

the edge

The First Church in Windsor
United Church of Christ—Gathered 1630
An open and affirming community
for all God's people

Our mission is to worship God, love our neighbor,
and follow Jesus as together we journey in faith.



MARCH 2010



From the Minister –

I would like to take this opportunity to invite everyone to join us for a special Lenten workshop led by Dr. David Roozen on Tuesday evening, March 23. Dr. Roozen serves as Director of the Cooperative Congregational Studies Department as well Professor of Religion and Society at Hartford Seminary. Under his direction the Cooperative Congregational Studies Department recently completed an extensive survey of over 2,500 randomly selected congregations throughout the United States. David will share both the bad news and the good news of what his research has uncovered, as well as any possible implications the results might hold for congregations like ours in the future.

The title of David's presentation will be, "**Being a Pocket of Vitality within Old line Protestantism's Continuing Stream of Decline.**" The format for the evening will look like this:

6:00 – 6:30 p.m. Simple Lenten Meal (bread and soup)

6:30 – 7:15 p.m. "Four Mega-Trends Changing America's Religious Landscape"
(and working against Old line Protestantism).

7:15- 7:30 p.m. Coffee Break

7:30 – 8:15 p.m. "Pockets of Vitality" (Their Distinguishing Characteristics—Can They Be Us?)

Child care will be available and I encourage everyone who can possibly make it to try and attend.

Equally important our annual **One Great Hour of Sharing All Church Missionary Offering** will be given and received on Sunday, March 14. The theme of this year's offering is "Feed my Sheep" (John 21:15-17). OGHS supports international programs of health, education, agricultural development, refugee assistance and disaster relief. No doubt much of this year's relief effort will be directed toward Haiti, so please plan to give generously.

Lastly, Easter will be celebrated on April 4. We will have two identical worship services that morning at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Please be sure to join us as we celebrate the good news of the resurrection and the never-ending promise of new life.

I look forward to seeing you in the busy and exciting days that lie ahead.

Grace & Peace, RHH

March Worship

Sundays:

8:00 a.m. Communion in the Round;

10:00 a.m. Family Worship

March 7 (Third Sunday in Lent)

Holy Communion

Rick Huleatt

March 14 (Fourth Sunday in Lent)

OGHS

Char Corbett

March 21 (Fifth Sunday in Lent)

Rick Huleatt

March 28 (Palm Sunday)

Rick Huleatt

March Lectionary Lessons

MARCH 7 (Third Sunday in Lent)

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalms 63:1-8

I Corinthians 10:1-3

Luke 13:1-9

MARCH 14 (Fourth Sunday in Lent)

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalms 32

I Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

MARCH 21 (Fifth Sunday in Lent)

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalms 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

MARCH 28 (Palm Sunday)

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 118:2, 19-29

Philippians 2:5-11

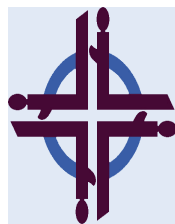
Luke 19:28-40

Easter Flowers

We are now accepting orders for the spring plants which will decorate our meetinghouse on Easter, April 4th. Following the Sunday service, the plants will be distributed by the flower committee to members of our church family who are confined to their homes or to a continuing care facility. The cost is \$10.00 per plant. Checks should be made out to: First Church in Windsor and **mailed to the church office**. There will also be a tear off in the church bulletins in March. The order **deadline** is March 28. Please be sure to include the names of loved ones being remembered.

World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer 2010 will be held this year at Christ the King Lutheran Church, Windsor on **Friday, March 5th at 11am**. The Theme of this year's service is "The Republic of Cameroon, South Africa", a country located above the equator at the extreme end of the Gulf of Guinea, open to the



Atlantic Ocean with a coastline of 402 kilometers. All First Church women are encouraged to attend.

Knitting Ministry Lenten Retreat

Come join us for knitting, fellowship and food on Saturday, March 27 from 10 AM until 12 noon in the Morrell Room. This retreat will replace the regular Sunday evening meeting on March 14. For questions or additional information call, Susan Huleatt (683-1089) or Sue Williams (688-1038.) All are welcome.

