



The Summer 2007 Landmark

**The First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation
Guilford, Connecticut
Vol. 54, Number 7**

Dear Friends,

I am getting ready to leave on sabbatical, but there is no plan for the church to sit back and wait until I return! Susan and Mary Klaaren, the staff, and all the committees will be in full swing come September. We have already planned a year full of opportunities to worship, to study, to be in community and care for one another, to reach out to those in need of our help, and to work for justice. There will be opportunities for everyone.

I have put together a **CHURCH PROPERTY STUDY COMMITTEE** that will be actively working to explore all aspects of our future property development. This is a committee bristling with expertise, foresight, love of exploration, and faith. Each member is excited to be on this committee that will plan for our future, and I am grateful for their commitment of time and talent to this historic endeavor.

1. Stephen Dudley, Co-Chair, former Branford Town Engineer
2. Sara Nelson, Co-Chair, Architect with particular expertise in historic buildings
3. Michael Ayles, Architect and member of Guilford Board of Finance
4. John Bollier, AVP, Facilities and Operation, Yale
5. Virginia Corbiere, IT Director at the Foote School
6. Ray Dudley, English Teacher and longtime keeper of First Church grounds
7. Martin Ewing, former IT Director at the School of Engineering, Yale
8. Cynthia Hirni, Teacher, Editor, Retreat Center Worker
9. Leslie Kane, expert in Town of Guilford Environmental Issues, Planning and Zoning
10. David Koncz, Financial Planner
11. Holly Koncz, expert in Women & Family Life property move and development
12. Ben Lyster, mortgage/finance expert

Ex officio

Kendrick Norris, Senior Minister
Susan Murtha, Associate Minister
Dewitt Zuse, Chair, Church Council

Charlie West, Assistant Chair, Church Council
Kim Beckett, Incoming Chair, Church Council

Resource People

Marc Nadeau, Historic property restoration & development
Russ Campagne, Architect and member of Historic District Commission

Will Porter, Neighbor

There is other big news. By the end of August, Susan Murtha will have moved into 19 Church Street, which will serve as the church parsonage for now. We will need lots of hands to help her move around the corner. If able, please be ready to pitch in when requested. This change will assure that the property is tax exempt and will give Susan more privacy.

I have a personal request. One of my goals during my sabbatical is to lose weight and to get back into shape. Please keep me in your prayers. I will need all the help I can get to achieve better health.

Until January 15th, God bless you in your personal spiritual pilgrimage and your involvement in the ministry and mission of First Church.

Kendrick

**SUMMER 2007
WORSHIP & EDUCATION SCHEDULE**

Sunday, July 8: *Rev. Sally Norris preaching*
8:30am Worship – Chapel
10:00am Worship/Nursery care/Super Summer
Sunday School (Pre-K – Grade 4)
11:15am Lemonade on the Lawn

Sunday, July 15: *Hymn Sing*
8:30am Worship – Chapel
10:00am Worship/Nursery care/Super Summer
Sunday School (Pre-K – Grade 4)
11:15am Lemonade on the Lawn

Sunday, July 22:
8:30am Worship – Chapel
10:00am Worship/Nursery care/Super Summer
Sunday School (Pre-K - Grade 4)
11:15am Lemonade on the Lawn

Sunday, July 29: *Kendrick preaching*
8:30am Worship – Chapel
10:00am Worship/Nursery care/Super Summer
Sunday School (Pre-K – Grade 4)
11:15am Lemonade on the Lawn

Sunday, August 5: *Susan preaching*
8:30am Worship – Chapel
10:00am Worship/Nursery care
11:15am Lemonade on the Lawn
5:00pm Contemporary Worship Service-Sanctuary

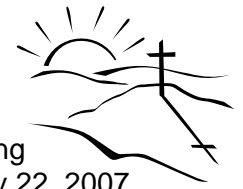
Sunday, August 12: *David Johnson preaching*
8:30am Worship – Chapel
10:00am Worship/Nursery care
11:15am Lemonade on the Lawn

Sunday, August 19: *Susan preaching*
8:30am Worship – Chapel
10:00am Worship/Nursery care
11:15am Lemonade on the Lawn

Sunday, August 26: *Rev. John Cooke preaching*
8:30am Worship – Chapel
10:00am Worship/Nursery care
11:15am Lemonade on the Lawn

Sunday, September 2: *Rev. Todd Shipley preaching*
10:00am Worship/Nursery care
11:15am Lemonade on the Lawn
5:00pm Contemporary Worship Service-Sanctuary

Sunday, September 9: *Susan preaching*
8:30am Worship-Chapel
10:00am – Family Service: *Welcome Home Sunday*
11:15am All Church Picnic – mark your calendars!



