



# The September 2009 Landmark

The First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Guilford, Connecticut

An Open and Affirming  
Congregation

Vol. 56, Number 8



*A beautiful invitation,  
but one most feel uncomfortable offering:*  
**“Would you like me to pray with you?”**

From time to time, all of us have the opportunity of talking intimately with someone who is going through a bad time – to ask how they are feeling, to listen, to give support and comfort – to a friend, a loved one, or a church family member. It is a privilege. When a person opens this door of sharing his or her burdens with us, a very special window also opens – the chance to pray together. Yet asking someone, “Would you like me to pray with you?” are words most people would not dare to utter. “I wouldn’t know what to say. I’m not good at eloquent words of prayer.” Many feel totally ill-equipped and uncomfortable with the idea of praying with someone.

On Sunday, September 20 after worship, I will lead an Adult Forum to help us in this area – to be that window – offering words of prayer with others. By the end, I hope you will discover that praying with someone is much easier than you imagine; I hope to equip you with some simple ways to speak to the soul and to God that do not require you to prepare eloquent words in advance. I also hope to share just how powerful it is to give this gift – to take talking and listening to a deeper level – into the realm of God.

At our best, we become Sabbath for one another.  
We are the emptiness, the day of rest.  
We become space, that our loved ones, the lost and sorrowful, may find rest in us.

– Wayne Muller, *Sabbath*

Yes! When we get to this space, this rest, this Sabbath, we are stepping into prayer. There we find God’s nurture, God’s word, God’s presence. May we learn to be this prayer for one another.

*Sabbath blessings, Susan*

**SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Sunday, Sept. 6:** *Susan preaching*  
8:30am Worship- Chapel  
10:00am Worship/Nursery care

**Sunday, Sept. 13: A Single 10:00 AM Worship**  
10:00am **Family Service:** *Welcome Home Sunday*  
Nursery care  
11:30am All-Church Picnic

**Wednesday, Sept. 16:**  
7:00pm Service of Prayer and Healing-Sanctuary

**Sunday, Sept. 20:** *Kendrick preaching*  
8:30am Worship-Chapel  
10:00am Worship/Nursery Care/Church School  
11:15am Adult Forum: Prayer - Chapel

**Sunday, Sept. 27:** *Susan preaching*  
8:30am Worship-Chapel  
10:00am Worship/Nursery Care/Church School  
11:15am Adult Forum: Safe Church Training-Chap

**α ALPHA CLUB**

The Alpha Club meets next on Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2009 at 7:30pm in Fellowship Hall. A Harvest Fair Workshop will be held under the direction of Yvette Howard and Mary Norris. All are welcome!

**SACRED CONVERSATIONS**

180 Church members participated in our "Sacred Conversations on Race in America" small group dinners last year. Given this summer's incident with Professor Gates and the Cambridge Police Department and the different ways that whites and African-Americans (generally speaking) interpreted this incident reveals how great the divide remains. We will continue our Sacred Conversation for the 2009-2010 program year and will include many new ways of participation. Some of the dinner groups may continue in various forms and we are adding action groups that will include mentors working with New Haven students, sister church fellowship events, political advocacy, etc. Those who participated last year and those who now wish to join the Sacred Conversation are warmly welcomed to a pot-luck supper on **Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> (note change of date) at 6:00pm** at the Nathanael B. Greene Community Center, 32 Church Street. This will be a time to learn more and organize in smaller groups. Please save the date now. If you cannot attend, please let us know if you are interested in participating by calling the Church Office at 453-5249.  
*Kendrick*



