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Sacred Questions That Seek Answers

By Jeff Braun, Senior Minister

On September 12, we will celebrate Homecoming with a single 10 a.m. service, followed by our annual church-family photograph and picnic (complete with food, music, and games). All are welcome: members, friends, and neighbors alike!

Each aspect of this tradition both embodies and deepens who we are as a congregation. It bridges us from summer's refreshment to fall's promise. It prompts us to recollect our blessings. It calls us to remember with reverence – perhaps most of all, during the photo session – those who have passed on or moved away since last year's Homecoming. It invites us to engage one another with thankful, joyful hearts.

Through the Senior Choir's musical offerings and through a special song from our Vacation Bible School singers, through the preaching and the prayers, through all the lay leaders and staff who serve in worship and throughout the week, and through the fellowship that follows Homecoming worship... may we find Christ among us. May we see his smile, feel his laughter.

And may we hear, as well, sacred questions, age-old yet ever new. Questions that Christ asks of all of us, both individually and as a body. Questions that are all the fresher, all the more poignant, all the more promise-filled as they begin to ring in our hearts and minds at this threshold moment. Questions that whisper and echo:

“What do you choose?”

“Will you follow me?”

During September, as we celebrate Homecoming, begin church school and youth programs, highlight myriad ways to enact our faith, and celebrate our mutual call to ministry through my installation service (on Sunday, September 26 at 4 p.m.), may we increasingly incline our ears and tune our hearts to Christ's echoing question. In every aspect of our church life, let us seek to live into Christ's call to discipleship, knowing that we will be accompanied and comforted, but not always comfortable. Let us remember that to refresh Christ's church (as he calls us

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to), we must think as much (if not more) about those who are not yet in our midst so that we might grow and all might be welcome. In the words of our Vacation Bible School singers, “The Journey Begins” on Sunday, September 26! Join us!

God’s Peace,

Jeff

◆
Homecoming 2010

Homecoming Sunday is fast approaching: September 12. We are inviting all of our church family, extended family, friends, neighbors, and everyone to join us for the celebration of another beginning of the fall for our church.

Join us for one worship service at 10 a.m., then a church photo followed by music, great food, games for the kids, and wonderful fellowship. And there’s no need to RSVP, as we are planning on your attending!

Oh, and did we mention that there will be a special musical offering that you do NOT want to miss?

This year’s Homecoming Sunday is being chaired by Senior Deacon Jim Parys, former Senior Deacon Mark Sullivan, and President Ford Cole. We may soon be tapping you on the shoulder to help out by helping to set up, maybe clean up, or perhaps bring a salad or bag of chips, etc.

To reserve your spot, all you have to do is show up and enjoy.

Ford Cole, President

September Worship Schedule

Sunday, September 5: Labor Day weekend; one service at 10:00 a.m. Alison McCaffrey preaching. Communion will be served. Food offerings will be received; the food of the month is corned beef.

Sunday, September 12: Homecoming Sunday; one service at 10:00 a.m. Jeff Braun preaching.

Sunday, September 19: We return to the regular schedule of services at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Jeff Braun preaching.

Sunday, September 26: Services at 9 and 11 a.m. Jeff Braun preaching.

☞ **Sunday, September 26:** Service of Jeff Braun’s installation as senior minister. 4:00 p.m.

Parish Life Expo

With the start of fall before us, we offer the Parish Life Expo to showcase programs, groups, and events you can take part in and join.

The Expo takes place in the Parish Hall after the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. worship services on Sunday, September 19, and Sunday, September 26.

Leaders and members of small groups, activities, and events will be on hand to share information and ways you can join in and get to know others in our church. We hope you will join us.

Alison McCaffrey

Reflection on Oberammergau

For two years, the trip to the Oberammergau Passion Play has been “out there,” a someday event. Now, it is a “been there” event. In other ways, the trip is timeless, and its power continues to unfold.

Fourteen of us began our journey in our church parking lot, gathered with well-wishers for the sharing of Communion, led by Deacon Anne Giddings. Our flights were smooth; we arrived in Milan the next morning and met the rest of our tour group, another church group of 32 from Maryland, and our tour guide, Heather, and bus driver, Igor. For nine days, we traveled through Italy, Switzerland, Austria, and Germany, before attending the play on our last day.