HOLY WEEK EVENTS



Sunday, March 28: Palm Sunday

Following the 10 a.m. service, **Hosanna Fair** will be held in Nelson Hall, with children

making traditional craft objects of Easter significance. No Chapel.

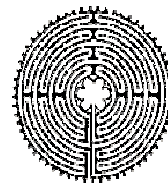
Thursday, April 1: 7:30 p.m.

Service of Tenebrae, with Holy Communion, marking the darkness that followed the Last Supper and Jesus' betrayal.



Good Friday: April 2 at noon

Musical Meditation in the meetinghouse.



11:00—4:00p.m. Come cherish some quiet time and sacred space.

Meditate on the journey of faith. Walk the labyrinth in Nelson Hall.

Saturday, April 3: 11:00 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt - School children up to grade 3 can participate in finding the Easter egg surprises.



11:30 a.m. Brunch

Afterwards, come and join us for a delicious brunch in Nelson Hall. \$3.00 for adults, \$2.00 for child or \$10.00 max per family.

Sunday, April 4: 9:00 a.m. & 11:00

a.m. Duplicate services of music and celebration. There is no 8:00 a.m. service this Sunday and no church school. Care for younger children is available in the Parish House.



CHURCH NEWS
**AROUND
the
CONGREGATION**

Dear Friends at First Church,
Thank you so much for the lovely flowers you sent me while I was recently in the hospital. Truly they are beautiful. Thanks so much for the Christmas flowers for both Norman & me. What a truly beautiful surprise and gift you send us with your good, good wishes and prayers. Thank all of you, so much.
Fondly, Barbara Reardon

Dear First Church,
Once again I find myself writing to thank you First Church family for your continuing prayers, concern and love. The flowers I received brightened our home, the cards and phone calls lifted my spirits and the visits from Rick and Sue keep me involved. Thank you all, God bless you all.
Pam Sweeny

Dear First Church members,
What a surprise when the doorbell rang on Sunday with a simply beautiful bouquet of assorted flowers. It took us by surprise that you still had thoughts of us. It brightened my day and I'm still enjoying them. Thanks and thanks,
Sincerely, Bill and Fran Spencer

Dear First Church,
Please accept my sincerest thanks for caring for my father during his mishap at church. It is a comfort to know he is surrounded by so many caring people. Thank you all very much.
Holly Holt (daughter of Lyndon Waterhouse)

My dear friends at First Church,
You made me feel very loved during my recent hospital stay. Visits from Rick, beautiful flowers and such special cards. But most of all I felt carried by your prayers because once I was operated on I felt no pain then nor during my entire recuperation. Now I call that a miracle!
I love you all, Lynne Gillette

Dear First Church in Windsor,
I know that this thank you late in coming but everything has been so crazy lately. I want to thank every one at First Church for the Thanksgiving meal that we received. It was so nice not to have to spend the money and just enjoy all of the wonderful goodies.
With my deepest gratitude, Wendy Lewis

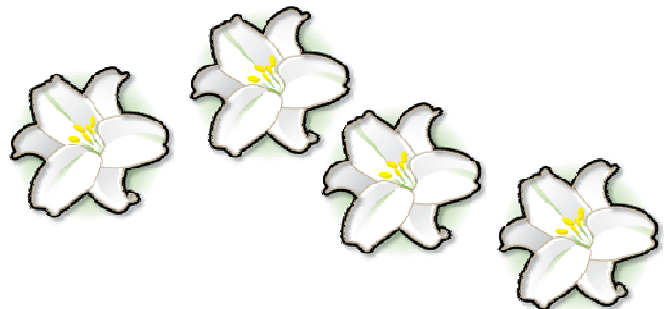
Deaths

Shirley Garfield Hanna, mother of Susan Huleatt, passed away on Wednesday, February 17 in Keene, New Hampshire. Services were held Monday, February 22.