**BAPTISMS**

**July 5, 2009**

William Joel Norton  
son of Joel and Elizabeth Norton

**July 19, 2009**

Maura Olivia Connell  
daughter of Ellen and Kevin Connell

**August 9, 2009**

Carson Anthony Smith  
son of Lori and Eric Smith

Donald William Corbett  
son of Linda and William Corbett

**DEATHS**

Julie Staley Gottschalk  
February 5, 1965 – July 25, 2009



Howard Angell, Jr.  
November 16, 1920 – August 1, 2009

**DEACONESS OF THE MONTH**

**Deaconess for September** is Mary Jo Puchini (458-6522). Please notify Mary Jo of births, adoptions, or anyone who may need a note of sympathy or encouragement. For information on the Deaconesses' **Prayer Shawl Ministry**, or if you know of someone who would welcome a Prayer Shawl as a tangible sign of First Church's prayers, please call Mary Torello at 919-539-3061. New hands are always welcome to knit or crochet shawls; materials are provided. **CDs** of Sunday services are available to sign out in Spencer House kitchen. **Need a Ride to Worship?** The Board of Deaconesses will find drivers for those needing rides to any service: Sunday morning, the Contemporary Service, Service of Prayer and Healing, etc. Please call Mary Jo Puchini, coordinator (458-6522).



**Thanks to Office Angels for July & August:**

Holly Bollier, Betty Brown, Liza Catino, Susan Leete,  
Suzanne McGriff, Beth Milliron, Alice Mitchell

### YOUR SOUL AND THE RELIGIOUS PSYCHOLOGY OF C.G. JUNG

C.G. Jung gave much emphasis to the spiritual tasks we encounter in the second half of life. This course will be a substantial introduction to his theories and how they directly apply to your soul work. Brief readings will be handed out for each session. The teacher will be Kendrick Norris who, in addition to holding a PhD in Pastoral Psychology is a 5th year student at the C.G. Jung Institute of NYC. The classes will be held in the Minear Library on October 7, 14, 21, 28 and November 4 from 2:00-3:30pm and again those same evenings from 7:00-8:30pm. The two times are meant to accommodate those who don't like coming out at night; however, on any given day either session may be attended. With our many responsibilities it is understood that few people will be able to commit to all five sessions, but please let Kendrick know if you are planning on attending or if you would like more information (453-5249).

### PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP

**New Pilgrim Fellowship Director—Terri Cain** is a long-time Guilford resident who is passionate about working with the youth of today. In her letter to the search committee Terri wrote "I believe that it is truly one of the great privileges to mentor young people as they move through the process of discernment in their developing sense of who they are in relation to moral/faith/spiritual questions."

Terri received training in ministry at Yale Divinity School and the Institute of Sacred Music. Her work experience with many denominations and faiths has been focused on youth mentoring, education, and exploring spirituality through the arts.

You may already be familiar with Terri since she has been a very active member of the Guilford community as yoga teacher, President of GCTV, volunteer with GHS Connections, GHS TAPS, American Red Cross and a mother of four children.

We welcome Terri to our church and PF community. Please introduce yourselves and help her to feel welcome.

**PF Kick Off Picnic** will be held on ***Sunday Sept 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm on the church lawn.*** All high school students are welcome. Besides food and fellowship, we will ask the PFers to complete registration forms and receive instructions. Both new members and returning members should plan to attend.

### HISTORIANS' CORNER

Taken from the LANDMARK January 1963 written by the Rev. Edwin Lincoln  
"THE OLD ORDER CHANGETH..."  
"For 40 years Frederic G. Davis has been a deacon of First Church, and in that time a great many changes have taken place. Just prior to his first election the Methodist and Third Congregational Churches merged with First, the Ecclesiastical Society died and the church was incorporated. William C.H. Moe began a long and notable pastorate and was succeeded by Paul Battenhouse, who was followed by William North. In these four decades two major wars have been fought and several minor ones. The United States shook off the wraps of isolation and became a major world power. The British Empire fell as did the Dutch and French colonial systems. Guilford changed in character from a rural-fishing village to become a suburb of New Haven, although still with a distinctive flavor. First Church changed from a little church to a strong community one, lending assistance to the town through her manpower in town affairs. There has been hardly an effort of real worth in town that in one way or another has not had the people of First Church in it; Fred Davis has had a hand in all of this work.