There is a breathtaking beauty to this part of the world. The Alps were omnipresent. We flew over them; we saw them daily to the left and right as we drove. We had our pictures taken with St. Bernards as the Matterhorn served as backdrop. July’s melting snow cascaded down the Alps in waterfalls into metallic turquoise-ish rivers and lakes. Narrow streets, ancient churches, cobblestones, and flowers surrounded us everywhere.

Our last two days were spent in the little town of Oberammergau, learning the history of the play and its 4000-seat auditorium, admiring the world famous wood carving craft, and visiting the shops.

The play itself is performed from May to October, five days a week. Over five hours long, it is offered in two segments,

with a dinner break in between. Performed in German, an English translation was provided in our textbooks, though we didn’t need it: we recognized characters by their actions, by the stories unfolding within The Story. The full emotions of Jesus’ journey filled the stage, the audience – the very air was charged with it. And when at the last the angels met Mary at the tomb and reminded her of what Jesus had earlier said, we too – all of us – were filled with the profound joy of the Resurrection that still unfolds before us.

Amid the beauty of the land and the profound experience of the play, there are sights and sounds I will always remember: Nancy Brunetti taking Dick and Ruth Eppler under her watchful care so they might easily navigate busy airports ... John Afman discovering how to make two halves of a coconut shell sound like a horse ... Jack Burton hitting the Swiss Chocolate jackpot (he is now set for life) ... Ruth Eppler fearlessly climbing in and out of the small tour boat that took us to our Island dinner ... Jane Bower and daughters Amy and Laura laughing – anywhere, anytime – and reveling in each other’s presence ... Dick Eppler always looking out for Ruth Joy Deegan resting in Stressa’s sun-drenched town square, trying figure out what time it “really is” ... Dave Brunetti preaching the word in the holiness of the beauty of Zermatt as our group gathered to worship on Sunday morning ... Sue Chatfield

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joyfully pointing out Edelweiss and the Glockenspiel in Munich ... Carolyn Garthwait's smile as she took in the joy of traveling to a place she never thought she'd be ... and Matt McCaffrey stopping to tend to an injured woman who had fallen in a Munich Street.

We have brought back the official Passion Play photo book and given it to our church library; it shows every scene. We thank you for your prayers, interest, and support of our journey.

Alison McCaffrey



Serving at Columbus House

On June 30, eight people from our church delivered and served a meal to 96 people at Columbus House, the homeless shelter in New Haven. Once again, the many cooks from our congregation generously provided all the meatloaves, potatoes, and pies needed to serve everyone all that they could eat – and have enough for their lunch the next day.

Many thanks to all: Pam and Ken Euerle, Marianne and Bill Eagleson, Chris and Ed Albrecht, Jan Cowles, Karen Gravino, Dorothy Easterbrooks, Karen Basset, Emma Norback, Jane Richards, Glenn Nowie, Millie Farrell, Carolyn Brown, Ken Anderson, Lisa Canas, Kirsten Sullivan, Lisa Skelly, Peggy Allen, Jess and Rob Dinklocker, Eleanor Gager, Nora Adams, Marilyn Gordon, Tina Sullivan, Nora Adams, and Beth Ross. Our next meal there is September 29.

Jan and Joe Garthwait

Former Associate To Be Honored

Yale Divinity School will honor the Rev. Lillian Daniel, one of our former associate ministers, at the Divinity School's Convocation and Reunion October 11 to 14. Lillian served here from 1993 to 1996, then was senior minister at the Church of the Redeemer in New Haven until 2004. She is now senior minister of the First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn, Ill. She has been widely published and hosts a Chicago-area television program.

Quoting from the Yale Alumni Journal: "Winnowed from a strong field of international candidates, four Yale Divinity School graduates are recipients of the school's 2010 Distinguished Alumni Awards. They span four decades of YDS education and will be honored at Convocation and Reunion. The honorees include the Rev. Dr. Lillian F. Daniel '93 MDiv for distinction in congregational ministry."

We send Lillian our best wishes and congratulations!

Any More 'Stuff'?