Anna Wiedeler, wife of Richard, mother of Benedict, passed away on February 17. Services will be held on Saturday, February 27 at 11:00 a.m. at First Church. A reception will follow, hosted by the First Church Women's Club. Rev. Richard Hanna Huleatt will officiate.

Evelyn Parker, mother of Cassandra Derosiers, grandmother to Nate Derosiers, both members of the church, passed away on Friday, February 19. Services were held on Wednesday, February 24 with Rev. Richard Hanna Huleatt officiating. A reception followed, hosted by the First Church Women's Club.

Bob Walker, father of David, Alan and Douglas, passed away on Saturday, February 20. Services will be held on Monday, March 1 at 11:00 in the First Church meetinghouse. A reception will follow, hosted by the First Church Women's Club. Rev. Richard Hanna Huleatt will officiate.





Parish Caring Ministries

Avoiding Real Conversation?

Recently Jim Shea of the Hartford Courant wrote an article entitled "Avoiding Real Conversation is a Tech-Age Movement." He talked about how we are communicating more and conversing less. We are texting and tweeting, using our I-Pods, I-Pads and Blackberries. We e-mail and we twitter. But these days, who sits down face to face and has a prolonged, meaningful conversation? Well, the Parish Visitors do, that's who. We are trained in the art of real conversation. We have learned how to listen with the ear of our hearts. We have meetings where we concentrate on the skills that are necessary for good listening and we visit our homebound friends once a month, sit face to face and listen to the stories of their lives. We are trusted friends and are privileged to hear of their joys, concerns, fears and hopes. Do you have any interest in becoming a Parish Visitor? We meet every other month for training, sharing and fellowship. Please feel free to call Sue Williams or Dorothy Merz.

Two Grief Groups are forming in the area. Carmon's Funeral Home is offering grief support groups at New Day Counseling Center, whose offices are at 412 West Avon Rd in Avon. To learn more call, 860 269-0510. Also, Hebrew Health Hospice is offering an Adult Bereavement Group. To learn more or register, call 860-523-3888 or e-mail hfulmer@hebrewhealthcare.org.

I have just finished reading a novel entitled "*Still Alice*" about the decline of a dynamic 50-year-old woman with Early Onset Alzheimer's Disease. This is a beautifully written, award-winning New York Times bestseller by Lisa Genova who holds a PhD. in neuroscience from Harvard. She also writes for the National Alzheimer's Association. The author sensitively describes the fears, anger, frustration, confusion of Alice and all the members of her family as everyone experiences her decline. But she also offers helpful information. For example, there is an on-line forum for people with dementia – Dementia Advocacy and Support Network International (DASNI). I highly recommend this book.

Thank you March Volunteers

Flowers – Darlene Klase
Meals and Transportation – Betty Bidwell
Prayers – Sue Williams
Care Notes – JoAnne Yurso

First Church Women's Club

The Women's Club has been a very busy and helpful organization recently. We have made several donations that we hope will help to make a difference in people's lives. We made a significant gift to Pastor Rick's church office of a new desk and chair. He is extremely pleased with the addition and invites all to peek in to view it. Another donation went to The Windsor Fuel Bank and yet another to the Windsor Food Bank. We also donated a basket with two gift certificates for two restaurants for our church auction in March. Our latest donation was \$250.00 to purchase Baby Care Kits to help young mothers care for their newborns. (Church World Services)

And at our next meeting, to be held on Tuesday, **March 9, 2010** at noon in Nelson Hall, the speaker will be **Helen Davenport Senuta**, who will present a special program called "**Magic in Glass.**" We invite you to join us for a lovely gathering.

BYOS and \$2.00 to cover costs. Beverage and dessert will be provided. The hostess is Sally O' Brien: 860-688-0770

ELC Update

We had a very successful fundraiser with Selig Jewelers. A big thanks to all of you who brought in your unwanted or broken jewelry to help the center. On Wednesday, March 3rd we will have a Family Fun Night with a magician and hope to have a big turnout. The four year old children will also be taking a trip to Northwest Park to learn all about maple sugaring.