Although he has been considered by many to be the epitome of conservatism, he has not been averse to supporting those changes he judged to be of greatest value. When he has urged caution, it has been to the end that any steps taken would not have to be backtracked. He has not hesitated to be unpopular for the sake of convictions held to be right. Most publicly noticeable is his ability to come up with exactly the right story or reminiscence which has eased tension in a charged atmosphere and in that easing there has often been an eventual solution to a difficulty.

Having been Senior Deacon of this church till the 'memory of man runneth not thither', he is stepping down after four decades of selfless service. The church and community owe him a debt that cannot be paid. But his services to the church are not completed. As of the last annual meeting he became the first lay moderator, a position for which he is uniquely qualified, and through which he can add luster both to the church and community."

Martha Davis Rebuzzini recalls that her father never missed a Sunday service in his forty years as Deacon. Fred Davis was Peter Rebuzzini's grandfather and Meg Rebuzzini's great-grandfather.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### "Welcome Home Sunday" All-Church Picnic

The All-Church Picnic will follow the 10:00am service on **Sunday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>** as a celebration for the whole church family, on the Church Lawn (weather permitting) or in Fellowship Hall if it is wet. Ed Bartlett will be cooking up some hot dogs and veggie-dogs. We are asking members if they can bring a side dish or a dessert to share, and feel free to bring a blanket to sit on for some fun. It will be a fun time to gather together, greet one another, and start our new programs!

### Church School

After our summer adventures, we are ready for a new year of Church School beginning September 13<sup>th</sup>. We kick off with a "Welcome Home" Family Service. The Crib Room and "3's and Under" classroom will be available for the whole service. Older children will join us in worship and we will have a short pre-view Church School session for children Pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade for the last 20 minutes of service. Find your new classroom, meet your teachers, and get a taste of what we will be doing this year in Church School! Following worship, we will gather for an All-Church picnic, and everyone is welcome!

A mailing with more detailed information about Church School will be sent out the first week in September to Church School families. We ask that you fill out a completed registration form for all Church School participants to help us keep up to date with your child. Registration forms may be mailed into the church (Attn Christian Ed) or brought to Sunday School. We are so excited for our new year of Church School. If you have any questions about our program or the best fit for your child please contact Lisa Horst or [lisa@firstchurchguilford.org](mailto:lisa@firstchurchguilford.org)

### Family Social Breakfasts

Families with children in the following grades are invited to a potluck fellowship breakfast. Come and get to know families in the church with children the same age! All breakfasts will be at 9:00am in Fellowship Hall and child care will be provided.

Nursery-Kindergarten: October 4<sup>th</sup>

Grades 1-3: October 25<sup>th</sup>

Grades 4-6: November 15<sup>th</sup>

Keep your eye out for more information forthcoming from Welcoming and Inclusion and Christian Education!

### Confirmation

Confirmation is a 2 year program for high school youth of First Church, exploring our own beliefs about faith, growing as a community and learning more about the church.

#### **Confirmation I:**

If you are interested in or considering beginning the Confirmation program, join us for our first meeting, September 20<sup>th</sup> in Fellowship Hall, 1:00—2:30pm.

#### **Confirmation II:**

**Sept 21:** Welcome/Covenant: Our first regular meeting is from 7:00—8:15pm in the Church School Bldg Room 9. Don't forget your Bible.

**Sept 27 (Sunday):** 10:00am service. The Confirmation II Class will be presented and blessed by the congregation. Confirmands, their parents and sponsors are asked to meet for a brief rehearsal in the sanctuary at 9:30am.

