



**The Summer 2009
Landmark**
**The First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Guilford, Connecticut**
**An Open and Affirming
Congregation**
Vol. 56, Number 7

Dear Friends,

Hopefully this Landmark finds you a little less frantic and with a little more free time than during the school/program year. May you find some sacred time of rest and re-creation. God desires that we “lie down in green pastures;” God “leads us beside the still waters,” and “restores our soul”. This is a worthy holy goal for this season.

This summer’s newsletter gives me the opportunity to follow up on a sermon I gave last month and to move us into our second year of a “Sacred Conversation on Race in America.”

The sermon was entitled “Gracious Comfort” which is what we can give to the loved ones we leave behind when we die if we have preplanned our funeral and made our wishes known. Don’t force your family to make these difficult decisions at a time of disorientation and grief. On page three you will find important contact information for advance directives and a questionnaire to identify your instructions for your family upon your death. Please take the time in the next month to fill it out and file a copy with the church office.

180 church members participated in our “Sacred Conversations on Race in America” small group dinners this last year. We will continue our Sacred Conversation for the 2009/10 program year and will include many new ways of participation. Those who participated last year and those who now wish to join in the Sacred Conversation are warmly welcomed to a pot-luck supper on Saturday, September 19th at 6:00 PM at the Nathaniel B. Green Community Center, 32 Church Street. Please save the date now.

Also in this Landmark you will find a questionnaire about what kind of Sacred Conversations activities you would be mostly likely to participate in. Please fill it in and return it to the office or put in the offering plate.

The staff is busy planning for another dynamic year and taking time for holy rest as well.

*In Christ's love,
Kendrick*

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Susan is on vacation in July and Kendrick in August

Sunday, July 12: *Kendrick preaching*

8:30am Worship- Chapel

10:00am Worship/Nursery care

Sunday, July 19: *Bill Speed preaching*

8:30am Worship – Chapel

10:00am Worship/Nursery care

Sunday, July 26 *Lisa Horst preaching*

8:30am Worship-Chapel

10:00am Worship/Nursery Care

Sunday, August 2 *Susan preaching*

8:30 & 10:00am Communion-Memorial Garden /Nursery Care

Sunday, August 9 *David Johnson preaching*

8:30am Worship-Chapel

10:00am Worship/Nursery Care

Sunday, August 16 *Lisa Horst preaching*

8:30am Worship-Chapel

10:00am Worship/Nursery Care

Sunday, August 23 *Todd Shipley preaching*

8:30am Worship-Chapel

10:00am Worship/Nursery Care

Sunday, August 30 *Susan preaching*

8:30am Worship-Chapel

10:00am Worship/Nursery Care



IN THE MINEAR LIBRARY

Recommended Reading as follow-up to Dr. Norris' June 7th sermon, "Gracious Comfort": ***In Lieu of Flowers: A Conversation for the Living*** by Nancy Cobb; ***Dying Well*** by Kenneth and Sara Vaux; ***Who Dies? An Investigation of Conscious Living and Conscious Dying***, by Stephen Levine. These books and the sign-out box with instructions are on the Minear Library mantle.

Marjorie Colton, Librarian

SEEKING BREAD BAKERS

Our ministry to welcome visitors to Sunday worship with home-made bread has expanded to include the summer months. So, the Bread Bakers knead additional kneaders. Please join with 20-strong bakers to our ministry of welcome with your loaves for 2 or 3 Sundays during the year. Call Suzanne McGriff at 453-1646 to volunteer.



BAPTISMS

June 20, 2009

Greyson Sherwood Hill

Son of Justin and Jennifer Hill

June 21, 2009

Agar and Gumweil Malek

Daughter and Son of Anyikor Acuil and Dut Malek



DEATHS

Joyce Clarkson Wortmann

October 26, 1922 – May 17, 2009

Taylor Leigh Jillson

April 2, 1985 – May 21, 2009

Natalie J. Bruce

September 27, 1946 – June 9, 2009

Eleanor Englund Angell

February 25, 1922 – June 12, 2009

DEACONESS OF THE MONTH

Deaconess for July is Marilyn Leslie (453-3295). Please notify Marilyn 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 Pam Welch at 458-2340.. 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.