We are still enrolling for the school year 2010-2011. There are openings in our half day program and full day program. If you are interested or know of anyone who might be please contact Laurel or Ellen in the office at (860) 688-4597 or go to the church website fcwucc.org for more information.

Cluster 13 Mission Trip Update

Our grinder sale on February 7 raised over \$225 – thanks to all who purchased Super Bowl Sunday grinders and a special shout-out to the Milliken/Dube families whose leadership made the fundraiser a fun and successful event. Upcoming training dates and fundraisers have been set as follows:

- **Saturday, March 13:** 2010 Youth Mission Trip Retreat Day - Community Service/Team Building. Place/Time TBD. Trip teams will be determined at this gathering.
- **Sunday, April 11, 9AM (setup); 11:15-1PM, Nelson Hall:** Chili Challenge
- **Sunday, April 25, 1-5 PM,** Place TBD. Construction/Tool Safety Training

FIRST CHURCH YOUTH EVENTS CALENDAR FOR MARCH AND APRIL

Friday, March 5, First Friday – Middle School Pizza and Movie Night, 6PM, Nelson Hall.

Sunday, March 21, 2:00 – 3:30 PM, Free Swim for All at Loomis Chaffee Pool. Open to all Families. Hosted by the Boy Scouts, life guard on duty. Changing rooms available, BYO towel!

Sunday, March 28, 11:00 AM in Nelson Hall, Hosanna Fair, all ages!

Saturday, April 3, Easter Egg Hunt & Breakfast, 10AM-1PM, Nelson Hall, all ages! Youth leaders wanted for enhance our Easter fun!

Sunday, April 11, 9AM (setup), 11:00-12:30PM, 3rd Annual Chili Challenge: Make chili, bake muffins, staff tables and raise money for this summer's Youth Mission Trip!

Sunday, April 18, 2:00 – 3:30 PM, Free Swim for All at Loomis Chaffee Pool. Open to all Families. Hosted by the Boy Scouts, life guard on duty. Changing rooms available, BYO towel!

Silver Lake Registration has **BEGUN!**



Silver Lake's 2010 Summer Conference Calendar and camp registration is now available. Calendars can be picked up outside the church office. Registration is on-line at <http://silverlake.ctucc.org/>. Partial scholarships are offered by First Church and some scholarships are available through the CT Conference office. Want more info? Check out the video in the Computer Room, speak with a former camper or talk with Char Corbett, Minister of Youth and Outreach.

Be a Camp Counselor at Silver Lake! Youth and adults ages 16 and older are invited to apply as volunteer counselors for the conference (s) or week (s) you prefer. What a great way to meet new friends, celebrate the outdoors and share your gifts with others! Please see Char Corbett, Minister of Youth and Outreach for more information.

Scholarship Information for 2010

Frank Roswell Fuller Scholarship Available: If you are a confirmed member of First Church, a senior in high school, planning to attend a four year college and can demonstrate financial aid, you may be eligible for the Frank Roswell Fuller Scholarship. An application, eligibility requirements and the application process are on-line at our website, www.fcwucc.org under the "Scholarship" tab. Call the church office for more information. **Due date is May 1.**

College Scholarships Now Available Applications are Due May 1: First Church youth members graduating from high school and continuing their education are encouraged to apply for First Church school scholarships, which are available through the generous donations of current and former church members. Please visit "Scholarships" on the church website www.fcwucc.org for details and an application or contact the church office for more information.