DEATHS

Delman S. Spalding
December 10, 1916 – May 22, 2007

John Bradford Stevens
June 12, 1914 – May 25, 2007

Elizabeth Marion Corbett
September 5, 1930 – April 30, 2007



**BAPTISMS
June 17, 2007**

Violet Willcox Johnson
Levi Willcox Johnson
Twins of Jennifer Willcox and Donald Johnson

THE MUSTARD SEED GROUP



This is an interfaith discussion group for mothers of children with special needs. We meet monthly to share information, network with other moms, and provide and receive comfort and inspiration. Please check the Sunday bulletins or call Kim Beckett (453-9957) for meeting times or for information.

DEACONESS OF THE MONTH

Deaconess for July is Marilyn Leslie (453-3295). **Deaconess for August** is Julie Haight (453-2724). Please notify the Deaconess of the month of births, adoptions, or anyone who may need a note of sympathy or encouragement. Pam Welch (458-2340) is the contact person for the Deaconesses' **Prayer Shawl Ministry**. New hands are always welcome to knit or crochet shawls; materials are provided. If you know of someone who would welcome a Prayer Shawl as a tangible sign of First Church's prayers, please call Pam. **Audiotapes** of Sunday services are available to sign out in Spencer House kitchen.



Thanks to Office Angels for June:

Betty Brown, Liza Catino, Peg Heidtman; PattyAnn Meyer; Alice Mitchell, Ruth Neale, Donna Nielsen, Meg Rebuzzini

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS
June 13, 2007

DeWitt Zuse called the meeting to order at 7pm and the Council approved the May Minutes and financial reports.

The Council prioritized ideas for the agenda of future Council meetings. The top five items were: Campus/Facilities/19 Church Street; Church Council Meetings; Membership; Communication; and Covenant Time.

Bob Howard gave an update for the 19 Church Street Committee. This spring they have done some exterior and interior painting, work on the windows and exterior sills, corrections to the baseboards and floorboards, and general clean-up. Work still to do includes mason work on the steps, re-puttying windows and installing storm sashes and more interior painting. The property should be ready for rental or other transitional occupancy within 60 days. Susan thanked Bob Howard and the Committee for their efforts.

Mark Haight reported for the Business Committee. Two major projects facing the Church are repairing/repainting the steeple and a new roof (within the next year or two). Other projects include work on the front columns, replacing the gas stove, and the Church Street doors. Daphne Still noted that the window on top of the stairs before Griswold Hall needs repair or replacement. Mark also noted that any decision on installing a fire suppression system awaits recommendations from the subcommittee looking into it. He noted that the Board of Trustees' Major Repairs Fund has annual interest income and about \$120,000 in current reserve.

Kendrick reported that there has been some confusion regarding the funding for expenses related to 19 Church Street and asked Council to establish some clear guidelines. He made three recommendations:

- funds for maintenance/repairs to 19 Church Street come from the Board of Trustees' Major Repairs Fund
- funds to cover utilities, financing costs, and other expenditures for the next few years be borrowed from the Board of Trustee's general endowment
- any decision as to the amount to be borrowed from the endowment should await determination of transitional use of property and any income that use might generate

Following discussion of the issue, the Council voted unanimously to adopt two Motions:

1. Church Council authorizes the 19 Church Street Fund to borrow a sum not to exceed \$150,000 from the Board of Trustees to cover finance and other necessary costs associated with the property at 19 Church Street for a period of three years.

2. Church Council recommends that maintenance and repairs costs associated with the property at 19 Church Street be paid out of the Board of Trustees' Major Repair Fund.

Peter Rebuzzini presented a working draft of the 2008 Budget. Mark Haight noted that the Business Committee will be budgeting for increased fuel and utility costs.

DeWitt Zuse asked Council members to complete a Behavioral Covenant Feedback survey.

Kendrick announced that DeWitt Zuse has chosen not to exercise his option to chair Church Council in 2008. He was pleased to announce that Kim Beckett has agreed to be recommended to the Nominating Committee serve as Chair of Church Council. If approved, she will be the first woman to assume that position.

*Respectfully submitted,
Linda Carleton*

NEW MEMBERS

On June 3, 2007 we welcomed the following people into our church family.

