. Or, donate a cake for the cake walk.

Finally, before or after your work shift, don't forget to enjoy the festival!

This year's festival is kicked off by a performance by the Cheshire Community Band from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. From 1:30 to the end of the festival, don't miss the hits of the '60s to today by the band Cover Story. The CHS a capella group "Vocal Ice" will perform for about 30 minutes beginning around 2:45.

Silhouette artist Carol Lebeaux returns this year to cut custom silhouettes, and Flower the Clown and junior clowns will offer face painting and a magic show beginning at 1 p.m. Kids can climb, bounce and crawl through one of the inflatables, ride a pony, visit the petting zoo, or take a chance on the cake walk.

The youngest can visit the kids' tent and play one of the games, including the golf game, fish pond, and ring toss. A \$15 bracelet allows unlimited admission to most of the kids' activities.

This year also includes the return of the dunk tank. Come and see which church staff member is willing once again to volunteer to take the plunge to help raise funds for the youth group's next mission trip. Hope to see you on Friday or Saturday!

*The Strawberry Festival Committee*



### Seeking an Annual Report

Do you have a copy of the church's 1961 annual report? We are missing this one in our archives. A copy would be most appreciated.

If you can help, please bring it to the church office, or call Dick Eppler at 203-271-2211 or Martha Lape at 203-272-9327. Thanks!



## Pilgrimage to Oberammergau

On June 29, 14 members and friends of First Congregational Church begin their pilgrimage to Oberammergau, Germany, a trip two years in the making. In the spirit of ancient pilgrims who traveled great distances with sacred intentions to visit holy places, we are traveling to attend a performance of the Passion Play. Put on every 10 years by the townspeople of the little village of Oberammergau, the original performance dates back to 1634, when the village was spared the Plague. In thankfulness to God, the villagers pledged that every 10 years they would give a play to honor Christ and tell the Gospel story.

The Passion Play is the culminating event of the trip. Other highlights include two days in the northern lake district of Italy, travel through the Alps by bus and the famous Glacier Express train, a stop in Zermatt, Switzerland to view the Matterhorn, a stay in St. Moritz, then on to Innsbruck and Salzburg, Austria, and Munich, Germany.

We will return to share our reflections in worship on Sunday, July 11, at both the 8 and 10 o'clock services. Before we leave, we will be commissioned on Sunday, June 27. Each traveler will receive a devotion book with a scripture and prayer for the day written by deacons and members of the congregation. Each traveler is paired with a prayer partner, someone here who will pray for us every day.

We look forward to sharing our journey with you.

*Alison McCaffrey*

## Adoptive Gardeners Needed

We have picked up the limbs that blew down. We have raked the leaves. We have planted the pachysandra. Now, we need a few more people to help care for the many flowers and shrubs planted around the church.

Although many people have signed up to adopt an area, there are still several areas in need of an adoptive gardener to weed and mulch them. A sign-up poster in the connector lists the areas still in need. The three best-kept areas will receive a surprise gift this fall.

## Music on the Green

This year's "Music on the Green" event will feature, once again, The Heartbeat Dixieland Jazz Band, on the evening of Saturday, August 14. Last year, the Heartbeat Dixieland Jazz Band performed inside the parish hall due to rain.



Bill LogoZZo, the band's leader, was thrilled to be asked back to our Green again this year. He promises that the band will thrill and delight a full crowd. So, please plan to bring a picnic with your family and friends, and be ready to experience an unforgettable evening of fun, music, and festivities.

## Thanks to All Who Made the Rummage Sale a Success

A small, brighter, and denser portion of a galaxy is the nucleus. This word also describes the crew who have faithfully volunteered over the years at our annual rummage sales. These fine people who donate items, unpack, sort, arrange, and set up our rummage sale are vital.

From April 25 through April 28, Sunday to Wednesday, household donations stormed into the Parish Hall. Monday evening, the United Girls Choir and the Yutes' Midnight Run occupied the Parish Hall; we enjoyed listening to the singing and watching the Yutes play Gaga, while we separated items on the stage. Tuesday morning, we had a full crew of volunteers. Wednesday afternoon, our sails were filled with all kinds of donations, pushing us into full motion. Our six-day voyage brought volunteers abroad coming and going for hours.