**Come to Vacation Bible School 2010 where you'll meet some
Extreme Heroes: God's Rescue Squad!
9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon at First Church
Monday, August 9 – Friday, August 13
and Youth Celebration Sunday, August 15**



**New this year! Family VBS Potluck Picnic Wednesday,
August 11 at 5:00PM at Northwest Park!**

Children *entering grades Kindergarten through fourth grade* are invited to be part of this week of learning about God through the lives and stories of some pretty amazing HEROES/HEROINES found in the Bible, throughout history and in our very own lives! **Registration begins April 1** online at fcwucc.org. Cost is \$15/child – max \$35/family. *Youth in fifth grade and older* are invited to join us as heroic helpers. *Adults - Join the Amazing Volunteer VBS Team and reveal your super powers, too! Call Helga Finlay to volunteer at 860-688-7229, ext 12.*



**Back by Popular Demand
A summer trip to Overlook Farm
August 16 - August 20!**

In support of Our Church's Wider Mission and our commitment to Heifer International, we are returning for a third year to Overlook Farm for an experiential opportunity to explore the root causes and possible solutions of global hunger and the unique way in which Heifer International empowers communities to lift themselves out of poverty. Fourteen youth, ages 12 and older, will have the opportunity to live in tents (and other housing structures!), cook a simple meal, care for the farm animals and gardens and assist with other farm chores. It's fun, it's educational, and an amazing way to grow in awareness, appreciation and understanding of other global cultures. Information packets are available in Nelson Hall. Space is filling up! The cost is \$75 for the week. Scholarships are available. Contact Char Corbett for more details.



**Lenten Offering
Continues: Art as
Spiritual Practice**

Join Char for one or two Sunday evenings (March 7 and March 21) from 5:00 – 6:30 PM during Lent to explore the arts as a spiritual and transformational personal practice. This is an introductory hands-on opportunity for all skill levels of art and spiritual discipline. Youth and adults wishing to explore a spiritual practice during Lent are encouraged to participate. Modalities explored will include movement/labyrinth (March 7) and mandalas (March 21). Each gathering will include a short participatory worship as centering, an introduction to the art form being explored as spiritual practice, sharing and a brief closing. In addition, participants will be encouraged to journal and/or engage in spiritual practice at their own pace at home throughout Lent. Suggested readings and materials will also be available. Come learn, explore, have fun and engage the Spirit with others! Childcare can be arranged upon request.



Women's Retreat—Save the Date—April 24, 2010: Sara Jane Munshower will be leading this year's retreat, entitled "Praying With Color." The retreat will be at Wisdom House in the Litchfield Hills. Look for more information to come. If you are interested, sign up in the church office.

| BOARD/COMMITTEE | NAME | TERM | NEW CHAIR |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Assistant Treasurer</i> | Bob Stisser | 2011 | |
| <i>Treasurer</i> | Aubrey Loomis | 2011 | |
| <i>Financial Secretaries</i> | Jim and Joan Thornton | 2011 | |
| <i>Auditor</i> | Heidi Kelsey | 2011 | |
| <i>Cabinet Chair</i> | Noel Osowiecki | 2012 | |
| <i>Christian Education</i> | Laurel Slate, Chair | 2011 | Laurel Slate |
| | Judith Merrick | 2011 | |
| | Deb Goldberg | 2011 | |
| | Sue Warner-Prouty | 2012 | |
| | Hilary Carpenter | 2012 | |
| | Claudia Jones | 2012 | |
| <i>Christian Outreach</i> | Mark Fredette | 2011 | Mark Fredette |
| | Jan Stevens | 2011 | Jan Stevens |
| | Martha O'Donnell | 2011 | |
| | Randy Clark | 2012 | |
| | Ginny Drapeau | 2012 | |
| | George Merrick | 2012 | |
| <i>Deacons</i> | Lynda Fredette | 2011 | Lynda Fredette |
| | Patti Huntington | 2011 | Patti Huntington |
| | Mark O'Donnell | 2011 | |
| | Steve Hammerman | 2011 | |
| | Deb Berry | 2012 | |
| | Martha Pinckney | 2012 | |
| | Bang Williams | 2012 | |
| | Andrea Schnure | 2012 | |
| | Terry Eberle | 2013 | |
| | Mary Jane Dembkoski | 2013 | |
| | Doug Tynan | 2013 | |
| | Janet Focarelli | 2013 | |
| <i>Community Awareness</i> | Mike Novak | 2011 | |
| | Stephanie Stone | 2011 | |
| | Lisa Dube | 2011 | |
| <i>ELC Policy Board</i> | Denise Belanger | June 2010 | |
| | Heather Renaud | June 2010 | |
| | Cynthia Eisnor | June 2010 | |

