

PARISH POST

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

CHESHIRE
CONNECTICUT

Volume XXIII

November, 2006

No.9

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, November 5 – (Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost – All Saints Sunday): Communion and Food Offerings; Rick Dacey will preach; Coffee hours at 10 & 12 hosted by the Library Committee; the lessons are **Ruth 1:18** and Psalm 146 OR Deuteronomy 6:1-9 and Psalm 119:1-8 and Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34

Sunday, November 12 – (Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost): Rick Dacey preaching; Coffee hours at 10 & 12 hosted by the Board of Outreach; the lessons are **Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17** and Psalm 127 OR 1 Kings 17:8-16 and Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

Sunday, November 19 – (Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost – Thanksgiving Sunday): Rick Dacey will preach; Coffee Hours at 10 & 12 hosted by the Alphabet A-G; the lessons are **1 Samuel 1:40-20** and 1 Samuel 2:1-10 OR Daniel 12:1-3 and Psalm 16; Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25 and Mark 13:1-8; AIDS Concert at 7 in the sanctuary followed by a reception in Parish Hall

Sunday, November 26 – (Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost – Reign of Christ Sunday): Alison McCaffrey preaching; Coffee Hours at 10 & 12 hosted by the Parish Care Committee ; the lessons are 2 Samuel 23:1-7 and Psalm 132:1-12, (13-18) OR Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 and Psalm 93; **Revelation 1:4b-8**; John 18:33-37

Staff Search Updates as of October 2006...

Associate Minister for Parish Care

As you know from a previous update, The Associate Minister for Parish Care Search Committee announced that the candidate, to whom they had offered the call, decided not to accept the position for personal reasons. The Search Committee has begun reviewing resumes and has identified some potential candidates. In the meantime, Alison and Rick are supporting the Parish Care Ministry along with the lay leadership. Many thanks are in order to both the ministers and the lay ministers involved in this wonderful ministry.

Youth Director

The Youth Director Search team offered the position to an individual who decided not to accept the position for personal reasons. Debbie Gravell, along with members of the Christian Education Board, recently approached Matt McCaffrey, an ordained minister (member of the church and husband of Alison McCaffrey) to ask if he would be the interim Youth Director while he continues a search for a settled minister position. Fortunately for First Church, Matt agreed! Also fortunate for First Church, Peggy Allen, the ordained minister who served as acting Parish Care Minister last year, has agreed to perform the administrative functions of the Youth Director. We are so appreciative of their willingness to answer this call.

In the meantime, the search committee, headed by Ellen Wright, has changed its focus from looking for an acting director to looking for a person to assume the position permanently. The Search team is working with the Resource Adults to get a better sense of the needs of the program and the person to fill the director position on a permanent basis. Both Debbie Gravell and the RAs deserve a great deal of thanks for the extra time they are devoting to ensuring that this very successful program continues in the interim.

Senior Minister

After meeting with the Regional Minister from the Connecticut Conference in late August, the Deacons recommended to the Executive Board in early September that

an Interim Senior Minister be called as soon as possible in 2007. The calling of an interim allows time for church members and friends to try to discern God's call as it relates to our church and to the calling of a new senior minister. The Interim Search Committee, Susan Mancinelli, Martha Lape, Jim Louys, Jane Montgomery, Mark Hall and Susan Hostage will be meeting with the Regional Minister in mid-October to find the most appropriate individual. The search committee for the settled senior minister will be created in early 2007.

Questions? Joys? Concerns? Please call Cornelia Voils or Deb Bond (CE Board) or Susan Mancinelli or Howard Murphy (Deacons) or Susan Hostage, President.

CHURCH LIBRARY

These are the latest new library books:

Team of Rivals, by Doris Kearns Goodwin
It is about the political genius of Abraham Lincoln. This book is given in memory of Roger Waszmer by the Ladies Aid Society.

He Speaks to Me, by Priscilla Shirer
Preparing to hear from God

Integrity, by Dr. Henry Cloud
The courage to meet the demands of reality
How six essential qualities determine your success in business

Love's Abiding Joy, by Janette Oke

Prayer, by Richard J. Foster.
Finding the heart's true home

From the Associate Minister of Parish Life...