Do you have "stuff" stored somewhere in the church? The Board of Trustees is going to clean house in September. All boards, committees, and groups are asked to sort through their "stuff" and clearly mark anything that is to be saved.

Everything that is not claimed will be tossed in a dumpster. Final warning!

A New Season of Music Begins

This season's musical offerings will include Sunday morning worship, special events and services, as well as several guest artists, composers, and recitalists.

Wednesday nights are music rehearsal nights, so come and sing, beginning Wednesday, September 8: 6:00 - 6:30, Primary Choir; 6:00 - 7:15, Junior Choir; 7:30 - 9:30, Senior Choir.



Our music program offers three vocal choirs for children and adults of all ages. The choirs provide great musical experiences for all as well as opportunities to participate in the worship life of the church.

The Primary Choir has children in grades K-3. Rudimentary concepts of music are introduced, including pitch association and simple rhythms. Music is learned by rote.

The Junior Choir is for students in grades 4-12. The choir focuses on basic music notation and concepts of melody, tempo, and dynamics. They also gain familiarity with the church's hymnal and fundamental structures of Christian worship. The Junior Choir sings once a month during worship, as well as for other special services throughout the year.

The Senior Choir is for adults of all ages and students in High School. They perform a wide range of music that reflects the diverse musical background and tradition of our congregation. The choir leads the congregation in hymn

singing and provides special music to enhance the worship experience.



Guest Artist October 10

Guest artist soprano Susan von Reichenbach will offer music on Sunday, October 10, at both worship services. A New York-born soprano of German descent, Susan has enjoyed a career as a musician across the USA and internationally. She is both an opera and a concert singer, and has received enthusiastic acclaim for her voice, musicianship and interpretative abilities, by audiences and critics alike. Susan will offer music for both the 9 and 11 a.m. services.



Chamber Music Recital Oct. 17

Join the Guastavino Trio (Jane Shelly, flute; Tom Hudson, cello, and Sara Kohane, piano, with Tobe Malawista, soprano) on October 17 at 3 p.m. for an afternoon of chamber music by composers from Argentina, Czechoslovakia, and the United States. The program is titled "Love, Loss, and Whimsy." The trio was formed when the members were individually invited to play in a concert of Spanish music in the Spring of 2006.

Since its formation, the Guastavino Trio has been heard in many different venues throughout Connecticut: the Fairfield Theater, the First Presbyterian Church in

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New Canaan, St. Elizabeth Seton Church in Rocky Hill, Sacred Heart Church in Southbury, the Haganan Public Library in East Haven, and the Hamden Arts Commission. This recital will collect a free-will offering to benefit the music program. A reception will follow.



Memorial Music Sunday

Every year, the Memorial Music service honors the memories of those who have passed on. The Senior Choir sings an extended choral work that offers hope, comfort, and inspiration to the congregation. This year's music will be Franz Schubert's beautiful "Mass in G Major," for chorus, soloists, and string symphony. Memorial Music Sunday will happen on November 7, All Saints Sunday, at the single 10 a.m. service.

Wear Your Name Tag!

This is a reminder to all members and friends of the church to please wear your name tags on Sundays, both at church services and at the coffee hour.

Tags are located in the racks in the Parlor and in the front vestibule. If you are missing yours, please sign up for a new one; ask the church office.

It's much easier to share the joy of Christian fellowship if we call each other by name!

Adult Mission Trip

Plans are at the very beginning stage for an adult mission trip sometime in 2011. For the past two years, adults have traveled to the Gulf Coast to help rebuild after Hurricane Katrina. We recently received news of the closing of this past year's work site, Mission on the Bay (not because the work is finished, but due to dwindling funding support).

Given this, we have begun to explore other areas and other ongoing established projects where we might join in and help for a week. If you are interested in planning or going on our upcoming trip, please let Alison McCaffrey know. We would love your help and ideas!



CLC of the Month: Alexandria

Our large congregation is now gathered into smaller geographical districts, called Church Life Communities. These have been given biblical names such as Damascus and Gilead. There's also a "virtual" district called Alexandria, made of our college and advanced degree students, and all members who live out of state.

With the ever-changing nature of this CLC, and with a new school year starting, we want to make sure we have accurate 'Alexandria' addresses for all our members. Please be sure to send updated information to Donna Mead, our Parish Care Coordinator, or to Alison McCaffrey.