**Sept 28:** Regular meeting—Bible!

**October 23:** St. John the Divine Trip: Confirmation I and II will be taking a trip to St. John the Divine in New York City. This group-building trip is a great experience and is mandatory for both classes. Previous participants have returned with rave reviews. Deposits and forms need to be in to Lisa by October 11. Questions? Lisa, 453-3324

### **Middle School Youth Group**

Beginning TUESDAY, Sept. 15 through May 18, we will meet each Tuesday in Fellowship Hall from 3:00 until 4:30pm. *Please note change of weekday.* Andrea Schmidt and Liza Catino will be looking forward to anyone in grades 5, 6, 7 and 8 joining us for an introduction and kick off celebration Sept. 15! Registration forms will be in Fellowship Hall. For some more creative insight, check out the display case (next to the chapel) MSYG put together!!!!

### **Looking for Church School Teachers**

Every Sunday of regular Church School, requires 20 adult volunteers to teach and care for the children of our church. We are a program gifted with many wonderful volunteers and we are still in need of more, especially to work with younger grades. Teaching is a wonderful ministry in the church and a way to connect to families and children in our community. If you are interested in learning more about the program and application, please contact Lisa Horst or Andrea Schmitt (453-3324).

Where in the  
**WORLD** is the **UCC**?

Watch for a new series of Landmark articles this fall to tell you about where and what the UCC is doing overseas. We have 50 fully supported missionaries, 8 global mission interns and 7 long term volunteers serving in 35 different countries. Because of disease, drought, poverty, war and ethnic strife, millions of people are suffering and need our help. In each country, our missionaries help local partners in medical, educational, agricultural, religious roles.

Some of us contribute directly to overseas ministries, but as a church, we support this work through a program called Basic Support or OCWM (**O**ur **C**hurch's **W**ider **M**inistries). 37% of this money supports the work in Connecticut with 63% plus our annual One Great Hour of Sharing offerings going on to support National and Global programs.

For more than a decade, our mission pledges and a portion of loose offerings have been sufficient to carry out missions in the local community and still send on to OCWM an amount equal to at least 10% of our operating budget. However, for the current year, because of concerns about expenses of our own congregation we failed to reach that 10% level for OCWM. (Only 170 pledged to our missions budget compared to 335 who pledged to our operating budget.)

In addition to what we give directly through our church, you are familiar with our special giving through the CROP Walk, the Tools and Blanket fund of Church World Service and the Heifer Project.

During the year ahead, the Landmark will contain reports of specific people and projects we support abroad and in our own community. These will be written by members of our Board of Community and World Concerns. We hope reading them will reinforce your enthusiasm for supporting the entire mission of our church.

"We should find God in what we do know, not in what we don't; not in problems still outstanding, but in those we have already solved."  
Dietrich Bonhoeffer



# Where in the **COMMUNITY** is **OUR CHURCH?**

Our Church's outreach to the local community takes several forms, primarily through agencies with special roles.

1. Cash donations: We make cash donations to several projects and local agencies from funds drawn from the "mission" portion of our annual pledges.
2. Food, clothing & other items: We donate food to the Guilford Food Bank, the Community Kitchen, holiday meals for families served by Covenant to Care and to the family occupying the apartment we sponsor at the Christian Community Action shelter. Also for that apartment we provide bedding, utensils, etc. that the family may take with them when they move on to more permanent housing. We also donate items to Guilford Social Services families through our Giving Tree at Christmas. The hats, mittens, gloves and scarves that adorn the Christmas tree in our sanctuary every year are donated to various agencies. We also contribute items that may be specifically requested by the social worker in the Covenant to Care program.
3. Voluntary Services: Our members give of their time and energy through local agencies to carry out their specific missions to those in need in Guilford and New Haven county. WE help in projects like preparing and serving meals at Columbus House, delivering Meals on Wheels and currently many of us are assisting our Iraqi refugees with housing, English and transportation for medical exams, shopping, etc.

Our women's service society, the Alpha Club hosts many receptions after funerals. Each fall and spring they conduct rummage sales to sell clothing and other items we donate. Alpha donates the money raised to local charities. Some of the rummage sale items are given directly to the Lost Boys of Sudan, refugee families we sponsor and to local agencies for distribution to those in need in the community.