| BOARD/COMMITTEE | NAME | TERM | NEW CHAIR |
|--|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Hospitality</i> | Kristen Eckhardt | 2011 | |
| | Lorraine Wells | 2011 | |
| | Kim Tynan | 2011 | |
| | Open | 2011 | |
| <i>Music</i> | John Pierson | 2011 | |
| | Mei Chen | 2011 | |
| | Midge Christopher | 2012 | Midge Christopher |
| | Carolyn Whyte | 2012 | |
| <i>Personnel</i> | Scott Burghoff | 2011 | Scott Burghoff |
| | Martha O'Donnell | 2012 | |
| | Rick Huleatt | In Perpetuity | |
| <i>Prudential</i> | Doug Kelly | 2011 | Doug Kelly |
| | Dave Dwelley | 2011 | |
| | Nancy Clark | 2011 | |
| | Scott Mitchell | 2012 | |
| | John Zepp | 2012 | |
| | Lynne Gillette | 2011 | |
| <i>Stewardship</i> | Dave Drapeau | 2011 | |
| | Barry Budlong | 2011 | Barry Budlong |
| | Hugh McLean | 2012 | |
| | Midge Christopher | 2012 | |
| | Jen Osowiecki | 2013 | |
| | Open | 2013 | |
| <i>Trustees</i> | Chris Wejchert | 2011 | Chris Wejchert |
| | Jamie Vernon | 2012 | |
| | Kathy Hardman | 2013 | |
| | Donn Jourdan | 2014 | |
| <i>New Things</i> | Tom Finlay | 2011 | |
| | TBD | 2011 | |
| | TBD | 2011 | |
| <i>Delegate to Christian Activities Council</i> | Recruit as needed (2) | 2011 | |
| <i>Delegates of the Ct Conference</i> | Recruit as needed (2) | 2011 | |
| <i>Delegates of the Hartford Association</i> | Fran & Don Daros | 2011 | |



Church School Update

Here we go; its time to start "March" ing towards spring. We can all take comfort in knowing that by the month's end the crocuses should make their

appearance, with hyacinths, snowdrops, tulips and daffodils not far behind. **March 12th is widely recognized as "Plant a flower Day."**

While we can't be assured that the weather will cooperate for any outdoor planting, let's try to make a fun Friday night at home with our children sowing a few window planters. Just in case you miss your chance, the children will have an opportunity on **Sunday March 14th** to get a little dirt under their fingernails.

I would like to give a special thank you to Sue Williams and Ruth Budlong for making those delicious cookies we were treated to on chapel Sunday; you are spoiling us!

There are a few important dates to keep in mind for the month of March and early April. The dates are as follows:

March 14th is One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). Please have the children along their OGHS collection boxes on that Sunday to be brought forward during children message.

March 20th is the First Church auction and we will be offering child care for those parents who are planning to attend the event.

March 28th is Palm Sunday. The children will meet in Parker room that morning before the 10:00 AM worship service begins. After the service we will be holding our annual Hosanna Fair in Nelson Hall with both traditional and new crafts. As always, everyone is welcome to attend and help us celebrate this special event.

April 3rd we will hold our annual Easter Egg Hunt and breakfast in Nelson Hall at 11:00 AM. Bring your baskets!

Helga Finlay

Church School Coordinator



Lofty Thoughts. . .

Dear First Church Family,

First of all, my heartiest thanks to the twenty-plus performers who entertained at last month's Coffee House Evening; to all who attended and

gave so generously; and to Gordon Kenneson who delivered the donated items to the Windsor Food Bank. In addition to the food, \$281.00 was raised for the Food Bank, and \$135.00 towards relief in Haiti. Once again, First Church has taken active steps that proclaim the Reign of God is in our midst!