A New Christian Education Year Begins

Anyone who came to the church during Vacation Bible School week in early August heard the great music from the High Seas Expedition flowing from Parish Hall. We had teachers who are new to the First Congregational teaching staff and many students who are not every Sunday attendees; but when everyone came back each day, even the rising 7th graders, you know there was some good stuff going on.

Special thanks to Mya Cyr, who joined as the VBS Director very late in the game and kept the organization of three concurrent classrooms and 42 children with more than 13 staff rotating so that there were at least seven on every day. CE Board rep Beth Ross got the publicity going and the signup sheet for supplies organized; Jim Parys and Ken Ross helped hang signs. The kids and CE Board wish to thank the teachers: Darby Bronson, Lori Braun, and Susan Harris; our vocal coach: Kimberly Hester (who also was an assistant teacher), and assistants and aides: Martha Lape, Patrick Hackett, Karen Guerrera, Sherry Belanger Krovesky, Eric Ploch, Martha Triplett Stollo, Carol Cummings, and Linda Milton. Jimmy Parys was an all-round helper and photographer. We could not have done it without all the members of the congregation who brought in supplies to help keep the cost affordable. What a great way to start the fall Church School Year!

The VBS students have been invited to express their thanks to the church congregation for their sponsorship of the

program by performing “Vast Voyage” during the Homecoming Sunday service. So all were asked to don their VBS High Seas T-shirts and practice the song and hand motions with their CDs. The music for the VBS program (by Group publications) has some wonderful songs that we hope to introduce or reintroduce throughout the year.

Summer Church School: Special thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the Summer Church School program. This year, we studied different questions that children have about God: How do you know God is everywhere? What does heaven look like? How does God move in mysterious ways? Each week there was a different theme supported by a story and a craft or art project. This program continues through Homecoming Sunday September 12, and is available to all grades; but the focused content is for PS3-4 through 5th grade students.

Sunday School To Start: Recruitment has started for both teachers and students. If you have children who will be attending Church School, please either complete the mailed registration form or obtain a copy from the church web site. We are asking for registration forms by September 10. Please send questions and comments to CEDirCheshire@yahoo.com.

We need teachers at both hours for all grades. If teaching isn't your expertise but you love the energy that youth bring,

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please consider volunteering as a shepherd or assistant. We need two Safe Church-approved people in every classroom each week, so that translates into a lot of help to keep the church school humming.

Nursery Care: Lisa Skelly is recruiting for the Noah's Ark Nursery care program. Two volunteers per service each week are needed in the nursery; most volunteers do one or two Sundays a month. If interested, please send an email to CEDirCheshire@yahoo.com or contact Lisa. Volunteers must undergo the Safe Church background check and bring references, so please give us a heads up early so that we can kick off the paperwork.

Change is in the Air: Life is filled with a lot of changes, and after the CE Board survey early this year, it was apparent that we needed to make some changes to move into the 2010 era in our Sunday School. The first change is the introduction of Children's Time at both Sunday worship services. During this time the pastors will provide a story, discussion, or question specifically geared for the children. Many people in the church commented that a children's sermon or children's story was a favorite part of their early church experience; so we are bringing it back. At both hours, children will in grades Preschool 3-4 through grade 8 will be dismissed to church school after the Children's Time.

Also, we are responding to an overwhelming request to end the 9 a.m. church school at the same time the service

ends. So at both Sunday services, church school will end at the top of the hour, or when the church service ends.

CE Director Search: The CE Search Committee found out that trying to recruit a Christian Education Director over the summer months was difficult, not only in trying to find a time that the whole committee can meet, but also in attracting a pool of candidates. Our work continues into this month, and the advertising will be expanded. The position is part-time (without health benefits) at 25 hours a week. Information regarding the position description and the application process are on the church web site.

VBS Fundraiser: The CE Board is looking at a fundraiser pancake breakfast to be held on October 23. Mark your calendars to join us for an early morning breakfast on that date. Watch the church bulletin and Parish Post for more information.



New Members

The Membership Committee announces that there will be a New Member Orientation and Reception of New Members in November.