Wednesday from 5 to 8 o'clock, many parishioners took advantage of our in-house invitation. Thursday, the first day the sale was open to the public, was filled with surprises: We lost power, but customers continued in after 3 p.m. (Apparently, they have an internal clock set from years when the sale went until 6 p.m.)

Friday: Our last day! One lady insisted on knowing if the coffee pot she was buying actually boiled water – not just heated or worked, but boiled. After five minutes of testing and retesting, it did, and the sale was made. After the sale the volunteers boxed the leftover items. There

were only four crew members moving boxes onto the stage, filling our autos with leftover items to be brought to Goodwill on Saturday. Around 3 o'clock, the Salvation Army truck arrived.

We donated items to Covenant to Care for Children, Safe Haven for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, Sarah's Cupboard Thrift Shop for people with developmental disabilities, the Act 4 Ministry, who provide clothing to neighboring churches, the Salvation Army, and our own Midnight Run. Thank you for your donations – and thanks to each volunteer for giving their time and energy in helping make our spring rummage sale a success.

*The Rummage Sale Committee*

### ◆ 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!

## CLC's Featuring Damascus

Our large congregation is now gathered into smaller geographical districts, called Church Life Communities, or CLC's, as a way to deepen our connections with one another through fellowship opportunities and to help meet the needs of our members and friends through parish care and deacon ministries.

A map in the Parlor shows the area for each one. There are eleven geographical areas we have named Jerusalem, Shiloh, Gilead, Damascus, Nazareth, Galilee, Canaan, Jericho, Bethlehem, Emmaus, and Judea, and one "cyber-district," Alexandria, for our college students and out-of-state members.

Each month a different CLC will be featured. This month we feature Damascus, which encompasses the geographic block south of the church, bordered by Cornwall Avenue, the west side of Route 10, Route 42, and the Prospect town line.

Streets where our members live in the Damascus CLC include: Arrowleaf Court, Barkledge Court, Bellamy Road, Bethany Mountain Road, Brick Kiln Place, Burrage Court, Elmwood Drive, Farmington Drive, Farm Meadow Lane, and Foster Court.

Also, Higgins Road, Kelly Court, Lanyon Drive, Mountain Road, North Brooksvale Road, Oak Avenue, Patton Drive, Platt Lane, Preston Terrace, Rosemary Lane, Sharon Drive, Sorghum Mill Drive, Sorghum Ridge, Towpath Lane, Verbena Court, Ward Lane,

Westland Avenue, and Whispering Hollow Court. If your street is near these named streets, but not listed, please let us know, so that we may include you.

And if you would like to be a part of organizing a fellowship event for Damascus, please let me know!

*Alison McCaffrey*



## Plenty to See on the Web Site

Our church's web site, [www.cheshirecongregational.org](http://www.cheshirecongregational.org), is newsier and more up-to-date than ever.

Did you miss a Sunday worship service? Now you can find the worship bulletin on the site. The online Calendar also lists upcoming events at the church; click on any item for information about where in the church the event will take place. Want to know more about any of the church's many boards and committees – such as when they meet, what their purposes are, and the like? It's all on the web site.

Each month's Parish Post is on the site (going back to the summer of 2006), as well as Annual Reports from 2004 to the present, the latest copy of the church by-laws, and more. (Select "Publications & Reports.") Don't miss the photo galleries on the site! Enjoy great photographs of fairs, special Sundays, and many other activities. The Church News section of the home page is updated frequently with news about activities and events you won't want to miss. All in all, the First Congregational web site is one you want to bookmark – and visit often!

## Is It Christmas Already?

Please save Saturday, December 4 so you can help at the church's Christmas Fair – and also shop! Here is what you can do over the summer to make the Fair even better than last year's:

- Make a craft or gift item (wooden item, needlework, etc.) to donate;
- Save tins for the cookie walk;
- Make jams and jellies, or dry flowers and herbs and package for sale;
- Save new and nearly new Christmas decorations and ornaments for the Xmas Old & New table;



- For Granny's Attic, save new or nearly new gift items you can't use, small antique and collectible items, etc.;

- Artists – think about what you might donate for the art auction;
- Start filling up a basket with themed items for the gift basket auction – try one for a man or a child (use your own child's suggestions);
- Save candy and gumdrops (freeze if necessary) for the Gingerbread Houses;
- For the children's shopping area, save jewelry and other small gift items to buy for parents, and also small boxes.

