

WEEK OF 11.1.09 AT FIRST CHURCH

Sun. 11.1.09	Guest, the Rev. Jane Stoddard 10 am – Worship and Sunday School 11:15 am – Sunday School Halloween Party
Mon. 11.2.09	7 pm – Bible Study in the Parlor
Tues. 11.3.09	Election Day 7 pm – GMO Working Group
Thurs. 11.5.09	7:30 pm – Adult Choir

WEEK OF 11.8.09 AT FIRST CHURCH

Sun. 11.8.09	10 am – Worship and Sunday School 11:00 am – Gallery Reception, Painters Five
Mon. 11.9.09	10 am – Newsletter Deadline 7 pm – Bible Study in the Parlor
Tues. 11.10.09	7 pm – Diaconate & Worship Working Group
Wed. 11.11.09	Veterans Day ~ Building Closed
Thurs. 11.12.09	5 – 9 pm – the Co-Op Hosts Holiday Shopping 7:30 pm – Adult Choir
Fri. 11.13.09	7 – 9 pm – Game Night
Sat. 11.14.09	4:30 – 11 pm – Rock the Sound, Youth Group

WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK !!!

The planning for our Christmas Eve services has begun and we need to know what service provides you the best opportunity to worship on this special night. We have traditionally had two services, one at 5:30 and one at 11:00. We need to know if these times work the best for all.

You will be asked to give us your feedback through a brief survey over the next two Sundays. If you will not be in church and would like to provide us your thoughts you can email me at mdunc58@aol.com or call me at home at (860) 828-0285. The questions being asked are....

- Do you attend a Christmas Eve service at First Church?
- Would you attend if the service was held at a different time?
- What time would you like to see the service held?

Please take the time to respond to this. It is important we hear from you.

Mike Duncan



DELEGATE NEEDED A delegate is needed to represent First Church at the next UCC conference in May. If you would like to volunteer for this, please see Rev. Cook or Judy Robertson. ~Judy Robertson, CGM&O Working Group

STEWARDSHIP

Thanks to Pledgers

THANK YOU, all who have pledged so far. Your response has been gratifying.

For those who have not pledged thus far, it is not too late. Please send your pledge cards in as soon as possible, and please consider increasing your pledge.

We will be reporting back to you soon.

Couldn't Have Done It Without YOU!

So many people have helped and continue to help with Stewardship this year. Please accept our gratitude.

Patsy Bjorling was the inspiration for this series. She came to First Church in the late spring, gave the sermon and led an insightful session on stewardship. She is in charge of Generosity Ministries at UCC Connecticut is a person who talks the talk and walks the walk. **Rev.**

Michael Penn-Strah from UCC deserves our thanks, too, for his sermon on "Nurture" Sunday.

Sarah Joyce-Grikis and Sarah Flythe and their Hospitality crew put together the membership appreciation brunch on our first Sunday.

Margo Hunt, Sharon Chamberlain, Marietta Guidone and Lynn Anderson gave pertinent children's sermons.

Michael Duncan and Amy Belliveau shared their wonderful outreach experiences with us.

Kathy Allen and her family made the daffodil project come to life.

Maria Simao and Lynn Anderson prepared the narrative budget.

Sharon Chamberlain and the Sunday School children decorated and distributed grocery bags for food collection and **Amy Belliveau** took the food to the New Britain Food Collaborative.

Jack Cook gave topical sermons and coordinated of different aspects of these Sundays.

Jim Gower chose special and beautiful music with lyrics that underscored the themes of stewardship, generosity and commitment.

Behind the scenes, **Kristine Clough-Lewko** put together the newsletters, bulletins, bookmarks and mailings with the Stewardship messages, **Bernie Prue** keeps the books in an efficient and professional manner, **Bill Furman** and **Ed Grikis** who made sure the facility was ready to receive us all.

THE OSGOOD FOOD PANTRY: We know it seems early, but we would like to get a head start on collecting food for Thanksgiving. We will be happy to receive non-perishable groceries such as stuffing mix, green beans, potatoes, corn, cranberry sauce, pumpkin, pie crust mix and anything else you can think of that might be great to have during the Thanksgiving holiday.



YOUTH GROUP DATES

- Saturday, November 14: 4:30 – 11 pm, "Rock the Sound" Concert, Springfield, MA. Concert tickets are \$29.00 per person general admission. We will be participating with Bethany Covenant of Berlin's Youth Group. Money needs to be handed in ASAP.
- Sunday, November 15: Pie Sale from 11 am – noon
- Sunday, December 6: Advent Workshop from 4 – 6 pm. Soup, sandwiches and Gingerbread Houses by the Youth Group
- Sunday, December 20: 5:30 – 8 pm; Christmas Gathering



IN OUR FIRST CHURCH FAMILY

For many of us, the war in Afghanistan is a far away thought. Unless we hear about it in the news, it seems as if it is a forgotten war. For me, the war lives every day in my heart. My son, Staff Sergeant Keith Zanetti, is serving his third tour in the Middle East. I deal with his presence there every day, not knowing if I'll ever see him again. I think, if you were to put your child in the context of war . . . you would know the heartache I feel every day. I ask that your continued thought and prayers be with all our young men and women in the Middle east. They are our heroes. ~Linda Chamberlain

Also, our thoughts and prayers go out to Marilyn Harris and her family on the death of her mother, Ruth Smith.