Welcome
Welcome

Marlene Balaska
Jill Benton and Daphne Hauber
Sarah and Peter Bertolini
Lori and John Craig
Novalyn Goldsmith
Sally Elizabeth Koslik
Gretchen Law
Tom and Nancy Patton
Wendy and Douglas Scales

We are very glad you have chosen to join us and welcome you into our family.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CONFIRMATION '07

On June 10, eleven 10th grade High School students were confirmed in faith, and received into full membership of our church. Two years preparation of involvement in the life of the church, classes, discussion, and fellowship together, led them to this point, and during the confirmation service, the congregation was privileged to hear parts of their individual faith statements read aloud.

We warmly welcome Ariana Basel, Alex Bohner, Meryl Ertelt, Emily Fischer, Amanda Gozzi, Allie Kalfus, Ali Kennedy, Corina Kirwin, Sara North, Kim Osga and Troy Puchini into our larger church community.

SUMMERTIME NURSERY CARE

Please sign up in the narthex to assist with child-care for any of the 10:00 services during the summer months. Our regular care-givers are taking a well-deserved break, so we need your help to continue to provide a warm welcome to new families who have just moved to Guilford, or our own church families who like to make worship an important part of their summer routine. We like to have 2 caregivers each week, at least one of whom should be an adult. Instructions and suggestions for the care-givers are clearly posted in the nursery classroom. If you have any questions, call Daphne at 453-3983.

RECYCLING BOX

Some time ago, a large grey recycling box was placed by some ecologically-minded person in the Fellowship Hall kitchen. It's a great idea because in the course of a week, our church goes through many juice and milk containers, along with other recyclables. However, no one appears to know if the person who placed the box there, also made arrangements for actually having the contents recycled. If anyone knows anything about the recycling box, could they please call the church office at 453-5249. Thank-you.



Daphne

PINCHBECK SCHOLARSHIPS

The Pinchbeck Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the 2007 recipients of the Pinchbeck Scholarships. The scholarships are awarded annually to people of all ages, aptitudes and interests who wish to further their educations. The first six recipients are college-age students who have been actively involved in our church and are pursuing specific areas of study at regional colleges and universities.

Natali Angok	Philip Dear
John Kennedy	Garrett Linske
Luke Linske	Elizabeth Norris

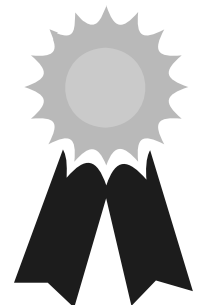
We have also chosen to recognize two people who are pursuing other avenues of study. David Johnson is enrolled in a Master of Divinity program at Hartford Theological Seminary and Karyn Angello is entering her final year of nursing studies at Southern Connecticut State University.

We are pleased to extend our sincere best wishes and congratulations to all the recipients as they begin or continue their educational pursuits.

*The Pinchbeck Scholarship Committee
Marcia Myhre
Shannon Clarkson*

LINDA CARLETON WINS NATIONAL UCC AWARD

Our own Rev. Linda Carleton was presented with the Refugee Ministries Heart of Mission Award at the Wider Church Ministries International Dinner on Sunday Evening June 24 at the 26th Synod of the UCC in Hartford. In the presentation of the award, Linda was specifically lauded for her years of service as Sponsorship Coordinator at the Interfaith Ministries Center in New Haven, the establishment of the Melita House and the service she and Peter provided there for more than 150 refugees, as well as for applying her artistic talents to watercolor paintings and a children's coloring book with refugee themes.



AN INVITATION ESPECIALLY FOR YOU!!

It's an invitation especially for **you** to attend a gathering – a time together – that is inconveniently timed, (?!?) but of short duration; obviously designed to rouse your curiosity, peak your interest; it's simple yet awesome; mysterious and different; amusing yet a compelling approach to an exciting life style.

It's for everyone, the aged and the ageless! We ALL can stand it. It's designed to provide many generations thought and provocation for life in the slow, medium or fast lane! The plan is for a gathering shortly after Labor Day at a place to be announced – probably a Tuesday afternoon about two. Get off work, call for a ride, skip school or the afternoon matinee: just be there. This is exciting!

It's a plan for the weak-hearted as well as the daring. Stimulating and yet stress relieving! Impossible you say – (we're already gone too far!)

If you can't stand the suspense, call the church office to reserve your place – there's not much to share yet, but you won't regret being there! The office won't tell you much if anything at all! The rewards will probably be beyond all our expectation.

Call the church office to register early as there will be limited membership, initially!!

Enjoy the summer – and get ready for a very exciting rest-of-2007!!