In October, we will be asking you to bake cookies for the Cookie Walk. Word got around last year about the wonderful cookies we had. We have to keep up our reputation!

Some workshops being considered now are:

- October – one for the men to make centerpiece containers and birdhouses;
- November – ornament workshop and gift basket making workshop;
- Late November – candy making;
- December 1 – assembling the centerpieces with fresh greens.

If you have an idea of something that might sell at the Fair, please contact Martha Lape at [mlape@aol.com](mailto:mlape@aol.com) or Susan Hostage at [sdhostage@cox.net](mailto:sdhostage@cox.net). We would also like to get more men involved. Please tell us what you would like to do.



### Do You Like to Paint?

The Trustees have many church painting projects that need to be completed. If you would like to help, please call, 203-272-5323, or email the church office, [office@cheshirecongregational.org](mailto:office@cheshirecongregational.org).

### Hospitalized? Tell us!

Please tell First Congregational Church if you or another church member is in the hospital. We need to know – and under federal law, hospitals and nursing homes are prevented from giving us that information. We won't know unless you help.

## Christian Education in June ... and More

Children's Day, May 16, was the end of the regular Church School year. The children were given the opportunity to showcase all that they had learned throughout the year by leading their own service. It was wonderful to watch them lead us through worship. We have the future of First Congregational Church in our midst, and it is safe to say we can look forward to another 275 blessed years.

Thank you to all the wonderful school teachers who made Children's Day as successful as it was. Thanks, especially, to Linda Milton for all of her efforts in coordinating schedules and children. She worked tirelessly to ensure that all the children were prepared, rehearsed and ready to go. Week after week, the teachers, shepherds and helpers have come together to guide our children in a deeper understanding of God's love. They have given so freely of their time and our children are better for it. I deeply appreciate all of your help throughout my transition to the church.

*Lindsay Heyer*

**Summer Church School:** Starting on May 23, summer Church School began. This program is for children preschool 3 and 4 through Grade 2. It will be held at both services throughout June before moving to the single service for July and August. Volunteers are still greatly needed, and a sign-up sheet is outside the Bible Journeys classrooms. Please consider signing up for a day to assist. Volunteers need to have Safe Church references and be at least five years older than the oldest

child in the program. Please contact Lindsay Heyer if you have questions.

This summer, we will be exploring the questions that children are likely to ask about God. Each week will have a guiding question, such as "What does God look like?" and "Does God hear my prayers?"

**Vacation Bible School:** First Congregational Church will hold a Vacation Bible School this summer. We will use the Group Publications for VBS called High Seas. It will be held August 2 through August 6 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Children entering Kindergarten in the fall through those entering 6th grade in the fall are eligible to register. Registration has begun; the fee is \$25 per child, with some scholarship support available. Before and after care will be offered at an additional fee.

Lindsay Heyer is recruiting teachers and helpers for this program. Please use the church web site for additional information, or send e-mail to [FCCCheshireVBS@gmail.com](mailto:FCCCheshireVBS@gmail.com) for more information or to reserve a place for your children.

### ◆ YUTES News

The 30-Hour Famine was a huge success. We had 16 youth participate throughout the weekend. Currently, we've raised more than \$1,000 for World Vision through individual and group fundraising. We were truly able to become better aware

*Continued on the next page*

*Continued from the previous page*

of what those in need go through, be more compassionate, and put our faith into action to make a difference. A big thank you goes out to each of our youth who participated during the weekend.

We will be wrapping up our program year on June 6 with Youth Sunday followed by our year-end picnic.

Please keep an eye on the YUTES web site ([www.yutes.org](http://www.yutes.org)) for more details regarding these events.

Our youth group and program wouldn't be what it is without the support and encouragement from our many resource adults (they like to be referred to as "fun advisors"). Thank you for your continued support.



## Midnight Run

Our middle school group continues to meet on the last Monday of each month.

We're grateful for the donations provided by the members of our congregation so we can prepare the 55 bag meals that are delivered to the hungry in New Haven the evening we make them.