GAME NIGHT

Save the date! Come join us for GAME NIGHT on Friday, November 13th from 7-9pm. Get to know your church family as you play the games you know and love. Bring a game. Bring the kids. Bring a friend! Bring a snack to share and a non perishable food donation. Contact Arlyd Muñoz-Snyder at (860) 478-8508 if interested in attending or if you have any questions.

What Did Moses Have For Breakfast?

This Sunday we are going to have some fun with food from the Bible. In Biblical times people did not just “run” to the grocery when they needed something for a meal. They used what they had available and that could vary depending upon where they lived - in the desert, on a mountain, near the ocean. Hope you’ll join us for a taste of the past!

Reminders...bring back your UNICEF boxes this week! There will be a collection basket in the Narthex. Thank you for Trick or Treating for such a worthy cause.

And...don’t forget to bring your Halloween costume and join me in the Fireside Room during coffee hour for some “goodies and games”!

Congratulations to our **11** church school students who had PERFECT attendance for the month of October...Douglas and Julia Allen, Andrew Baker, Audrey Belliveau, Travis Lavigne, Hannah Mangan, Catherine and Sam Najarian, and Megan, Sarah and Nicole Perrotta. Keep up the great work!

Our very own Sarah Mangan will be performing in *The Canterville Ghost* at Newington High School with the high school Drama Club. Performances are November 19th, 20th and 21st at 7:30 p.m. and a 1:30 p.m. matinee on Saturday the 21st. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$6 for students and seniors, and are available at the door. Go Sarah!

Happy Halloween to All!

Sharon Chamberlain
Coordinator of Christian Education



THANKSGIVING OFFERING TO BACK BAY MISSION

Back Bay Mission, in Biloxi Mississippi (UCC), has recently celebrated the dedication of its newly restored campus and gives thanks for the resurrecting gifts of the wider United Church of Christ over these last four years of recovery and challenge. The ministry continues! In these times of economic hardship, the services and innovation of Back Bay Mission are more in demand than ever and the Mission is responding with newfound commitment to ministries of compassion and justice. This congregation joins the Mission in that faithful endeavor, as we look forward to sharing our Thanksgiving offering with them on Sunday, November 22, 2009.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

OCTOBER 28, 2009

NEW BRITAIN, CT

Dear Friends,

I have just returned from attending the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, at which the Rev. Geoffrey Black, the brand new General Minister and President of the UCC, delivered the keynote address.

Rev. Black made reference in his speech to a new multi-media museum exhibit in Cleveland, Ohio, called “Choosing to Participate.” It has to do with how folks have chosen to “participate” (or not) in activities intended to secure peace and justice in the face of horrendous examples of prejudice, hatred, and injustice.

The exhibit identifies two types of people in every such situation—*bystanders*: those who *stand by* and do nothing in the very face of apparent need or wrongdoing; and *upstanders*: those who *stand up* and do something, anything to address and improve the situation.

It occurred to me that this image is true for us local church members as well. We are all *standing*, but some of us just *stand by*; while others of us truly *stand up* to the tasks and challenges that confront us.

Think of the opportunities that rest before First Church of New Britain—continuing to live into our new bylaws; working toward the fulfillment of our three priority goals of nurturing our membership, focusing our mission/outreach work, and growing our active membership; and giving generously and increasing giving annually, according to our new “Ten Year Plan,” that will take us to prudent financial stability by 2020. In the face of these many challenges, will we *stand by* or *stand up*?

My friend, I invite and encourage all of us to be faithful *upstanders*. When you are asked to serve in a leadership position, please respond affirmatively and enthusiastically. We especially need folks to serve on a group specifically devoted to and passionate about evangelism and church growth. And please be as generous as possible in your financial gifts to First Church. We need to raise about an additional \$17,500 every year for the next decade in order to wean ourselves away from our long-term, excessive dependence upon endowment funds to balance our operating budget. Remember the old gospel hymn—“Stand up, stand up for Jesus...Where duty calls or danger, Be never wanting there”?

My friends, duty calls! Let us not be wanting! May we be *upstanders* and not *bystanders*, as we “choose to participate” and *stand up* actively and assertively for Jesus and for First Church! See you in church! Blessings always! Jack

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OFFICE and GALLERY HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Friday 9:00 am – Noon

PROGRAM STAFF

The Rev. Jack Cook, Senior Minister

Sharon Chamberlain, Coordinator of Christian Education

James Gower, Director of Music Ministries

Sarah Flythe, Coordinator of Youth Programming

Please go to our website, www.firstnewbritain.org for staff contact information

Copies of sermons and additional newsletters are available in the information rack outside the church office.