“Sweet and Savory Pies”... “Stuffings to Warm Your Soul...” “Set A Perfect Holiday Table.” Ah yes, the November issue of my home decorating magazine has arrived at my door; its glossy pages brimming with artfully arranged photo shoots of “pumpkin this” and “pecan that” all laid out against earth color backgrounds, followed by page after page of promised solutions for the twenty pounds of turkey left over from the twenty-four pound bird that never *looks* like it is big enough at the grocery store. In down-home style fonts, writers use carefully chosen words entreating me to believe that my Thanksgiving happiness depends on my ability to follow gourmet recipes and to dutifully replicate the intricate gold-foiled leaf-shaped place cards. Uh-oh. I’m sunk.

What is it about holidays that bring out this reaction in me, and maybe, in you? Even though Martha Stewart’s voice is more quieted these days, we still have it in our heads that somehow everything must be perfect in our homes, in our families, in our hearts before the thermometer pops up in the perfectly browned oven-roasted turkey. It’s a race against impossibility. And when we can’t get it all perfect anyway we still haunt ourselves by asking, “What is the matter with me... Why do I even bother?”

When the Pilgrims gathered in 1621, for what we call the first Thanksgiving, they didn’t come with matching gold-rimmed

platters filled with award winning kitchen tested recipes. They didn’t sit down in perfectly, tastefully decorated dining rooms. They ate outdoors because there wasn’t a building large enough to hold them and the ninety-some Native Wampanoags who together shared the bounty of that first harvest. They came with what they had – hearty dishes made from the crops that *did* grow, and fowl and deer hunted for the occasion. They came to that table, not with perfection-satisfied psyches, but with a deep hunger satisfied by the need for community and the need to give thanks for God’s blessings. And give thanks they did, with a feast for body and soul that lasted three whole days. As Edward Winslow, a leader in the Colony wrote to those back home in England, “*And although it be not always so plentiful as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want that we often wish you partakers of our plenty.*” Amazing – given that they were one harvest away from starvation.

As my magazine reminds me, the holidays will be upon us soon enough. But arbitrary earthly standards are not what summon us to this time of thanksgiving. The foods on the menu may have changed since 1621. That original population has grown and outgrown even the original outdoor space. But the impulse to share hospitality with others and to give thanks for God’s abundant blessings remains – it transcends time and space. The Apostle Paul reminds us to “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances.”

Christ doesn't call us to perfection; he calls us to faithfulness. Christ doesn't call some imagined perfect version of ourselves that *we* think we ought to be, but he calls *us* to come and follow- the *real* us, imperfections and all. He invites us to live by the divine measuring standard he sets out for us all – love. Love of God, love of neighbor, and love of self. May we have the courage to live in the fullness of that invitation.

Blessings,
Alison

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
The Creation of the Annual Budget

What is the Budget Process at our church and how does it work? The process begins with the boards and committees creating their budgets, as they did this summer, for 2007. Given concerns about the ability to increase funding, each of the boards and committees was requested to provide a basic budget, one which represented little or no change from the previous year. This information was compiled by the new Associate Treasurer, Betsy Barber and shared with the Budget Team. The Budget Team this year was made up of representatives from the following boards: Trustees, Deacons, Stewardship, At Large Executive Board, all three of the treasurers and the president. The group met on several occasions to review the needs of the church, trying to ensure that all necessary items were included in the planning. As this was the first time in which most people (including

the three treasurers who assumed the role this past year) had been part of the process, time was spent defining each section of the budget.

A draft of the budget was presented to the Executive Board for review at its regular September meeting. A separate meeting to review the draft took place in the middle of September. At its October meeting the Executive Board agreed to move ahead with the budget as created by the boards and committees.

At the time of this writing, we have just begun the next step in the budget process which involves the Stewardship campaign. By the time the Parish Post has been published, the Stewardship campaign will be nearly complete. Based upon the results of the pledge drive, the Budget Team will make revisions to the budget which will then be presented once again to the Executive Board, this time at its December meeting (which will be held on November 28 instead of December 5). Once the Executive Board has reviewed and agreed to the proposed budget, copies of the detailed budget plus a narrative description of the changes from last year to this year, will be provided to the members of the congregation. This information will be available 10 days prior to the Church Budget meeting which is scheduled for Sunday, December 10.

It is important to note that the budget is based upon the work done by the various boards and committees. This year's budget, which will be described in detail for all to review, includes the reserve

dollars which were agreed to as of last year's annual meeting. As church members review the budget this year (and every year) it is important to remember that the programs and services which are provided by this budget (ministerial support, parish care, music, youth ministry, heat, and electricity) are made available to all of us at any time...not just one day a week or not just one day a month. It is Your Church and it is Our Church. We all need to share in decisions about what to include in the budget and in how we support it.