If you're in 7th or 8th grade and would like to be a part of this fun and rewarding group, please stop by and check us out.

Our meeting this month will be on June 28 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Parish Hall. See you then!



## Board of Outreach

**Mission trip 'seed money':** The Board of Outreach will again have a booth at the Strawberry Festival selling seedlings, houseplants, perennials from our gardens, and the beautiful painted 'Ploch Rocks' created by Carol Ploch. The proceeds from this table help support our church mission trip. If you have seedlings or plants that you could donate, please contact Pete Ploch at 203-272-5959.

**Baby Bottle project:** We are repeating last year's very successful baby bottle piggy bank drive. Please take a bottle and collect your loose change, or insert a financial contribution. Or you may choose to contribute baby items for children up to 18 months of age.

The money and baby goods will benefit the Chrysalis shelter for abused women and families, and also help to fund our Malawi orphan, Lillian, whom we supported last year. Everything should be delivered to the church by June 6 at the latest.

Last year we raised more than \$500, with many wonderful baby items donated; let's see if we can top that this year.

**First Sunday/Third Sunday:** Please remember your contributions of non-perishable food on the first Sunday of each month, and your contributions of new or gently used baby clothes and supplies on the third Sunday of each month.

## Parish Care Report, March and April

Here is a summary of the Parish Care events for the months of March and April. As you can see, we are blessed with many devoted care-providers but also have many needs to fulfill.

**Birth/Baptism:** We provided commemorative gifts to the parents of three children who were baptized.

**Bereavement:** The bereavement series that happened before Easter was very much appreciated by those who attended. The healing service at the end of the session that was open to all was an excellent opportunity for those who attended to have time to sit quietly, reflect, and pray. The next bereavement session will start on October 28.

**Cards and Telephone:** Your letter writers have been very busy, writing 64 cards for get well, sympathy, thinking of you, anniversary of deaths of loved ones and Easter. There were eight calls made by Bobbie Porter. May's caller was Perry Stevens.

**Caring Crafts:** There was a very nice celebration of talents on May 24 of all the talented ladies in our congregation who had made any item at any time. We have had more than 50 people during the past eight years, that we know about, who have selflessly been knitting and crocheting shawls and blankets for those in need. The celebration was a wonderful opportunity to thank them in person. The last Monday of the month meeting of Caring Crafts will no longer be held. We will now meet every Wednesday at 12:30

p.m. in the parlor. All are welcome; bring a lunch, if you would like, and join in the fellowship. We will be meeting through the summer – or until it gets too hot!

**Meals:** There were 10 meals delivered to one person during this period. The meals coordinator for June is Jackie Cole. If you know of anyone who could use a meal during a stressful time in their life, please call Jackie.

**Prayer Pagers:** During the past two months, all our pagers were in use. Feedback is positive from those who are on the receiving end of these electronic symbols of God's love. If you, or someone you know, could benefit from knowing that others are praying for them, please contact Donna Mead.

**Rides:** A list of available rides in the Cheshire area is being compiled to be made available to the office and our ministers to aid them is assisting others. We would like to return the Rides Ministry to its original intent: offering rides to church to those who would like to attend but have no way of getting there. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please contact Kevin Ross, and let him know you would be available. Also, if you or someone you knows would like a ride to church, please tell Donna Mead.

**Stephen Ministry:** Ten of the 15 Stephen Ministers tended to 10 care receivers and spent a total of 85 hours in March and April. If you or someone you

*Continued on the next page*

*Continued from the previous page*

know could benefit from having a Stephen Minister, call Sue Chatfield at 203-235-6294 or one of our ministers for a consultation.

Parish Care Coordinator: I have spent time coordinating parish care efforts among the Parish Care Committee, the ministers and other caregivers. One aspect of my ministry is to provide the link between those in need and those who have expressed a desire to provide some measure of care. Here are a few examples of my weekly activities: determining who would most benefit from receiving sanctuary flowers following Sunday services and insuring that the volunteer who delivers those flowers has the correct address; passing on the names and addresses of those who would benefit from cards, telephone calls, meals, rides, chores, or specially crafted and comforting shawls. Finally, I strive to serve as a focal point for those who wish to volunteer their services or those who wish to pass on the name of someone in need. I spent 86 hours in March and April performing these duties.