If you are interested in becoming a member of our church, we invite you to call the church office, 203-272-5323; or to speak with one of the ministers; or to contact the co-chairs of the Membership Committee, Bobbie Porter at 203-699-9988 or Marianne Eagleson at 202-271-2850.

Executive Board July Meeting

The Executive Board met on Tuesday, July 6. We continued to work on a number of initiatives, including the upgrading of the sound and video systems, possible changes to the bylaws, and studying how we fund the church.

Homecoming 2010 was discussed, and was determined to be a valued and enjoyable church event that should be continued. Homecoming will be held on September 12 with one worship service at 10 a.m., a church photo immediately following the service, and a time of food and fellowship thereafter. It was noted that there is presently no funding for Homecoming, but we decided to go forward on faith that the funds would appear. The Board will request that the Homecoming funds will be a line item in future budgets. An ad-hoc committee of Senior Deacon Jim Parys, Former Senior Deacon Mark Sullivan, and President Ford Cole will coordinate this year's Homecoming Sunday.

The Christian Education Director Search Committee is continuing their work to find a qualified candidate to fill that position.

Treasurer Walt Ryan requested that the pertinent boards advise him as to who will be their representatives to this year's budget committee.

Jeff then challenged the Executive Board to consider the vision for the church. This church is perched on a threshold... a doorway, if you will. We can get stuck on that threshold, we can

respond to the call and step forward, or we can step back from that threshold and say "No".

What does this mean? To move forward we must ask what we are most committed to as a church. Are we committed to follow Christ, wherever he might lead us? Are we committed to the thought of "That's what we've always done"? What will help us to move forward? Everything we are doing is NOT going to change, but how can we refresh and renew? It was a very lively and thought-provoking discussion, which was continued in the August meeting.

The July meeting ended in prayer.

Ford Cole, President



7 @ 7 Fellowship Dinners

Sign-ups will begin soon for these wonderful Fellowship Dinners in the months of October, January, and March. Church members and friends gather in members homes small groups of "7 ish" in each of the 11 Church Life Communities for an evening of good food and warm conversation, beginning around 7 p.m. It is a great opportunity to get to know others who live in your area and to grow our church community spirit.

You may sign-up to attend a dinner in your CLC on October 16, and a host will be in touch to share plans of the evening.

For more information, please speak with Alison McCaffrey.

How We Continue to Reach Out

The Board of Outreach has good news to report: The congregation's response to the baby bottle coin bank project surpassed our expectations and last year's total, with \$750 collected. We use this money to sponsor a child in Malawi and donate the remainder to Chrysalis, a shelter for abused women and their children. There is a picture on the Outreach bulletin board of Lillian, the African child we sponsor.



Looking ahead, the Board is planning another collection of used shoes in good condition – so don't throw away any usable shoes.

In Midnight Run, we have continued taking meals and clothing to the hungry and homeless in New Haven through the summer months, with t-shirts and baseball caps in high demand, along with the ongoing enthusiasm for new men's socks and underwear. With the winter approaching, we will be taking men's warm outer clothing along with pants, shirts and sweaters. Last winter we found that mittens and gloves were in short supply, so if you have mittens or gloves you don't need, please put them in the bright yellow bin in the Parlor.

As always, we need trial-sized toiletries and backpacks. Our members who make the Run to New Haven bring back the news that 'everything goes'. Please remember to sign up to donate the

ingredients for the 55 bagged suppers we prepare for the Run each month. Many thanks to our middle schoolers for their faithful preparation of these meals.

Finally, if you are interested in helping to deliver the meals and clothing to New Haven on the last Monday of the month, please sign up on the Outreach bulletin board in the Parlor. You would accompany our experienced Runners, and it happens a lot earlier than midnight! (See the Midnight Run article elsewhere in this issue.)

Lessons and Carols

This year's candlelight service of Lessons and Carols, at 4 p.m. on Sunday, December 19, will match scripture and poetry, to be read by Scripture By Heart, with music to tell the story of Christ's birth through song and word.

The featured music for the service will be the premiere of "Alpha and Omega," three familiar Christmas carols arranged for brass quintet, percussion, and chorus, by renowned American composer Gwyneth Walker. Traditional carols, anthems, and hymns also will be sung by our Senior Choir and congregation.