We will look forward to the next step in this process which will be voting on the 2007 budget. Given its importance to our future, please come to the meeting in Parish Hall on December 10 after the 11 AM service and take part in the discussion and the voting.

Susan D. Hostage, Church President

I WALKED ONTO THE BALCONY

One recent Sunday afternoon, as the church was emptying, I walked onto the balcony to practice the organ. I saw many new faces and plenty of familiar ones. As usual, a familial and welcoming spirit existed between all of the congregants; between both new and regular attendees. This same warm spirit was what I encountered during my Sacred Music Practicum for my church's school named the Historic Seventh-day (Sabbath) Adventist Theological Seminary during the summer of 2006.

Wow. Long name you must be saying...and some more of you may be asking the question...what is a practicum? Well first of all, my name is Leslie Tracey and for the past two years I have been studying in the aforementioned church school program in order to become an organist and to further my religious training. The practicum was a way for me to be thrown into the practical experience of church musicianship. This was accomplished either by playing partial or entire services on a weekly basis and/or to shadow my experienced organ instructor, Joseph D'Eugenio. Sound hard? Well it definitely was for me!

The first day I entered the church to make my "debut" I was overwhelmed by the size of the congregation, the choir sitting all around me, and knowing that I had to play in the next few minutes. My hands shook, my body was icy hot, and the depth of my breathing was shallower than usual. Before and after the prelude, my teacher and the choir showered me with reassuring smiles and words. As I played, I prayed silently, telling God that I would do the best I could and that the only thing I wanted to do is to get through this!

Not only was the choir and my teacher supportive but so were all of you. You are the congregants, the body of Christ....and to me you encapsulated a small glimpse of what heaven will be like! When your songs were lifted lustily towards the sky, it filled my soul with a

joy that could not be surpassed by doing or being anywhere else. To me hymn singing is a melodious prayer to God and you gave each hymn meaning by singing with understanding.

This was just one of the many memorable experiences for me during the summer of 2006. I learned how to register a hymn and how to follow and lead your voices while experiencing the highest form of worship! I experienced the highs of a job well done and some lows resulting from self disappointment.

However, the most important thing I learned this summer is that to be a musician in the church is not about me. Pastor Dacey once told me in more or less these words...what matters is that you are worshipping God. I had heard that before, but this summer that saying took on more meaning because at first I thought it was all about me...I soon realized that it was the wrong focus.

Other things I have learned cannot be expressed in mere words, it goes deeper than that. I am indebted to the pastors, my teacher, and the congregation for providing me with a wonderful experience this summer. It is not every day that a large congregation, used to hearing absolutely beautiful music, allows themselves to be subjected to the errors of a student. You were all patient and nurturing and accepting as you watched me grow musically.

I still have a long way to go on my musical and spiritual journey, but thanks to our God, the master planner...he saw the way my path of life would lead. It led not only to music...but it led me to be connected with all of you. All of you accommodated me and welcomed me with open arms.

I thank you.

Leslie Tracey

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Christians In Action (CIA) needs you!!

WHO? 5th and 6th Graders

WHEN? One Friday evening per month

WHERE? In the Parish Hall

WHY? To help others who are less fortunate (and have some fun doing it!)

Our next meeting is Friday, November 17. We will be baking cookies to be delivered to homebound folks.

Please bring uncooked, pre-made cookie dough (i.e. Pillsbury)

5th graders bring a drink to share

6th graders bring a snack to share.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Led by Jim and Leslie Parys, Marge

Williams, and Deb Brown

BIBLE JOURNEYS FOR GRADES 2-6

This workshop rotation Church School program is for children and youth entering

grades 2-6 this fall. Children will know what workshop they will go to by the schedule below, the bulletin or the Bible Journeys Board in the hallway across from Room 8.

Grades 3-6 will go to class when dismissed from the church.

Grade 2 at 9:00 service only will leave for Chapel in the early part of the service. After Chapel they will go with their Shepherd to their Bible Journeys workshop. Parents may find their children in the classroom listed in the bulletin at the end of Church School.



SUMMARY OF ELIJAH ROTATION NOVEMBER 2006

Thou Art **Room 8**
Students will create "Elijah's Mantle" with KEY VERSE and other important words from the story, a map of Elijah's travel, picture of cave, scenes from the story (chariot, Jordan, earthquake/fire), etc.