Prince Charles

COOKIES FOR SYNOD

Wow – it's amazing what our church members will do when a request goes out. Approximately 295 dozen cookies were delivered to the Civic Center in Hartford on June 22 to challenge the taste buds of those attending the 26th Synod of the United Church of Christ. Thousands of people from all over the USA and abroad enjoyed them and many expressed their appreciation for the "Cookie Hospitality" provided by bakers from the Connecticut Conference.

Cookie contributions for the 2007 Synod were coordinated by the Connecticut Women of the UCC and reached a total of about 12,000 dozen! Barbara Bishop supervised the collection of donations from our church in a freezer provided by Bishops' Orchard.

Thank you all!

Betsy Work and Barbara Bishop

UCC SYNOD NO. 26 HOSTED BY CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE

In 1957 representatives of the Congregational Christian Church and the Evangelical and Reformed Church met in Cleveland to unite their two denominations to form the United Church of Christ. The Fiftieth Anniversary of that Union was celebrated in Hartford at the 26th Synod of the UCC when more than ten thousand delegates and visitors, including twelve from our church, gathered from June 22 through June 26.. Because of this special occasion and the special program that was offered, attendance was about three times the normal Synod attendance.

Main events were held in the Civic Center, but many other facilities in central Hartford, including the Hartford Hilton Hotel, Center (UCC) Church, Christ Church (Episcopal), Capital Community College, 960 Main Atrium, Market Street, Bushnell Park and Wadsworth Atheneum, were used to house different events.

More than 400 volunteers from the Conference assisted in informing and managing the crowds that participated.

Among the main attractions were Keynoters, Bill Moyers and Barack Obama, who spoke on Saturday June 23 and the Festival Worship Service on Sunday afternoon which was open to the public with UCC General Minister and President, John H. Thomas, preaching. Both Moyers and Obama are active members of UCC churches and had accepted invitations to speak months before Obama had declared his candidacy for the Presidency. Many other interesting and well known speakers also contributed to the program.

Additional details of the program are available in a file in the Minear Library for reference by anyone interested.

**THE SENILITY PRAYER**

"God grant me the serenity to forget the people I never liked anyway; the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to know the difference."

Unknown



MUSIC NOTES FROM MARY

I would like to share a poem by Sharon Scholl, professor of humanity at Jacksonville University and an organist. The poem paints a picture of the many ways that music and worship come together:

PLAYING THE PRELUDE

I pile the pale branches of my fingers
in two heaps on the keyboard,
watching them slide and crumble in so many sticks,
so much tinder for the spirit's fire.

I feel tones ooze out of them,
sealing the silent space from mind to hands,
hearing and moving wrapped together
in a single chrysalis of thought.

The weight of sounds slumps on the air,
a glacier scraping slowly down the chancel,
each phrase another sonic ridge
fading like remembered mountains.

Worshippers come hesitantly from the narthex
like birds in a bewilderment of spring,
old deaths dry and matted on their shoulders,
resurrection pink and delicate beneath.

Their eyes betray the first shy gestures of their
inward transport
yearning home.

My fingers weave the mystic bridge
suspending us between two worlds.

The prelude is an opportunity to bridge the secular to the sacred and profound. Use that musical time to become present in worship each week. May you be moved to the place of home within, the God who dwells in our hearts.

Have a great summer!

*Blessings,
Mary*



"If I should ever die, God forbid, let this be my epitaph: The only proof he needed for the existence of God was music."

Kurt Vonnegut



GUILFORD CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE

HELP SPREAD THE WORD!

The new Guilford Contemporary Worship Service is now ten services old and achieving new levels of inspiration each month!

However, we still need help in getting the word out to the broader community – and that's where you all come in. We invite each and every one of you to come to our contemporary worship service on the **first Sunday of each month at 5:00 p.m.** and bring a friend or two who doesn't currently attend our traditional worship services.

We want to involve people of all ages.

You already know about all the wonderful missions and offerings of our church – now it's time to share them with others. Please tell all your friends about this exhilarating, multi-media, and joyful service. You never know for whom this service will strike the right note. This is just another way to grow our congregation and spread the joy of First Church.

"On August 5th, Susan will be leading the worship service with Daphne Stitt and Liza Catino delivering an informative and (sometimes) humorous message based on The Lord's Prayer. And on September 2nd, Rev. Todd Shipley will once again lead the Contemporary Worship Service."

Comments & Info (203) 458-9253 (Stuart Wilkie)
or contemporary@firstchurchguilford.org

*Stuart Wilkie
Contemporary Worship Team*



Many thanks from Janet Shoemaker LCSW, to all of you who so thoughtfully donated books to the women of York Correctional Institution. They have all found homes in the library, school and units.