Please join us in the beauty of a winter afternoon for this festive candlelight service. Gwyneth will be present for the service, and the reception following will be given in her honor.

News of the Yutes

It's that time of the year again! Any and all young people in grades 7 to 12 are encouraged to join us for our kickoff picnic on September 19 from 3:30 to 7 p.m.

Whether you come to Yutes often or have never been and want to see what it's all about, we hope to see you there. Please visit www.yutes.org for more information regarding the picnic, directions, and what to bring.

Midnight Run: If you're entering 7th or 8th grade this fall, we need your help with Midnight Run. No, it's not at midnight, and there isn't any running involved. So what is it?

Midnight Run is a group of 7th and 8th graders that gather on the last Monday of each month from 6 to 8 p.m. We spend some time at the beginning of the meeting making bag meals for the homeless and hungry in New Haven.

Members of our church's Board of Outreach pick up those meals and deliver them that evening! After we make the meals we share in dinner (pizza, usually) and then in some fellowship (if you don't know what GaGa is, you have to come check it out).

What do you need to bring? Yourself, and \$5 to help cover the cost of dinner. You can bring a friend, too!

The next Midnight Run meeting will be Monday, September 27.



Milestones

in the life of our church family

Births:

Miranda Crossing Ziolkowski, daughter of Emilee and Rob Ziolkowski, July 8.

Nathan Thomas O'Shaughnessy, son of Norman and Kathleen O' Shaughnessy, July 3.

Baptisms:

Caleb Booth, child of Sarah Payne and Michael Booth, July 18.

Devon Sampietro, child of Megan and Jordan Sampietro, July 18.

Wyatt Kurtz, child of Meredith and Justin Kurtz, July 18.

Weddings:

Carlee Moldenhauer and Eric Brandom, on July 3.

Paige Symington and Jay Callahan, on July 17.

Nicole Griffin and Kory Kevorkian, on July 30.

Deaths:

Douglas Prince, stepson of Helen Prince, on July 4.

Donna Tenney, on July 10.

Thomas Papallo, father of Carolyn Brown, on July 12.

George Jones, father of Charles Jones, on July 13.

Jenny Gardiner, wife of 2004 Australian exchange minister Graeme Gardiner, on July 31.

Eleanor Brown, sister of James Brown, on August 4.

We Say Thanks

Healing from a serious surgery is not just manifested in the physical, but also in the mental and spiritual. I have been blessed with hundreds of those who care enough to send cards, pray for me, make dinners for me and my family, call, and of course visit with me. But a unique and powerful source during my healing has been and continues to be my prayer pager. From Day One, I loved to hear the pager go off and each time gave thanks to God for such prayer. Each day I was lifted up when I heard the pager and realized at the end of the day how many prayers were said for me. The power of prayer is real and I know all of the prayers I have received are gifts of healing and I am grateful to you all. Physically I have a long way to go until I have healed from major back surgery, but because of all my caregivers and because of the prayer pager, my spiritual and mental healing is strong.

Angela Rankin

I want to thank you all for the card signed by so many and the beautiful flowers that Anne Giddings so kindly delivered to my home. They were greatly appreciated as are your continued prayers.

Grace Knipe

There is no way to thank you all enough for the caring you've shown to me and my family during my recent surgery and father's passing. It's been a difficult time but you have eased it with your cards, words, prayers, flowers, hugs, and meals. A special thanks to those who cooked and delivered meals: the Albrecht, Euerle,

Mancinelli, Gravino, Giddings, Cowles, Ross, and Fitzmaurice families – you nourished us body and soul. I'm so blessed to be a part of this church, which demonstrates Christ's love in such a powerful way.

Carolyn Brown

Thank you for your thoughtfulness in dropping off the flower arrangement and all the cards of sympathy during this time of loss of my brother Mark. It is a difficult time for our family. Your kind thoughts are greatly appreciated.

Susan and Greg Smith and Family

I thank my church friends for their cards and expressions of concern on the recent death of my sister. Also, thanks to Deacons Joellyn and Connor Jason for the thoughtful visit, flowers, and prayer shawl.

Susan Mancinelli

A beautiful arrangement of flowers was delivered to me by Dr. and Mrs. Giddings. My daughter and I enjoyed their visit. Thank you so much for the lovely bouquet and your thoughtfulness.