Red Sea Productions **Room 9**
Students will dramatize the Elijah and Elisha story.

Desert Tales **Room 10**
Watch the videos: "Elijah" and the first part of "Elisha" - (stop after parting the river)

Gospel Games **Room 11**
Students will participate in an Archaeological Dig looking for objects from the story of Elijah and Elisha. They will play the game Elijah Bingo.

Duty to God in Scouting
The Boy Scout and Cub Scout programs maintain that one of their core values is a "Duty to God." This statement is the only statement that exists in all four of the scouting promises.

A scout can be recognized for his "Duty to God" by participating in a BSA approved program. Mark Dickinson (271-7003 or BSA@cox.net) will be leading 4th and 5th grade cub scouts in this program here at The First Congregational Church of Cheshire.

We will be meeting on each Sunday, beginning **November 5, 2006** and for the next 4 Sundays thereafter. The meetings will take one hour and begin directly at **noon**.

If you are interested in having your son participate please let Mark know prior to the first meeting so that materials may be available for all interested scouts.

9:00 Church School

Date	Thou Art	Red Sea Prod.	Desert Tales	Gospel Games
Nov. 5	Grade 3	Grade 2	Grade 5&6	Grade 4
Nov. 12	Grade 4	Grade 5&6	Grade 2	Grade 3
Nov. 19	Grade 2	Grade 4	Grade 3	Grade 5&6
Nov. 26	Grade 5&6	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 2

11:00 Church School

Date	Thou Art	Red Sea Prod.	Desert Tales	Gospel Games
Nov. 5	Worship	Worship	Worship	Worship
Nov. 12	Grade 4	Grade 3	Grade 2	Grade 5&6
Nov. 19	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5&6	Grade 2
Nov. 26	Grade 2	Grade 5&6	Grade 4	Grade 3

MISSION PROJECTS

UNICEF

At Halloween, our church has had a tradition of mission partnership with UNICEF. Please decide, as a family, if you want to participate in this mission opportunity. If you decide to participate, please return the money to your church school class or the Christian Education office by the first week of November.

It is most helpful if you count the money together as a family and then write a check (made out to the First Congregational Church with UNICEF in the memo) or send the money in bills rather than return the box of change. This expedites the counting for our financial people.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD:
A Project of Samaritan's Purse**

We all know the joy it gives us to give gifts to our children. Now, imagine that joy

magnified tenfold as a child who never has received a present, a child who has suffered because of war, natural disaster, poverty, illness, or neglect, receives a shoe box filled to overflowing with gifts. This is the impact your family can have on a needy child somewhere in the world through Operation Christmas Child.

Operation Christmas Child is the unique project of a Christian relief organization, Samaritan's Purse. This group delivers your gift of a shoebox filled with small gifts to a hurting child. They also find ways through books and stories to tell the children about God's greatest gift - Jesus.

Again this year our Caring Crafts Group has made small teddy bears to go in each of our boxes. Please leave room in your box for a bear. Remember to either buy a plastic clear shoe box or wrap a regular cardboard shoe box separate from the lid and put an elastic band around it. This way we can put the bears into the boxes.

Families received a brochure about this exciting project through the church school.

Shoebboxes are due back on Sunday, November 19. I am currently seeking families who would like to deliver the shoeboxes to Gateway Bible Church in Oakville on that afternoon. Delivering the boxes is a wonderful way to allow your family to do a hands-on project of mission and see what other families and churches are doing as well. Again, this Christmas, we can be a small part of bringing joy and hope to millions of children around the world. Please contact Debbie Gravell at 272-5323 ext. 16 if you are willing to bring the boxes to Oakville.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Pageant Date: Sunday, December 10 at 4

Dress Rehearsal: Saturday, December 9 in the morning

Blocking Rehearsal

Sunday, Dec. 3, from 12:30 – 2:30

Line Rehearsals

Nov. 5, 12, 19, and 26 and Dec. 3, Sundays 10:30 Sharp!

There will be signups in November for younger angels, shepherds, and sheep.

Adults are needed to help with rehearsing the speaking roles and to help the younger children on the day of dress rehearsal and the play. Please speak to Debbie Gravell if you are able to help.

INTERESTED IN PRAYING FOR OUR COLLEGE YOUTH?

It is difficult to be a college student away from home. As a congregation we can reach out to our college students with our prayers for them. If you are willing to pray this school year for one of our college students, please contact Debbie Gravell at 272-5323 ext. 16 or dgravell@cheshirecongregational.org. I will then match you with a college student. You will receive their name, email address and postal address. You are asked to pray for them and invited to let them know they are being prayed for throughout this year. Please contact Debbie as soon as possible so we can get our prayers going for our students away from home.

YUTES NEWS

Mission Trip 2007 for Sr. High

YUTES – Update

The 12th graders voted to attend the Group Work Camp at Lyons, NY.

When: July 29-Aug. 4

There will be 50 available slots for Sr. High youth interested in going. The slots do fill up fast so watch your mailbox, YUTES website and youth group meetings for more details about sign up. **A mailing will be out soon with sign up information.**

ATTENDANCE ON MISSION TRIP

– all youth in Sr. High are welcome but you must attend YUTES meetings regularly, once a month. Any adults interested in being Resource Adults for the mission trip must also attend YUTES regularly. Why you may ask? We all need to know each other for a variety of reasons; the comfort of all involved, ability to get along, bonding, safety, fundraising to name a few. See Debbie Gravell with any questions or concerns.

Friends Visiting YUTES

Youth are able to bring friends to our youth group meetings. For the safety of your friend, we insist that you download a visitor slip from the website and have your friend fill it out or at sign in please be sure that the greeter knows you have a friend with you and provides you with a visitor slip.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

The YUTES are scheduled to meet each week in the Parish Hall on the dates listed below except where otherwise indicated.

Sunday, Nov. 5

5-7p.m. Jr. & Sr. High meeting with dinner
Theme: What is faith? What does it mean to me?

Sunday, Nov. 12

5-7p.m. Jr. & Sr. High meeting with dinner
Theme: Faith

Saturday, Nov. 18

Kutless Concert at Platt High School in Meriden.

Sunday, Nov. 19

No Youth Group – due to going to concert

Sunday, Nov. 26

5-7p.m. Jr. & Sr. High meeting with dinner
Theme: Faith and our daily life

RESOURCE ADULT TRAINING

Date: Saturday, November 11

Time: 8:45 to noon

Location: Parish Hall where you will be served a continental breakfast

Leaders: Rick Dacey and Debbie Gravell

Thank you to the 2005-2006

Confirmation Class!

Second Harvest of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana sent a letter thanking the Reverend Rick Dacey and the 2005-2006 Confirmation Class for their donation of \$2,292.34. The letter said in part: “Your support is critical in this time of renewal and rebirth for our area. It has been a year since the storms devastated south Louisiana and so many of the affected areas are still uninhabitable. Many of our community members are unable to return home and are struggling to find new jobs, replace or rebuild what was lost, or pay a mortgage for a home that was destroyed. The need is definitely greater and so has been the response from our generous family of supporters. You have helped us raise over 3 million dollars thus far toward meeting this increased need.

On behalf of all of the men, women, and children whose lives you have touched, I send my hear-felt thanks.

Natalie Jayroe
President and CEO

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Topic: Heaven
Leader: Debbie Gravell
Time: 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor

Throughout the study we will use a study guide from the Life Guide Bible Study series (cost \$5.00). Each week we will explore different scriptures about Heaven.

Babysitting is available. You are welcome to join us when you can and be away when you must. Each week stands by itself. We read the scriptures together, share reflections on the scripture and close with prayer requests. All women of the church are welcome.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

BOARD OF OUTREACH

COVENANT TO CARE

Thank you to the following people for donations: Anthony and Betsy DePaulo for a stroller, baby bath, baby swing, and a walker; Elaine Daly for a stroller.

THANKSGIVING MEALS

In the past, our church has put together 50 complete Thanksgiving Dinners for clients in the care of DCF. Each dinner includes non-perishable items and a frozen turkey for a family of 6. The food should be boxed as the canned goods are weighty and the bags break. The boxes should be brought to the church kitchen by noon on November 19. There is a signup sheet in the parlor.

Suggestions

This list is to serve only as a guide. Everything you offer is much appreciated. Candles, napkins, olives, nuts, packaged mashed potatoes or a bag of potatoes (if purchased right before delivery), canned yams, canned beans, canned corn, canned cranberry sauce, canned gravy, boxed stuffing, boxed pie(s), cookies, packaged rolls, juice, coffee, and soda.

You may also donate a frozen turkey (preferred as they are not used until the 23) and a disposable pan in which to cook it. You can do this in collaboration with another family, a church school class, a Girl or Boy Scout troop, etc. This time of year is a time for reflection and thanks. While many of us are surrounded by loved ones, and a bounty of food from which to feast, these families are often in crisis. Some of the food goes to foster families who have taken several children in, and other meals go to families who barely get by. Some of the children are home only for the holiday as the family works towards reunification. We partner

with strangers, equal in God's eyes and heart.

Food baskets delivered in the past have been nothing short of amazing. It is clear that God's hand plays a part in the loving preparations made for someone else. Any questions, please call Jan Cowles at 272-8441.

COLUMBUS HOUSE

As you know, the fifth Wednesday of the month is our opportunity to provide a meal for the Columbus House. November 29 is just such a Wednesday, so please check the table in the parlor a couple of weeks prior to that date for baking tins.

Thanks from Jan Garthwait

FESTIVAL OF COOKIES

Are you in need of new cookie ideas for Christmas? December 10th's coffee hour will be just what you need, a Festival of Cookies

A Festival of Cookies is a showcase of everyone's favorite Christmas cookie. Simply bring a plate of your favorite Christmas cookies for others to enjoy during coffee hour. Bring copies of your recipe to share with others and go home with new recipes to share with your family and friends. It's a great way to start your holidays. Any extra cookies will be brought to the Waterbury Soup Kitchen. Please call June Webster at 272-5163 if you plan on bringing cookies to share.

The Malawi Ministry

The Malawi Ministry of the First Congregational Church of Cheshire presents its Third Annual World AIDS Day Concert on Sunday, November 19, at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. Performers include Robin and Jack Sellati, singers; John Afman, author; Christian and Alexandra Hakim, violinists; Mark Kaplan, saxophonist; The Wandering Minstrels, Gilbert and Sullivan specialists, and much more.

There is no admission fee but a free will offering will be taken to benefit the orphaned children of Nthandizi, Malawi.

Refreshments will be served in the Parish Hall and there will be a handmade crafts and baked goods sale.

Please support this valuable outreach ministry by inviting a friend and joining us for a memorable evening!

FOOD OFFERING

The Food Pantry request for the month of **November** is **canned fruits**.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Fall Church Grounds Clean-up

When: Saturday, November 4

Time: 9:00 to noon

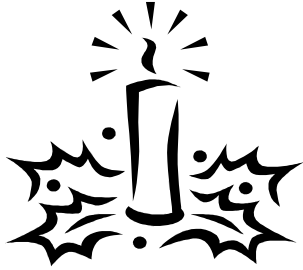
Come join your church family to help clean up our church property. All ages are welcome! Bring rakes, blowers, tarps, and other tools used for clean-up of the grounds. Rain (or snow) date is November 18.

BOARD OF MUSIC

CANDLELIGHT LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, Dec. 17th

Please note the time: 4:00 PM



Our always wonderful Lessons and Carols service will be in the afternoon this year, allowing us to take the time for the full traditional nine lessons and carols, and to take advantage of the gathering dusk to present this service by candlelight. The beautiful service will include favorite Christmas selections from the Senior choir such as "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" and the Coventry Carol, and section leaders Patricia Barbano and Paul Fletcher will add their wonderful voices with solo pieces. Alison and the Worship and Arts committee will be working with the Music Board to provide an inspiring, atmospheric setting that will help keep you centered on the real meaning of the Christmas season amid the hustle and bustle. Invite your friends and neighbors to experience it too - all are welcome!

NOMINATING

WHAT ARE YOUR GIFTS?

This is the time of year talented and gifted people should come forward to share their gifts. The Church is looking to fill important and interesting positions on many boards and committees including the Board of Deacons, the Board of Christian Education, the Board of Stewardship, the Flower Committee, the Membership Committee, Conference Delegates, and Ushers.

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to all for their particular service.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

Good News Bible

Please call Roy Pritchard at 203-272-1133 or Cheryl Guetens at 203-272-8054 to support your Church in this hour of need.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The following people became members of the Church on October 15, 2006

Mark and Patti Dickinson

Mark and Patti have lived in Cheshire for most of their lives. They have 4 boys: Michael - 14, attends Dodd (wrestling, cross country, scouts); David, 13, attends Dodd (acting, reading, saxophone, piano, scouts); Brian, 11, attends Norton (clarinet, baseball, scouts); Jeffrey, 9, attends Norton (baseball, scouts).

Mark works at M. and T. Bank and is active as a scout leader. Patti works for the Board of Education and enjoys needle arts, photography, and scrap-booking.

One Reason For Joining: Rick's powerful sermons

Christine Baillie

Christine has lived in Cheshire for 35 years And is employed as a Realtor for Calcagni Associates. Her interests include golf, books, investments, and bridge.

One Reason for Joining: Reconnect with my faith

James and Jeannine Plaster

James and Jeannine lived in Cheshire for 2 years but now live in Bristol, CT. They have one son, Ryan, who is one and a half years old.

Jim works as a firefighter for the city of Bristol and enjoys snowmobiling. Jeannine is a Surgical Assistant and enjoys crafts and running.

One Reason for Joining: To raise our family in a church environment under God.

Ernie and Martha Swartz

They have lived in Cheshire for 11 years. They have two children, Ryan, a Junior at Curry College in Milton, MA and Kelly, a Junior at Cheshire High School.

Martha is a Professor and the Dean of Clinical Affairs at Yale University; Ernie is a realtor for William Raveis Real Estate.

They share a mutual enjoyment of travel, boating, reading, and music.

One Reason for Joining: Have been attending this church for 7 years

Matthew and Katie Childs

Matthew and Katie live in Wallingford with their son, Christopher, five and half months old.

Katie is employed by Tuxis/Ohrs Fuel in Meriden and Matt is a PE/Health Teacher for Newtown Public Schools. They share a mutual interest in hiking, skiing, boating, reading, and tennis.

One Reason for Joining: Established our home and life together. The church was very welcoming and we feel like we belong here.

Bob and Bobbie Porter

They have lived in Cheshire for 2 months! They have 3 adult children: Bonnie, mother of 3; Tom, father of 2; and Heather, mother of 2.

Bob is a professor at Quinnipiac University and likes to sail, roller blade, ski, and read. Bobbie has worked 20 years in Real Estate and likes to cook, travel, bike, and entertain. She also enjoys being a grandparent. Both are enjoying retirement and their home.

One Reason for Joining: Have always been involved in a church. We have attended this church since moving to Cheshire and like it.

Ken Anderson

Ken lives in Bristol and is employed by Coca Cola. His interests include gardening, cooking, and repairing things. **One Reason for Joining:** Grew up in Cheshire and by joining he feels like he is "coming home."

Please give these new members a warm welcome when you see them. A welcoming dinner will be hosted by the Membership Committee in early December at a committee member's home. If you have any questions about becoming a church member, a shepherd, or serving on the Membership Committee, please feel free to contact Alison, Rick, or any member of the committee.

Membership Committee Members

Joan Benedetto, Sharon Brenneman, Jan Cowles, Pam Euerle, Jim Murnane, and Gary Rowe.

MISCELLANEOUS

DELEGATES ATTEND ANNUAL CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE IN HARTFORD

The fall Annual Meeting of the UCC was held Saturday, October 21, 2006.

Delegates attending were John Afman, Karen Gravino, Jay Knipe, and Ken and Pam Euerle.

The focus of the meeting was UCC global missions. The Reverend Cally Rogers-White, director of the UCC Wider Church Missions, was the keynote speaker. She identified the global ministries criteria as

partnership, invitation, deepest need, and critical response. She spoke of the One Great Hour of Sharing programs in the Sudan, Philippines, Haiti, Liberia, Bosnia, and Palestine. These programs deal with issues of clean water, Philippine missionary assassinations, vocational training, physical care, Darfur atrocities, and disaster relief for Tsunami victims.

There were two sets of resolutions to vote on. The Resolution A group (resolutions available for study before the conference) included food insecurity in Connecticut and the continued support of the Connecticut Commission for United Ministry in higher education (chaplains on Connecticut college campuses). The Resolution B group (those resolutions not available for study before the conference) included affirming a peaceful alternative to war in Iran and abolishing torture now without exception. Because we did not receive the Resolution B group in time to inform and receive a response from the congregation of First Church, we abstained from voting on them.

There is a UCC conference/delegate information bulletin board near the church calendar in the lobby. Information about meetings and issues are regularly updated so you can stay informed. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your delegates as needed.

Please note that the 2007 UCC General Synod, celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the UCC, will be in Hartford, CT, June 22-26. Consider participating. Additional information can be found on the internet at www.CTUCC.org.

All Women of the Church

are invited to

An Evening with Rick Dacey

Tuesday, November 14
7:00 p.m. in Parish Hall

Do you want to know the
Why, How, When, and Where of his call
to West Epping, Australia?

This will be an evening of conversation
with Rick so you can ask him
all your questions!

Join us for dessert and coffee/tea!
Hosted by Colonizers, Ladies Aid,
and Tuesday Circle

VOCATIONAL PRAYERS

We believe that God is creating
in the clay of a potter
in the music of an orchestra,
in the bread of a baker.
We believe that Jesus Christ is present
in the hospitality of a waitress
in the care of a social worker,
in the voice of a teacher.

We believe that the Holy Spirit is moving
in the healing touch of a doctor,
in the actions of a peacemaker,
in the laughter of a child.

~Worship & Daily Life

This fall, we began a new prayer practice in
our Sunday morning worship. On the last
Sunday of each month, we invite your

participation in the blessing of our
members and friends in their particular
occupations and vocations, whether
volunteer or employed. For example, on
October 29, we prayed for all our
members and friends who work with their
hands: artists, electricians, plumbers, etc.
All who work in the field were invited to
bring an object or symbol of their work
and place it on the Communion table.
Prayers of blessing were included in our
prayers of intercession. Each month on
the last Sunday, we will lift up a different
vocation, which will be listed in advance in
the bulletin and Parish Post.

November: All who work in sales and
retail

December: All who care for others: from
infants to our elderly

January: All who work in offices and
support services

February: All who work in the medical
professions

March: All who work in the financial field

April: All who work with the earth

May: All who work in human resources
and helping professions

June: All who are students

July: All who work in computer and other
technologies

August: All who work in field of law

If you don't see your occupation listed,
please let us know as we will continue to
develop this rotation. If your occupation
spans several categories, you are welcome
to bring your symbol for those months.
Your suggestions are welcome.

Blessings, Alison

CARING CRAFTS MEETING

The Caring Crafts Ministry will be meeting Monday, November 27th at 7 pm at Donna Mead's home, 15 Conifer Drive, Hamden, 203-248-9576. Come and join us for coffee, crafting, (knitting, crocheting, needlepoint, counted cross stitch, etc.) and fellowship. We have teachers for every craft!

PERSONALS

Thank you to...

A very special thank you to Linda Milton who worked so tirelessly measuring, cutting, and sewing the new pew cushion covers. What a beautiful job!

Thank you from...

-Larry and Abby Bray

Thank you so much for the flowers that Joy Deegan brought for our 55th Wedding Anniversary. It was so nice to have this event remembered by our church friends.

-Patti and Mark Dickinson

Many thanks for the warm wishes and greetings extended to us as new members. Mark and I are very happy to finally be "official" members of this fine church. Thank you also for the surprise gift of the Holy Bible. We will use it well. Peace and joy to you all.

RENEWAL OF VOWS

-October 14

Terry and Bill Hamley

BAPTISMS

-October 15

Christopher Hamilton Childs, son of Matthew Hamilton and Katie Vitali Childs

Trevor Brian Gould, son of Brian J. and Brooke Turner Gould

Jack Patrick Matthew Suomala, son of Michael Emil and Jessica Patton Suomala

NEW MEMBERS

-October 15, 2006

Kenneth E. Anderson; Christine Mary Baillie; Matthew and Katie Childs; Mark and Patricia Dickinson; James and Jeannine Plaster; Robert and Bobbie Porter; Ernest and Martha Swartz.

DEATHS

-September 16

George Lewis Chase, in Maine (former long-time member)

-October 5

Alfred H. Dicks, Jr.

-October 7, 2006

Florence Stevens (Sister of Mary Johmann)

-October 19, 2006

Alfonso Skiparis (father of Alan)

-October 23, 2006

Warren Harold Moon

Emergency Pastoral Care

After office hours, you may call Rev. Dacey at 250-1623, or Rev. McCaffrey at 272-3233.

Please be mindful of their family time and call only in an emergency or crisis.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Non-Profit Org.

111 Church Drive

U.S. Postage Paid

Cheshire, CT 06410

Cheshire, CT 06410

Permit No. 34

Change Service Requested

Richard Dacey, Senior Minister

Alison McCaffrey, Associate Minister for Parish Life

Deborah Gravell, Minister of Christian Education

Joseph D'Eugenio, Music Director

Marianne Beckmann, Handbell Director

Matthew McCaffrey, Interim Director of Youth Ministry

Judith Monarca, Church Administrator/Post Editor

Jessie Waszmer, Secretary

Fred & Pat Turner, Sextons

Church Phone 203-272-5323

www.CheshireCongregational.org