Watch for updates and more information about our giving in the community in future issues of the Landmark.

**MUSIC IS "MAGIC," OR  
WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN CHOIR**

Sometimes, when you hear a song, it is so beautiful or spiritually moving that you find yourself transported someplace far away from where you physically are. You hear Sinatra sing "Hang My Tears Out to Dry", and it reminds you of hearing that song in your living room: you were doing homework while Mom and Dad were reading the Sunday paper, with the big toaster-sized radio playing in the background, the aroma of pot roast wafting from the kitchen. Or maybe you hear the B-52's "Rock Lobster" and you remember college friends whom you haven't thought about for years: dancing at 2 in the morning in a dorm room, celebrating the end of midterms. Or you hear "How Great Thou Art" and you suddenly are back at the funeral of a loved one, once again trying to remember just how their voice sounded, or what their smile looked like.

Music is powerful. When humans are confronted with something powerful, we often attribute its power either to paranormal magic or the divine. Church music is no different. You might be sitting in a pew and hear an anthem which may seem either mystical in its beauty or a gift from heaven because of the wonderful way it touched your heart and mind. Christians believe that music and singing are gifts from God. But the choir is made up of real human singers, each of us saint and sinner with less-than-perfect voices and ears. Singing takes practice and dedication, like sticking to a diet to lose 20 pounds. This is the 'secret of the choir loft', the musician's curse, the reality behind the green curtain in Oz. Singing means learning how to breathe, to enunciate, to tune, phrase, blend, balance, focus, project, resonate. Musicians have to work hard to take notes off the page and make them beautiful. But this work is rewarded.

In a sermon this summer, I described worship as something we experience: a relationship we have with God. Our Sunday morning service is a visible expression of that relationship. Choir is the same: the music you hear on Sunday morning is the audible expression of the relationship the choir has with each other and with God. Music brings us together; we experience the divine through singing in worship, and try to give the congregation a glimpse of God through music. The relationships we form in the rehearsal room, learning and sharing together, are sacred. This is the true "magic" of music, that God gathers us and uses our individual talents in one choir.

At First Church we have a great tradition of choral singing. We sing a variety of styles, from 17th century motets to 20th century polyrhythmic pieces to Gospel-style praise anthems. In addition to Sunday liturgies, we will sing Lessons and Carols at Christmas, and this February we will be singing the Fauré Requiem during Sunday worship. We resume practice this fall at 7:15pm on September 10th in the choir room at the southern end of the balcony. Child care is provided. The First Church Ringers, our three-octave hand bell choir, will resume a week later on September 17th at 6:00 PM.

Talk to me or any choir member about the singing or ringing experience at First Church, and we hope that you will find it powerfully spiritual and divinely magical.

*Bill Speed*

In Spencer House are a series of filing cabinets filled with carefully filed and numbered memories. If you're a Harry Potter fan, you might envision Dumbledore pouring silvery threads of memory into a stone Pensive. Our wizards are the Nettletons, and their steel-drawer files represent the family scrapbook of this congregation. As a new member of First Church, several people, especially Kendrick, strongly encouraged me to meet with the Nettletons to find out more about this congregation's history. After seeing just how many files were in the Music section, Ruth Nettleton and I decided to try to use some modern technology to make these files more accessible by digitizing them. Each newspaper clipping, photo, program, blueprint, letter, etc. has been scanned at the highest density we could muster (without making the computer file too large to use on desktop computers given current technology). There is still a lot of work to do: each file needs to be annotated with key words, and for scans of text (like contracts and programs and letters) there is software known as Optical Character Recognition which has converted the pictures of letters into actual word-processor text, but proofreading is necessary for each of these documents. Over 500 raw computer files currently fill three CD-ROMs. For photos of people, we'll be looking for help identifying the individuals in the photos. If you would like to browse these files, or are interested in helping out, contact me in the Music Office (458-9701).