*Donna Mead, Parish Care Coordinator*  
donna.mead@comcast.net (203-248-9576)

## Church Office Hours

The church office is now open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

On Fridays, the office will now be open from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

## Lectionary for June

**Sunday, June 6:** 1 Kings 17: 8-24; Psalm 30; Psalm 146; Galatians 1: 11-24; Luke 7: 11-17.

**Sunday, June 13:** 1 Kings 21: 1-21; Psalm 5: 1-8; 2 Samuel 11: 26-12:15; Psalm 32; Galatians 2: 15-21; Luke 7:36 - 8:3.

**Sunday, June 20:** 1 Kings 19: 1-15; Psalm 22: 19-28; Psalms 42 and 43; Isaiah 65: 1-9; Galatians 3: 23-29; Luke 8: 26-39.

**Sunday, June 27:** 1 Kings 19: 15-21; 2 Kings 2: 1-14; Psalm 16; Psalm 77: 1-20; Galatians 5:1-25; Luke 9: 51-62.

## Milestones

in the life of our church family

### Baptisms:

Bryce Robert Upson-Hiney, the son of Dustin and Ashley Hiney, on May 23.

Molly Anne Gromala, the daughter of Stephen and Tara Gromala, on May 30.

### Weddings:

Katherine Duffendack to L. Brian Castler on May 22.

### Deaths:

Perry Cumming, father of Cindy Rowe, on April 26.

James Norback, husband of Emma Norback, on May 13.

Mark Whitlock, son of Jonathan and Leslie Whitlock, on May 19.

## Report on the May Executive Board Meeting

The Executive Board met on May 4.

Dick Eppler and Christine Pittsley made a proposal to the Board concerning the History Committee, the function of which is to acquire and preserve the church's records. The Committee is in the process of trying to digitize the records in the hopes of increasing their accessibility. It is easier to read the records from a CD, especially the older documents. The problem is that it takes money to accomplish this task, more than their budget provides.

Christine came up with the idea of a Memory Book, which would be similar in size to a coffee table book. Any proceeds from the sale of the Memory Book would help offset the cost of the digitization of the records. The History Committee is not asking for any monetary support, but rather the Executive Board's blessing to move forward with the Memory Book project.

The Committee would welcome any volunteers who would be interested in helping put the Memory Book together as there are only five members of the Committee at the present time. The short-term cost was estimated to be a few hundred dollars; with the overall cost being approximately \$1,000. The Executive Board approved the request of the History Committee to proceed with the Memory Book Project.

Jeff Braun reported that he is working with the Deacons and the Board of Christian Education regarding the Sunday

School Program (e.g., should we have a children's sermon? When should Sunday School end? Which grades should remain in the sanctuary for the regular sermon?) Jeff has also been working with CE Director Lindsay Heyer to ensure a smooth transition.

After a short discussion, the Board voted to go forward with a plan to place a "Field of Flags" on the church Green for the Sunday of Memorial Day. We would place one small American Flag on the Green for every member of the military (over 5,400) who has died in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. President Ford Cole volunteered to head up this effort.

The Board also agreed that First Congregational Church would march in the Memorial Day Parade on Sunday, May 30, with a group of people marching as well as a car with a banner advertising the Strawberry Festival. A suggestion was made to also have a Vacation Bible School banner carried by the children of the church. The idea to march in the parade was met with a lot of enthusiasm. Alison advised that she would take care of getting the banners.

On May 30, a single service was planned for 10 a.m., and the flags for the Green can be dedicated during the service. At the end of the service, all can gather outside on the Green and help place the flags. Ford will ask the Masonic Lodge for a donation for the purchase some of the flags. A motion to allow the church to sell

*Continued on the next page*

*Continued from the previous page*

bottled water in front of the parsonage at the Memorial Day Parade to offset the cost of the 2011 Adult Mission Trip was passed.

The Oberammergau Trip: Fourteen church members leave on June 29 for this 11-day journey, which culminates in Oberammergau, Germany, for the Passion Play. When the group returns, they will share reflections in worship on July 11, much as we have done upon our mission trip's return.

Bob Mead reported that the Safe Church audit has been completed.