As we journey through Lent this year, I am choosing to "take on" rather than "give up". To me, it just seems logical that positive thoughts can displace negative ones, prayer can displace excessive worry, and gratitude can displace grumbling. Of course it's one day at a time, and sometimes one moment at a time.

But God does not turn away from those who seek to draw closer to God; quite the opposite. And it's comforting to think that we are all companions on life's "long and winding road." May it lead us all to the door of God's house, our heart's true home.

Boy Scout Troop #203 Pasta Dinner, Saturday, March 13

Boy Scout Troop 203 will host their 5th annual pasta supper on Saturday, March 13 from 5-8pm in Nelson Hall. Enjoy delicious pasta, meatballs, salad, peppers and onions, garlic bread, beverages and desserts. The cost is \$8 per person, \$5 for children ages 5-12, Seniors \$5, maximum family cost is \$25. Little ones under 5 eat for free!

Help build character, confidence & leadership for the boys in our community by supporting our Scout program. Tickets are available at the door. For more information call Sue at 860-243-3975. The troop website is www.troop203ct.org

Good Things To Know About the Auction

- 1. When and Where it is?:** Saturday, March 20th, 5:30 at the Loomis Chaffee Dining Hall
- 2. What's being Auctioned?:** All kinds of interesting items whose values range from \$10 to \$2000 - handcrafted jewelry, knitted and crocheted items, get-away to the Cape, Vermont and Holland, a kayak, baskets of tools and books, home cooked food, gift certificates galore to area restaurants and hair salons, tickets to the Hartford Stage and Hartford Symphony, framed paintings and photographs, and the ever popular dinners at the host's home - just a few of the many choices you will have.
- 3. Who Should Come?:** Anyone can come so bring along some friends. You can request to sit together or make up a table of 8.
- 4. Why Should I Come?:** Because it's a wonderful time to renew old friendships, meet new friends and share a meal and good time with old friends. Plus you support the church programs by buying an auction item or two. This is the big fund raiser for the year so we need your support.
- 5. If I can't come to the auction can I still bid on something?:** Of course. Ask a friend who is going to bid for you. A list of items is in the church office.

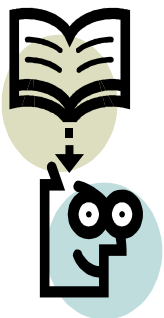
Items may be purchased with cash or checks.

One Great Hour of Sharing



The annual One Great Hour of Sharing All Church Missionary Offering will be given and received on Sunday, March 14. The theme of this year's offering is "Feed my Sheep" (John 21:15-17). Since the end of the Second World War OGHS has helped support international programs related to health, education, agricultural assistance, refugee resettlement and disaster relief. In 2008, the United Church of Christ received \$3,048,840 for the OGHS offering.

Special OGHS envelopes will be placed in the pews March 14 and 21. Checks should be made out to First Church in Windsor with OGHS on the notation line. For further information visit the UCC website at www.ucc.org/oghs or contact the church office at 860-688-7229.



The First Church Evening Book Group will discuss Michael Pollan's *The Botany of Desire* on Wednesday, Mar. 17, at 7:15 p.m. in the Morrell Room. It's a non-fiction selection in which the author argues that four common plants—apples, tulips, marijuana and potatoes-- have shaped human evolution to the same degree that humans have shaped development of the plants.

In April (4/21) the group returns to the work of author Sandra Dallas (*Tallgrass* was discussed last November) for *Persian Pickle Club*, a story of loyalty, friendship and murder among members of a women's quilting circle in Depression Era Kansas.

From September through May, save for December, the Evening Book Group gathers on third Wednesdays at 7:15 in the Morrell Room and invites those who are interested to join in. If you have a favorite book to recommend or would like further information, please call Jan Stevens at 683-0563.