*Bill Speed*

**CROP WALK —SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH  
COME WALK WITH US!**

CROP Hunger Walks help children and families worldwide -- and right here in the U.S. -- to have food and clean drinking water for today, while building for a better tomorrow. The Guilford CROP Walk is a primary focus of First Congregational Church's mission program. The walk is a short five miles from the Guilford Green to the Madison Green, comparable to the walk that some people of the world have to do daily for their drinking water. We also have a shorter option of a 2 mile walk. You can participate by walking, pledging support to a walker, or offering return transportation from Madison for the walkers. In addition to supporting a great cause, it's a great way to have fun and meet people.

The Community and World Concerns Committee appreciate the generous support the congregation provided in the past and hopes more members will find a way to participate this year. With many countries still struggling to find food and good water, the committee hopes that more people will consider actually walking to draw attention to this cause. I cannot think of a better way to spend an October afternoon. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, call Karin McNamara (458-6375) or go to [www.cropwalkonline.org](http://www.cropwalkonline.org).

**MUSIC & TRANSFORMATION CLASSES  
Classes begin Monday, Sept. 14th**

An original course for adults designed by former Minister of Music, Mary Morreale, Music & Transformation is a musical interpretation of the stages of transformation where one can explore and deepen one's spiritual life through music and imagery, meditation practices, prayer and Scripture. Classes are offered in the Bride's Room (off the narthex) on Monday mornings 11:00am – 12:30pm and Monday evenings 7:00 – 8:30pm. *Classes begin September 14* and run through May.

The course covers 28 weeks, however, participants can benefit from either a few classes or the entire course. We begin the transformation process with ***Surrender: The Spiritual Practice of Letting Go***. For a complete description please refer to the ***We Are First Church*** booklet. For more information, please call one of the facilitators: Marjorie Colton (245-3463), or Penelope Rebuzzini (453-2516) or via email: [office@firstchurchguilford.org](mailto:office@firstchurchguilford.org).

**JOURNEYS IN JET AGE, AUGUST 2009**

Through the use of drama, songs, crafts, slides, games and snacks, twenty-four children "visited" China, India, Peru and Africa (Nigeria, Kenya and Malawi). They learned about animals, children, native dress, folk lore and the work of the Christian Church (hospitals, schools and wells) in these countries. At the morning worship, Bible stories were told concerning loving your neighbors, kindness to others and the value of water, all important everywhere in our world. Putting this concept into action, the children brought rulers, crayons, scissors etc., to make 25 school kits which will be sent via Church World Service to kids who need them in the US and around the world.

At the finale Thursday evening the children told folk stories through skits featuring a monkey, the sun, a snake charmer, a magician and a dragon.

Thanks to the volunteer teachers: Kathy Abbatello, Jennifer Mullet, Wendy North and Eva Ewing; music: Lisa Catino and Barbara Eismeier; snacks and crafts: Susan Leete and Anne Miracle; aides: Riley Ayles and Sarah Duggan; storyteller: Susan Murtha; sound for finale: Mary Norris; co-directors: Lisa Horst and Betsy Work; loose ends: Larry Donahue and Clyde Work.

**FALL RUMMAGE SALE**

The Alpha Club's Fall Rummage Sale will be held in Fellowship Hall on Friday, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> 6:30pm - 8:30pm and Saturday, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00am - 11:00am. Donations will be accepted in Fellowship Hall during the set up hours:

Wednesday, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Thursday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> 10:00am – 3:00pm and  
7:00pm – 9:00pm

Friday, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> 10:00am – 3:00pm

PLEASE: Saleable items in good condition. We cannot accept any large appliance items, exercise equipment, computers and/or accessories. Large brown bags are need for the sale and can be dropped off at the kitchen in Fellowship Hall or at the Spencer House.

We are in need of someone with a pick up truck that can come at 12:00 (noon) to take left over items to the Goodwill in Branford and Guilford. Please call Cindy Magee (453-5487).