Alan Skiparis reported that Martha Lape has looked into the cost of upgrading the sound system, and Alan passed around a cost proposal from Sound Stage Systems. There is currently a donation of \$5,000 to put towards the \$16,000 total cost. We could possibly use some money from the Strawberry Festival and/or a contribution from the Deacons. We will need some people who are skilled at using the new equipment, possibly some teenagers. It was suggested offering internships for communication majors at Quinnipiac University. It was also suggested that the Music Board could contribute toward paying for the microphones.

A motion passed that the Executive Board approach the Strawberry Festival Committee and invite them to assist with the funding of the new sound system, using residual funds from the 2009 festival and some funds from the 2010 festival.

The Church Funding Study Group is looking at how we fund ourselves. The group met with a UCC representative in Hartford known as the "Minister of Generosity." They came away from this meeting with about 150 suggestions and will share these with the Board of Stewardship. The group will report on their progress at next month's meeting.

The Board is also studying some possible suggestions for changes to the By-Laws.

*Ford Cole*



## Parish Post by E-mail

If you are interested in helping the church save money by receiving your Parish Post electronically, please contact the office at 203-272-5323 and we'll put you on the list. While we are happy to send you the Parish Post by postal mail, getting it by e-mail means we don't need to pay for a stamp.



## Left in the Library?

Have you left personal belongings in the church library, or in the library area of the parlor? If so, now is your opportunity to retrieve them. This applies not just to individuals, but to boards, committees, and other groups who have used library space for meetings.

## Expressions of Thanks

The Board of Trustees wishes to express its thanks to those church members, friends, and guests who participated in the spring cleanup day on April 24. The turnout was great, and the weather cooperated. It was a successful day; all of our goals, and more, were accomplished. In addition to the normal activities, we were able to begin our ground cover planting program that was proposed by Bob Giddings for the south side of the parking lot. Many thanks to those of you who donated the ground cover plants. Also, a special thanks to Boy Scout Troop 92 and Eagle Scout Nate Mackey, and his parents and friends, for their participation.

*The Board of Trustees*

Thank you so much for your friendship and encouragement during these past difficult months. Your delicious meals were truly appreciated. The farewell gift in church was a total and wonderful surprise. Les and I will always cherish our memories of First Congregational Church and the progressive dinners. The beautiful picture will hang in a special spot in our new home in Holden, Mass. It will be comforting to be near our daughter.

*Mona Coley*

I had a wonderful birthday, thanks to the Church, Joyce, and her lovely family. Not only did I receive a beautiful arrangement of fresh flowers, but it was delivered by the entire Mulholland family. This gift was much appreciated.

*Daisy Bissell*

Thank you so much for all your prayers and cards received during my dad's final weeks. Words of faith and sympathy were felt and much appreciated.

*Cindy Rowe*



## What's 'Stewardship Season'?

In our church, 'Stewardship Season' is usually thought of as roughly the month of October, because that's when we make our financial pledges for the next year. It's also the time when we are most likely to hear a message from the pulpit about being a cheerful giver!

But in terms of true stewardship – properly managing and using the resources God has given us – 'Stewardship Season' never ends. Our many types of outreach, our Christian education, our music program, the myriad ways we practice parish care, the way we connect with the community through the rummage sale and the Strawberry Festival – all these, and more, are expressions of our stewardship.

The happy fact is that First Congregational Church makes a big difference, both within our own congregation and in the wider world. And we have been doing so for more than 275 years.

What we as individuals give, usually expressed by the "Three T's" – time, talent, and treasure – enables us to continue spreading the Good News. And that part of stewardship is not confined to a certain time of the year!

*The Board of Stewardship*

HOT DOGS & HAMBURGERS ✪ KIDS' GAMES ✪ CLOWNS  
MAGIC SHOW ✪ PONY RIDES ✪ MUSIC ✪ PETTING ZOO  
AND **STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE!**



THE 73RD ANNUAL  
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
**CESHIRE**  
**STRAWBERRY**  
**FESTIVAL**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 12**

ON THE GREEN IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH  
(ROUTE 10, CHESHIRE)

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

---

**FREE PARKING BEHIND THE CHURCH**  
**RAIN MOVES THE FESTIVAL INDOORS**