First Church Helps out in the Community

Dear Pastor Rick and First Church community, Thank you for the support of my mission trip to Uganda. This could not have happened if it were not for your prayers and money. There is much corruption here but I was able to accomplish the goals I set for being here. I planted a small banana field and the orphanage now has an addition to house three milk giving goats. I'm happy to share pictures and stories if anyone is interested. Thank you so much again!
Daryl Beecher

Dear Rev. Huleatt,
Thank you for the First Church in Windsor's contribution to support the work of the Hartford Food System. Our urban agriculture project harvested over 7,000 pounds of fresh produce this year, we partnered with 40 corner stores and small grocers and helped improve the public school lunch menu.
Thank you again, Jerry Jones
Executive Director

Dear Rev. Huleatt,
We'd like to express our profound gratitude for your financial investment. Your gift to help the Conference of Church to achieve social justice for all people through faith-based leadership, education, advocacy and partnerships.
Grace and Peace, Rev. Shelley Copeland
President & CEO

Dear Friends,
Thank you so much for your recent gift to Back Bay Mission. Your continuing support is absolutely critical to our ability to make a substantive, life-transforming difference in the lives of many.
Peace, Rev. Shari Prestemon
Executive Director

Dear Members of First Church in Windsor,
Thank you for being among the compassionate who have heard the cries of our brothers and sisters in Haiti and have responded with a generous donation of \$1,447.
Grace & Peace, Rev. Dr. Davida Crabtree
Conference Minister

Dear Friends,
Thank you for your recent contribution of \$1,135 to the Immaculate Conception Shelter. We now serve about 150 men every night with shelter and other basic needs. The operation of both our shelters depends on the generosity of people who also believe housing is a human right.
Sincerely, Fred Lynn

Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree Announces her Retirement.

In a letter dated February 19, 2010, Davida announced her retirement effective May 15th of this year. **Save the date: May 2, 2010 from 3—6 p.m.** A celebration of Davida's ministry will be held at the Old State House in Hartford. More information will be forthcoming. To read her letter and response from the Chair of the CT UCC Board of Directors, go to the website at fcwucc.org.

Pledges for 2010 Exceed Goal!!!

We are pleased to announce that a total of \$356,176.81 has been pledged for 2010 exceeding the budgeted amount of \$350,000 by \$6,176.81. A total of 244 pledges were received for an average of \$1,459.94 per unit. The Stewardship Committee extends a hardy thank you to everyone for making the 2010 campaign a success.

Report of the First Church 380th Annual Meeting

Cabinet Chair, Noel Osowiecki, opened our Annual Meeting on February 14, 2010. The 2009 Annual report was accepted with the following changes:

- \$1,200 was designated from the Outreach discretionary budget to go to Andover Newton and Yale Seminary for use at their discretion.
- \$2,500 was voted to continue our seminarian program through 2010.

Positions for boards and committees were reviewed with positions still open in Stewardship (2), one of which was filled after the meeting. It was also voted that we would seek a full time Associate Minister with a three year time commitment. Funding for the position is in place for 2010; the majority preference was to fund the position in 2011 and 2012 with regular donations from our congregants.

First Church Staff and Contact Information

Senior Pastor
RICHARD HANNA HULEATT
Pastor Emeritus
F. VAN. GORDER PARKER
Music Director/Organist
MARK D. WATKINS
Associate Music Director
VICTOR M. EVANS
Coord. Parish Caring Ministries
SUSAN WILLIAMS
Church Administrator
MARY PHELAN
Director, Early Learning Center
ELLEN MONCHON
Andover–Newton Student
NANCY LOIS



Minister of Youth and Outreach
CHAR CORBETT
Church School Coordinator
HELGA FINLAY
Church School Assistant
GARY SAVA
Treasurer
AUBREY LOOMIS
Bookkeeper
JENNIFER BILODEAU
Sexton
MICHAEL HITE
Custodian
CHRIS LEVINE

Sunday Church Services:
8:00 AM—Communion in the Round
10:00 AM—Service with Choral program,
Weekly Church School

107 Palisado Ave., Windsor CT 06095
Office Hours: 8:30 -4:30 PM (M-F)
Phone: 860/688-7229
Fax: 860/688-9408
Email: first.church.windsor@snet.net
Web: www.fcwucc.org

Edge articles should be sent to the church office by email by the 15th of each month. Thank you!

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