Mary Louise Sylvester

Thank you for the lovely flower arrangement that the Mulholland family brought to the house. Stephen and Thomas did a wonderful job in arranging the flowers in the vase. Both Michele and I want you all to know that your sincere concern is helping us through this difficult time.

Charles and Michele Jones

Lectionary for September

Sunday, September 5: Jeremiah 18: 1-11; Psalm 1; Psalm 139: 1-18; Deuteronomy 30: 15-20 Philemon 1-21; Luke 14: 25-33.

Sunday, September 12: Jeremiah 4: 11-28; Psalm 14; Psalm 51: 1-10; Exodus 32: 7-14; 1 Timothy 1: 12-17.

Sunday, September 19: Jeremiah 8: 19 – 9: 1; Psalm 79: 1-9; Psalm 113; Amos 8: 4-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16: 1-13.

Sunday, September 26: Jeremiah 32: 1-15; Psalm 91: 1-16; Psalm 146; Amos 6: 1-7; 1 Timothy 6: 6-19; Luke 16: 19-31.

Got a Scanner?

The History Committee is looking for a 35mm slide and negative scanner to preserve the huge collection of slides and negatives in our archives. If you have one you are no longer using, please consider donating it (or long-term lending it) to the History Committee.



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!

Looking for Acolytes

Beginning with Homecoming Sunday on Sept 12, our Acolytes will kick-off a new year of service. Acolytes carry the flame of Christ's light into our worship services, symbolizing God's presence among us. At the end of each service, they carry the flame out again, to symbolize our call to bring the light of Christ into the world through our actions.

This ministry opportunity is open to youth in grades 5 through 12. All who have previously served as Acolytes are welcomed back, and new invitations will be offered to those not yet part of this growing ministry.

An orientation session for all Acolytes will be held in early September. Any questions? Please see Alison McCaffrey.



Like to Paint or Garden?

The Trustees have many church painting projects that need to be completed.

Also, 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.

If you would like to help with either of these, please call the church office at 203-272-5323, or email the church at office@cheshirecongregational.org.

Help Us Preserve Our 286-year History

The First Congregational Church is Cheshire's oldest institution. Preserving our church's history is a monumental task. We are at a crossroads, so to speak: Many of our records are becoming fragile and need to be preserved. Many of you are beginning to digitize your old photos to preserve them, and we need to do the same. We also have annual reports and architectural drawings from more than 100 years ago that need preservation.

All of this is now housed in a cramped closet next to the boiler room downstairs. If anything ever happened, like a flood or fire, our history would be gone. So we need your help. We need your memories.

We are creating a Memory Book to raise funds to help us with some of these preservation and digitization costs. It will be a full color 8 x 10 coffee table type book full of photos and memories of our church community. The book is about our church and our church family. How has the First Congregational Church of Cheshire touched your life? What memories do you have of the church itself? the sanctuary? the chapel?

The only requirement for submission is that the memory be directly related to our church. We hope to have a small, sample book available soon for you to see.

There are a few other things: As much as we would love to accept submissions about your wedding, baptism, memorial service etc., we can't take all those. What is not selected by the committee for inclusion will be put on a CD/DVD that

will also be included with the book. This CD/DVD will be formatted as book pages, so anyone wishing to upload to blurb.com can print and bind their own version of the book with their submission included.

We are also accepting any kind of medium for the DVD. So if you have video footage or audio footage, send it along. We don't have a way, at this time, to convert your home movies to digital format, but if video is already in digital format, send it along. (If anyone has a way to convert 8-millimeter film, VHS tape, and so forth to digital and would like to volunteer, we'd be mighty appreciative!)

If your four year old has drawn a picture of their Sunday School class, send it in! This is about our whole church family, from its youngest members to its oldest.

There are a few ways to submit your memories;

1) You can go to <http://bit.ly/9hrKBl> and fill out our Submission form, but this is for written memories only.

2) You may also email your submissions to fccmemorybook@gmail.com.

3) We hope to have a form on the church web site.

If you have any questions feel free to ask any of us when you see us at coffee hour or email us. We look forward to hearing from you!

The History Committee