Thanks to Office Angels for June

Charlene Benton, Betty Brown, Liza Catino, Catherine Gilbert, Holly Bollier; Suzanne McGriff, Beth Milliron, Alice Mitchell

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).

INFORMATION ABOUT ADVANCE DIRECTIVES—Living Wills, etc.

Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal's web-site has information about advance directives, including forms and an instruction book: <http://www.ct.gov/ag/cwp/browse.asp?a=2130&bc=0&c=19278>. For further information you may reach First Church member Attorney Jennifer Willcox at her home contacts: jnwillcox@sbcglobal.net or 453-1844.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

You may wish to file a copy of this form with your family, First Church, and a funeral director. Please feel free to set up an appointment with Kendrick or Susan to discuss these options (453-5249).

Name/Signature: _____ / _____

1. I wish to have my funeral/memorial service held at:
 - () my church which is _____
 - () the funeral home _____
 Hawley Lincoln Funeral Home, 1315 Boston Post Rd, 453- 5790 (Bill Lincoln)
 Guilford Funeral Home, 115 Church St., 453-3558 (George Sullivan)
 - () the cemetery _____
 - () other instructions: _____
2. I would like my remains to rest at the
 - () the cemetery (name) _____
 - () First Congregational Church Memorial Garden
 - () Other Disposition of Ashes _____
3. I wish to have the burial before () or after () the service.
4. I wish to have my body cremated ().
5. I do () do not () wish to have calling hours.
6. I wish to have the casket open () closed () or not present () during calling hours.
7. I make the following suggestions for my service:
 - Scripture readings: _____
 - Poems: _____
 - Special Prayers: _____
 - Music: _____
 - Hymns: _____
 - Participants I would like: _____
8. In lieu of flowers, I would prefer that memorial gifts be made to:
 - () The Memorial Fund, First Congregational Church of Guilford
 - () _____
9. I wish to be an organ/tissue donor: yes () no (). For further information, please contact First Church member Kari Mull, of Donate Life Connecticut, at kari.mull@gmail.com or 203-494-1455.
10. I wish to make an endowment gift: () before my death () in my will.
11. For information about areas of ministry to which your gift can be directed please call Kendrick or Susan at 453-5249. Please contact First Church member Thomas C. Grant, CLU, ChFC, CLTC at 457-1816 or tcgrant9215@comcast.net to discover the many financial avenues available to benefit you, your heirs and your church.

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**JUNE 9, 2009**

Council's guest speaker was Michael Klarman, retired Branford Fire Chief and current Emergency Management Specialist from Yale's Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response. He addressed many topics: CPR and the benefits of owning a portable defibrillator, fire safety and swine flu. Right now there is no vaccination for swine flu, however, Mike reports there is a possibility that there will be one by this fall. He was adamant about practicing "social distancing," washing your hands and avoiding touching your face. Use of Purell is also a very effective way of killing most bacteria and viruses. (He noted that the Purell product has an ingredient that kills more bacteria than the generic product.) Martin Ewing pointed out that our Christian Education building is probably where we are most at risk for contact such a virus.

In an interesting coincidence, the church's fire alarm went off just after Sunday's service was completed, however, very few individuals left the building. Why don't we feel the need to evacuate?? One reason is so many false alarms, but Bill Speed points out we SHOULD do it, regardless, to be an example to our children. **Always leave the building when the alarm goes off.** In addition to standard home fire detectors, carbon monoxide detectors are also very important, and should be on every floor. Mike explained the three types of fire extinguishers, used for different types of fires. He advised us when coming upon a fire to first call the fire department, then use the fire extinguisher, if it is possible. He demonstrated to Council how to use the extinguisher, explaining that you should never turn your back on the fire even if it appears to be extinguished. Use 10-15 second short blasts, moving towards the fire, until the fire appears to be out. Then back away, always facing the extinguished fire. The short blasts will prevent you from using everything that is in the fire extinguisher in case the fire re-activates. Once a fire extinguisher has been used, it needs to be professionally re-charged. Mike demonstrated the current procedure for CPR (30 pumps of the heart to 2 breaths, where it used to be 15 pumps to 2 breaths). By doing this, you keep oxygenated air to the brain and give the paramedics a chance to resuscitate. Mike strongly recommended that First Church purchase a portable defibrillator, stating that they do all of the work by telling you exactly what to do. They are virtually mistake proof. Council very much enjoyed Mike's

important and interactive presentation.

Kendrick reported on Sacred Conversation on Race, and said that most of the dinner groups had wrapped up their four dinners. A questionnaire will be distributed to facilitators, and probably to those church members who attended the dinners.

Frank Wright reported on the Melita Refugee Resettlement Committee, stating that the Khammas family had moved out of the Work's home and were living in Ann West's home, who was away. Ann's absence has allowed them to feel as though they are living on their own. By around June 20, the family will move into Frank Wright's previous residence, as he is relocating to England. The family was recently taken to a mosque in West Haven, which assists with social needs as well as religious needs, and noted that they have started to network with other Muslims. First Church has received a fairly large donation to help cover the costs of the family's needs. The committee is working on getting English as a Second Language (ESL) services so the father can become employed.

In updates and new business, **committees and boards were reminded to send their monthly reports to Virginia Corbiere each month.** Council will break for summer and next meet on September 8. Finance Council will be meeting on June 28 in Minear Library. Lyla Johnson expressed the need for two more people on Stewardship Committee, and also a need for an assistant treasurer. Anyone with a nomination should contact her. Meeting was adjourned at 9:04 PM.

MELITA HOUSE SALE COMMITTEE

The Melita House Sale committee met on June 10, 2009, with Jeanne Thompson, our listing agent with Page Taft. She conveyed that there has been a steady stream of potential buyers with 26 showings since the property was listed. Unfortunately, none of these showings has materialized into an offer. She felt that the asking price when put in the context of the cost of required interior work, has proven intimidating to potential buyers. She also conveyed that the real-estate market in our area has continued to decline. Upon her advice, the Melita House Sale Committee approved a price reduction of approximately 10% to a new listing price of \$629,900. We were pleased with Jeanne's work to date and agreed to extend the church's contract with Page Taft for an additional four months, at which point we will reassess the market.

If you did not participate in the “Sacred Conversation On Race in America” Dinner Groups this past year, you can join in the Conversation starting in September. We are planning many new avenues for participation and some of them may be of interest to you. Please fill out this questionnaire so we can organize activity groups that meet your needs. You may return it via the offering plate or sending/dropping off at the Church office: 122 Broad Street. Thank you, Kendrick and Susan

	No Interest	Not Much Interest	Some Interest	Very Interested	Extremely Interested
	1	2	3	4	5
1. Continuation of dinner/dialogue sessions on race (similar to what we are completing now).	1	2	3	4	5
2. Intellectual talks on race (e.g., guest speakers).	1	2	3	4	5
3. Political action or advocacy to address issues of racial equality.	1	2	3	4	5
4. Connecting with another church or group interested in working together to create multi-racial experiences.					
a. Participate in a fellowship group with members from First Church and an African American Church.	1	2	3	4	5
b. Creating music and/or singing together.	1	2	3	4	5
c. Family fun day – organized activities to play together.	1	2	3	4	5
d. Community or service work	1	2	3	4	5
e. Other: _____	1	2	3	4	5
5. Acts of service					
a. Mentoring (e.g., schools, like St. Martin de Porres, seek mentors to work w/students)	1	2	3	4	5
b. