

THE PARISH POST

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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A Tale of Two Seas

By Dave Buchan
Interim Senior Minister

There are two seas in Israel – and the Jordan River flows into both of them.

One of the seas is fresh and clear and filled with fish. Its banks are green. Trees abound, and children play on the beaches. This is the clean water of the Sea of Galilee. But further south is another sea. Though the Jordan flows into it, there are no fish, no green banks, no trees or children at play. The water is bad, and even the air hangs heavily in the sky above it. This is the Dead Sea.

What makes the difference? The Sea of Galilee receives, but does not keep, the Jordan River. For every drop that flows in, another is given away. In the other sea, the Jordan flows in but not out. Every drop it receives, it keeps. The Sea of Galilee gives and lives. The other sea gives nothing and is aptly called the Dead Sea.

Bruce Barton says we are called to be like the living water of the Galilee, generous in our giving, vital and alive.

In Exodus 36 we read how Moses called the people of Israel to contribute to God's work. And they responded so generously, so overwhelmingly, that Moses had to tell the people to stop bringing gifts. "We already have far more than enough," he said. They had more than they needed! Generosity like that of the Israelites is a sign of life and vitality.

May we be as generous in the support of God's work as the children of Israel were. We have a wonderful church with a long history of Christian service in Cheshire. Whether it's serving in a food kitchen in New Haven or helping a local family with a very sick baby, our church is there.

The music ministry of our choirs is powerful. There's a tangible excitement – you can feel it in the sanctuary – as our young people speak of how this church has helped them in their faith journeys. And, of course, we look forward with anticipation and excitement to receive a new minister in the coming year.

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Our church deserves our generous support.

God does not ask us to give what we do not have. God asks us to know life and vitality by giving generously to his work with what we do have.

*In Christ,
Dave Buchan
Interim Senior Minister*

October Worship Schedule

Worship is at 9:00 and 11:00.

Child care and Church School is provided at both hours.

Sunday, **October 7:** Peggy Allen preaching. Worldwide Communion Sunday; food offering Sunday,

Sunday, **October 14:** Dave Buchan preaching.

Sunday, **October 21:** Talent Sunday. Alison McCaffrey preaching.

Sunday, **October 28:** Dave Buchan preaching.

Thursdays Are Special Starting This Autumn

Thursday nights are “Church Thursdays” starting this fall. The basic format of the evening is a shared dinner with our church family at 6:30 p.m., followed at 7:15 by either a large group presentation or a series of small groups. Our evenings end at 8:45 p.m. with a brief closing worship. Dinners will be held in the Parish Hall or in the parsonage, according to our schedule of events. The Parish Life Team sponsors these events with Donna Mead’s Dinner Group. Child care is provided.

On Sept. 20, we shared an evening with Mike Penn-Strah, our new SouthCentral Regional Minister, who focused on what it means for us to be part of the UCC.

Join us on these Thursdays for other special events:

November 1: Henry McNulty will discuss presents our own First Congregational Church history.

December 20: Christmas Social: hors d’oeuvres, desserts, and singing carols around the piano.

February 7, 2008: Africa Night, with Amy Webb and Dave Buchan

March 20, 2008: Maundy Thursday

April (date to be announced): An evening with Dan Esty, speaking on the environment.

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On the weeks in between these events, we will offer “Parsonage Potluck”: Bring a dish to share for supper in the parsonage at 6:30 p.m., then stay for Bible Study or other small group. Please call the church office by Wednesday noon to let us know you are coming for the potluck (272-5323). We close our evening together by rejoining for brief worship at 8:45 p.m.



Welcome the Church's New Administrator

The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that Leslie Holmes Meyer has been selected by its Search Team as our new church administrator. She began working in our office on September 10.

Leslie grew up in Northford and in the North Haven Congregational Church, where she has spent some time working in the church office. She has worked at the Hospital of Saint Raphael and as a librarian at the Smith Library in Northford.

Leslie is a graduate of the University of Connecticut, with some master's degree credits from Central State University in Oklahoma.

She is energetic and creative. We hope you will stop by the office to welcome her.

Photographing God: You Can Participate

Where do you see God? In nature? In relationships? In actions? In service?

First Congregational Church invites you to be part of a Photography Show called “Where Do You See God?” to be held Saturday, November 3, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Here's what to do: First, be on the lookout for God between now and mid-October. Take a photograph of where you see God. Submit a print of your photo, anything from 4 by 6 inches to 11 by 14 inches.

Please submit prints only; do not e-mail digital images. The prints may be in color or in black and white. Include a one-sentence description of each picture.

Please submit all photos by Sunday, October 14. We will then mount, arrange, and display them, and all are invited to the showing and gala reception on November 3.

All ages and skill levels are invited to participate; anyone can use a camera! Prints from both amateurs and professionals may be submitted. You, your friends, families, and neighbors may participate; all are welcome!

This is not a contest, but a time to share in the beauty of God through the arts. The event is sponsored by the Parish Life Team.

Notes from the Executive Board

Members of the Executive Board have changed since the year began. Current members are: The Rev. Dave Buchan; the Rev. Alison McCaffrey; Susan Hostage, President; Walt Ryan, Treasurer; Christine Albrecht, Clerk; Bob Mead, Trustees; Howard Murphy, Deacons; Addie Marx, Women's Fellowship; Members At Large: Kathy Duffendack, Mark Hall, Dennis Lape; Beth Ross, Outreach; Lynn Ryan and Peggy Allen, Board of Christian Education; Bob Giddings, Board of Music; Bob Porter, Personnel; and Laura Whinfield, Stewardship.

The September Executive Board meeting was packed with updates and information from the many activities and plans currently in progress. These are just some of the topics discussed:

Nominating presented plans for a "Board / Committee Member" small group to be held at coffee hour on October 14, providing the opportunity to invite prospective members into their group.

Senior Search provided a preview of the survey targeted at understanding what the congregation wants in our next Senior Minister. This all-important information will be gathered through "Survey Sunday" on September 30. The survey can be filled in and dropped off at the church office or filled in on-line. They are encouraging on-line completion, because results are more easily compiled using the form.

The **Parish Life** year has kicked off with publication of the Parish Life Opportunity booklet. In addition, Thursday nights will be exciting, with small groups meeting and dinners in the parish hall every few weeks.

The **Response Team** continues its work to address recommendations, and has made significant progress on the Yutes Safety Manual and the Safe & Nurturing Policy, both of which will be sent to the UCC Connecticut Conference during September for review. In addition, Executive Board has begun to formulate the members for creation of a Safe Church Committee.

Director of Youth Ministries Search has identified a potential interim candidate who has been presented to the Ministerial Staff for an interview, pending reference checks.

Discussions regarding the Church Meeting on September 23 confirmed the wording of the call and the preliminary proposed 2008 budget.

Stewardship distributed pledge cards to Executive Board members.

Ideas and suggestions from the congregation are always welcome. These can be discussed or forwarded to any member of the Executive Board.



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

More Special Events And Small Groups

Bereavement Group: The Courage to Hope: November - December

Led by Ginny Humphrey, Jan Garthwait, and Frank Scinto

Thursdays Nov 8- Dec 13 (skipping Thanksgiving) beginning at 7 p.m. The closing meeting for this group will be a worship service on Friday evening, December 21.

For those who grieve, the holidays can be an especially difficult time. This newly forming group will offer comfort and understanding, and support. Ginny is a Registered Nurse and experienced bereavement group leader. She is joined by Jan and Frank, both trained Stephen Ministers. At the completion of this group, members may decide to keep meeting as a support to one another.

The Bible and Terrorism: October 2007 to October 2008

Led by John Afman and Bob Mead

Monthly meetings — Sunday morning and Thursday night

The attacks of September 11, 2001, shook the foundations of our nation and

our faith. It may help to know that Old Testament Hebrews and the first Christians were targeted, too! Listening to their stories will echo our fears today, and provide substance for our faith.

Their prayers of anguish and hope are also in Scripture for our use. We will blend discussion and prayer: discussion of parallels between Bible times and now, with earnest prayers for America and the world during the next year.

Monthly meetings will be held in the Chapel between services on the third Sunday, **Oct 21**, 10:10 to 10:55 a.m., and on the second Thursday evening, **Oct 11** in the Parsonage, 7 to 8:30 p.m. John is a retired minister and Bob is a retired Army Air Force colonel.

Upcoming 2007 dates: November 8 and 18, December 13 and 16.

Bible Study: Thursdays 7:15 p.m., beginning Sept. 27 in the Parlor

Led by the Rev. Dave Buchan

Dave Buchan is our leader for a journey of heart, spirit, and mind through various books of the Bible. We begin with Book of Acts. No previous Biblical knowledge is required; lively discussion encouraged!

Genealogy: Thursdays 7 p.m., Nov. 8- Dec. 13

Led by Donna Mead, 248-9576

Have you ever wanted to trace your family roots, but didn't know how or where to start? Now you will have that chance with this beginner's course.

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Bring your pen, your memory, and your sense of adventure and join us for a walk down memory lane. Please call Donna with any questions.

The Inferno: Thursdays 7 p.m., Nov. 8-Dec. 13 in the Parlor

Led by Susan Mancinelli: (860) 426-2467

Corrupt politicians, disappointing and dishonest civil and religious leaders – sound familiar? It’s not only today. This was also the situation in late 13th century Florence when the great Italian writer Dante wrote his Comedy. Join with a small group to read and discuss Part I, The Inferno, where Dante describes his journey into Hell, the people he sees, and the punishments they suffer. Please bring your own copy of the book; any version is fine.

Personal One-on-One Financial Awareness: God...You...and I: Times and place to be determined

Charles Jones, 272- 3232

This is a journey that God, you, and Charles Jones will take together to enhance our understanding and responsibility in dealing with God’s money. We will be using the Bible and working together for you to know and understand what you are doing with God’s money. We will read, discuss, and apply what the Bible says about stewardship, financial planning, borrowing, credit cards, debt, giving, loans, money, tithes, and wealth.

Charles says: “Our goal will be to create

financial scorecards that provide wealth, saving, giving, and borrowing statements, along with creating a monthly budget. We will then use our learnings to set financial goals based on God’s financial principles.

“Discussing your personal finances is very scary territory. I believe God wants us to take this journey together, so don’t be afraid, for God will be leading us to a better financial life. The first thing you need to do is pray and ask, ‘God, is this the journey you should travel?, Once God tells you yes, then please sign up or call me. We will meet once a week for an hour or two beginning early October.

“e will meet either at your home, my home, or at church. This small group study is limited. I am only able to take two individuals or couples at one time. Additional requests will be added to the waiting list. Are you up for this challenge? I am, and I know God is! So sign up today for a journey that truly will be rewarding in knowing that your finances will be enhancing God’s kingdom.”

**Save the Date for a Women’s Retreat:
All day Saturday, December 8**

Led by Peggy Allen

Women of the church are invited to an all-day retreat in the season of Advent, at Peggy Allen’s home. Join us for this opportunity to reflect and renew as we share in song, story, scripture and each other’s company. This event is limited to 12; a waiting list will be created. Please let Peggy or Alison McCaffrey know of your interest.

What's Happening With Christian Education

World Wide Communion Sunday – October 7

Third Graders will receive communion with their families on this day at both services. They have attended a workshop with the Rev. Dave Buchan about communion to prepare them for this special moment.

Meet Your Mentor Night – Monday, October 15

Confirmands, families and mentors will gather on this evening to meet each other.

We begin with an ice cream social and then the parents will leave for a meeting with the Rev. John Afman. John will be teaching a class on the Gospel of Luke for confirmation parents. He will meet with families and share his vision for this class. The confirmation group also reads the Gospel of Luke.

Confirmands and mentors will engage in getting to know you activities. The evening ends with a short meeting and commissioning of the mentors.

Stepping Stones Youth Group (fellowship group for 5th and 6th graders)

Led by: Marge Williams, Deb Brown and Jim and Leslie Parys. Other parents will be asked to help out as needed. Bring your ideas for mission activities for the year.

**Friday, October 19th from 7:00 – 8:30
p.m.**

Parents with 5th grade youth are asked to send a snack to share for the meeting; parents with 6th grade youth are asked to send a drink to share for the meeting.

Any questions, please call Debbie Gravell at 272-5323 ext. 16 or Jim Parys 699-9929.

College Mailing Addresses And Email Request

Are your children away at college? We would like to mail them the Parish Post and keep in touch through the year with care packages. Please send Debbie Gravell at thirl.gravell@snet.net their postal mailing address and email at school. If you have sent it in previous years, please update, or let us know it is the same.

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.

9:00

Date	Thou Art	Red Sea Prod.	Desert Tales	Gospel Games
Oct. 7	Grades 2 & 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6
Oct. 14	Grade 6	Grades 2 & 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Oct. 21	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grades 2 & 3	Grade 4
Oct. 28	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grades 2 & 3

11:00

Date	Thou Art	Red Sea Prod.	Desert Tales	Gospel Games
Oct. 7	Worship	Worship	Worship	Worship
Oct. 14	Grades 2 & 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6
Oct. 21	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grades 2 & 3	Grade 4
Oct. 28	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grades 2 & 3

More About October's Christian Education

Studying David And Goliath

Thou Art : Room 8

The students will consider the presence of the Holy Spirit as their helper as they work with wire to create sculptures of David and Goliath or of themselves facing a “giant” in their lives. First, we will read the story of David and Goliath from the Bible.

Red Sea Productions : Room 9

The students will use Readers' Theatre to dramatize David's battle with Goliath. Many of the Psalms attributed to David are featured in the script. The younger grades will use a tape recording of the older students' reading the soundtrack for a puppet show.

Desert Tales: Room 10

This is a music rotation to introduce the elementary grades to music and choir. Students will sing music about trusting God as David trusted God to go with him.

Gospel Games: Room 11

The students will first read about the armor that



David was given to fight the giant from the King to protect him. They will then play a game, David's relay Race, to try out some armor of today. They

will learn they go today in the name of the Lord to fight the “giants” they encounter.

News About Outreach and Mission

The Board of Outreach would like to thank all who have given to the church this year. Through pledging in 2007, this congregation has been able to help many people in need throughout our community.

Some examples of where your Outreach discretionary money has been used:

- A tragedy in February orphaned two young Cheshire boys. Our congregation was able to help by donating \$450 to the Winiarski Children's Fund.
- When some members of our church family were going through a very difficult time, our congregation was able to help by giving them a gift of \$200 in Stop & Shop gift certificates.
- A driver for Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministries, who spends his time making food pick-ups at the various churches in the area, was interested in furthering his education. Our congregation helped by making a \$300 contribution to help him.
- As the horrible flooding in the Midwest victimized many, our congregation was able to help by providing \$450 for emergency clean-up kits.
- With school starting up, many schools across the world were finding themselves in desperate need of supplies. Our congregation was able to help by sending \$300 to help purchase school supply kits.

- When the breakfast program in Malawi, Africa needed funds to continue to provide a nutritious and healthy meal for the orphans, this congregation was able to help with a \$375 contribution.

This congregation has helped so many of those in our community, in our nation, and throughout the world in their time of need. A very large thank you to you all who have contributed.

Save The Date

Mission Day 2007 is scheduled for Saturday, October 13. We will be doing small chores (cleaning, painting, yard work, etc.) for our Connecticut neighborhood community service agencies.

These agencies provide very important help to many people every day, 365 days a year. Let's do our part to help these agencies continue their worthwhile work. Look for the sign-up sheet during coffee hours. Please don't hesitate to contact Christine Fitzmaurice at (203) 272-1472 with any questions.

A Columbus House Prayer

Gracious God, Thank you for the opportunity you have given us to provide, prepare and serve a wholesome meal to close to one hundred brothers and sisters at Columbus House in New Haven. You have blessed us all abundantly and we feel privileged to share with others in your

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Name. Be with each of them and with each of us as we continue our walk with you. In Jesus Name, Amen

Many thanks to all the cooks and servers: Ken and Pam Euerle, Jan and Paige Cowles, Karen Gravino, Ed and Chris Albrecht, Lisa Brodbar, Sharon Graver, Jen France, Donna Mead, Becky Cavazuti, Bev Euerle, Charlene Black, Nancy Brunetti, Shirley Albanese, Lisa Canas, Martha Lape, Marianne Beckmann, Suzanne Lawson, Beth Ross, Emilee Ziolkowski, Gretchen Bates, Beth Eichelman, Ruth MacDonald, Regan Huntley, Marty Gordon, Nora Adams, G. Hurlbert, Betsy Mulé, and Joe Garthwait. The servers all enjoyed wonderful food and fellowship afterwards at the Albrecht's! Our next meal is on Halloween, and we are planning to go in costume; call me if you'd like to take part.

Blessings, Jan Garthwait

Gifts of Love: Covenant to Care

Many thanks to Sue and Dick Mattson, Paul and Betsy Adams, Laurie Harte, the DePaulo family, Kathryn Frund and Steve Whinfield, and Terri and John Addesso, the Hurlburt family, and Ruth Gleeton for a bounty of donated items.

Several families are being served by receiving: a double stroller, two complete twin bedding sets with quilts and pillows, lamps, blender, toaster, assorted pots and pans, curtains, shades, rods, coffee pot, mugs and assorted glassware, car seats, children's clothing, a double bed with box spring, mattress, pillows, bedding,

placemats, microwave, a complete crib set, and a drop leaf maple kitchen table. Your gestures of kindness mean much to these folks who have so little. We are still looking for a small television and a stroller.

Blessings, Jan Cowles

Save These Musical Dates

The annual candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols will be held on Sunday, December 16, at 4 p. m.

Memorial Music Sunday will be March 2, 2008, at 10 a.m. (one service that day).



Fall Church Clean-Up Day

The Board of Trustees invites everyone to join our church family to help clean up our church grounds. The date is Saturday, November 17 (The rain or snow date is the following Saturday, November 24). Time is 9 a.m. to noon. All groups and all ages are invited to participate. Bring rakes, blowers and tarps and other tools for leaf removal.

A Class on ‘Acts’

“In one sense,” said 20th century theologian William Barclay, “Acts is the most important book in the New Testament. It is the simple truth that if we did not possess Acts, we would have, apart from what we could deduce from the letters of Paul, no information whatever about the early church.”

The Rev. Dave Buchan conducts a class on the New Testament book “Acts of the Apostles” in the church parlor 7:15-8:15 Thursday evenings. Charles C. Williamson’s commentary “Acts” will be our study guide (cost \$10.36). Contact the church office or sign up on the welcome table in the hall.

‘Wisdom For The Journey’ Series Continues

During October, the Rev. Dave Buchan will continue his sermon series “Wisdom for the Journey – Biblical Insights into Daily Living.” The preaching schedule for the month is:

Oct. 7 -- World Wide Communion.
Peggy Allen preaching.

Oct. 14 – Wisdom for the Journey (3):
Learning to Give (Mark 12:41-44).

Oct. 21 – Talent Sunday. Allison
McCaffrey preaching.

Oct. 28 – Wisdom for the Journey (4):
Building a Home (Psalm 90:1; 127:1a, Luke
2:25-35).

What’s a ‘Biblical Giver’?

“Ask, Thank, Tell” by Charles R. Lane is the book that the Executive Board and the Board of Stewardship have been reading about issues of generosity in the life of a church. According to Lane, a biblical giver is:

Intentional – with a plan for giving and following through. “If you find yourself looking in your wallet or pursue as you get out of the car on Sunday morning, to discover what may be available for the morning offering, then you probably have some work to do on being intentional.”

Regular – with an established pattern in giving. “In our day, to be regular in giving means that whenever you receive income, and however you receive income, you give according to your predetermined plan.”

Generous – “Because God has blessed us so generously, we can, and must, give generously to others.”

First – “Giving first means giving to God first, and living off the rest.”

Proportional – “The Bible always calls us to percentage giving.”

Cheerful – “The key to being a cheerful giver is to practice other stewardship values. If the first five stewardship values characterize your giving, you will be cheerful in your giving.”

Military Bulletin Board

The church would like to create a bulletin board with pictures of those serving in the military. If you have someone listed in the 'Serving in the Military' section of the Prayer page, please bring or send a picture to the church office.

October Lectionary

Sunday, October 7: Lamentations 1: 1-6, 3: 19-26; Psalm 137; Habakkuk 1: 1-4, 2: 1-4; Psalm 37: 1-9; 2 Timothy 1: 1-14; Luke 17: 5-10.

Sunday, October 14: Jeremiah 29: 1, 4-7; Psalm 66: 1-12; Kings 5: 1-3, 7-15; Psalm 111; 2 Timothy 2: 8-15; Luke 17: 11-19.

Sunday, October 21: Jeremiah 31: 27-34; Psalm 119: 97-104; Genesis 32: 22-31; Psalm 121; 2 Timothy 3: 14 - 4: 5; Luke 18: 1-8.

Sunday, October 28: Job 42: 1-6, 10-17; Psalm 34: 1-8, 19-22; Jeremiah 31: 7-9; Psalm 126; Hebrews 7: 23-28.

Caring Crafts Ministry

The Caring Crafts Ministry will meet on Monday, October 22 at 7 p.m. at Donna Mead's home. This is a change from our normal last Monday of the month meeting. All are invited to come - to knit, to learn to knit, to share an evening of quiet enjoyment. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Donna at 203-248-9576.

Capital Giving: Generosity And Opportunity

Through the generosity of two families in the church, we have received the funds to repave Church Drive and the rear driveway. The two anonymous gifts total \$49,050, for which the entire church is grateful. (Church Drive is private, but the town of Cheshire has agreed to absorb most of the cost of repaving it.)

The chapel roof renovation and repainting where water damage has occurred will be addressed, thanks to the Minerva Davis fund, an endowment to maintain the chapel. The cost for these repairs is \$2,875.

In addition to these, other capital giving opportunities are available, especially for the Parsonage. Its basement has experienced flooding, and the fire department has pumped out the water; the furnace requires maintenance after each flood. A sump pump and waterproofing of the basement would solve this problem, and would cost about \$6,200.

The fireplaces in the Parsonage need repointing, the front and side porches need rebuilding, the upstairs bathroom needs renovation, and the floors need refinishing. Much of the work is being done by a wonderful tradesman from the congregation, but he requires materials to work with that cost about \$21,000.

The Parish Hall needs a new roof (\$13,100), as does the connector (\$30,000). Waterproofing the basement of the

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connector will protect the lower level from the flooding we experienced last spring, and should cost about \$7,000.

The Whiting House bathroom, front porch, and garage are in serious need of attention, at a cost of \$13,000.

Please consider a donation to support the buildings and grounds of this church, which so reliably provide sanctuary and service all day, every day – not just on Sunday. If you are considering making a gift, please contact Rich Kruczek at 639-1328 or Rich_Kruczek@hotmail.com.



Homecoming Thanks

Last month's Homecoming / Open House at God's Place was a great time of fellowship, faith, and fun. Many hands and talents made this event possible; special thanks for generous contributions go to Everybody's supermarket, for their generous pricing and contribution of quality hot dogs and hamburgers; Guida's Dairy, for the donation of the ice cream, which kept us all cool; and to an anonymous donor who contributed \$5,000 as seed money for the event.

In this time of transition and new fall starts, this donor recognized the need to bring us together as a congregation, with all the festivities and hospitality to make this event a success. Examples of such quiet and generous contributions are an inspiration to us all to do more in this wonderful community of faith.

New Church Library Books

Daily Word for Teens, by Colleen Zuck. Discovering what's sacred in you.

How to Be a Perfect Stranger, Vol. I & II by Arthur J. Magida. A guide to etiquette in other people's religious ceremonies.

Imitation of Christ, by Thomas à Kempis. Inspiration, comfort & encouragement in the turmoil and discord of today.

Interpretation: Ephesians, Colossians, & Philemon, by Ralph P. Martin. A Bible commentary for teaching and preaching.



In This Mountain, by Jan Karon The seventh book in the Mitford Years series.

The Sunflower, by Simon Wiesenthal. On the possibilities and limits of forgiveness.



Food of the Month

Sunday, October 7, is this month's Food Collection Sunday. The food of the month for October is canned fruit (all types). Please bring your food donation to either service.

Neighbors in Need

The 2007 Neighbors in Need offering will be collected on October 7.

Neighbors in Need is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ focusing on the mainland United States and Puerto Rico.

One-third of the money collected supports American Indians. The rest of the collection supports justice and advocacy programs nationwide, such as children's health care, ending the war in Iraq, changing the names and logos of sports teams with Native American themes, and changing the No Child Left Behind Act.

Transitions

in the life of our church family

Baptisms:

Reagan Golden Fitzgerald, daughter of Theodore and Leigh Fitzgerald, September 16, 2007 by the Rev. Alison McCaffrey.

Sydney Ann McFarland, and her sister, Abigail Carolyn McFarland, daughters of Peter and Jennifer McFarland, September 16, 2007 by the Rev. Barbara Barlok.

Deaths:

Jean Erk died August 28, 2007; a service was held September 1.

Ruth Norton died September 7, 2007.

Joshua Matzkin, the infant son of Andrew and Brenda Prentice Matzkin, died August 13, 2007.

Expressions of Thanks

The church would like to thank all friends and members who kept their pledges up to date during the summer. Your doing so made our financial life much easier to manage!

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I celebrated my 87th birthday on Homecoming Sunday. What a wonderful day I had. Beautiful service, wonderful picnic, and delicious food. The band played "Happy Birthday" and everybody sang. All the hugs and kisses! It all made me feel very special. To top it all off, Deacon Jackie Cole delivered a beautiful flower arrangement to me. Thank you for a perfect day. Blessings to all.

Ruthe Sperzel

I want to thank everyone for the cards and the beautiful bouquet of flowers that Robin brought for Fred's 88th birthday. What a nice surprise! Made our day.

Fred and Doris Mullaney

I have asked my daughter, Ginny, to write this so I don't wait another day to express my appreciation for the past weeks and months of flowers, visits, and cards, as I convalesce in the Rehab Center of Southington Care Center following a fall that broke my hip. Going back to my 100th birthday and Eastertime, I thank Sue Mancinelli and her husband, Ray, for bringing me a beautiful lily. Thank you, David Buchan, for your enjoyable visits; Robin and Jack Sellati, for the cheerful bouquet in the hospital; and to all for the many encouraging cards and notes.

Dorothy F. Shultz

Frequently Asked Questionsand Answers!

Do I have to be a member of the church to be on a board?

How often does the committee meet?

What is the main objective of the board or committee?

The list of questions goes on and on. Have you been waiting to be asked to be on a board or committee, but didn't know who to talk with? Please consider yourself asked!

On Sunday, October 21, all boards and committees will be assembled by tables in the Parish Hall. You can talk with people who are actually on each board or committee, and get the information you need first-hand.

If you have any questions beforehand, please feel free to contact anyone on the Nominating Committee.

Betsy Adams, 271-1872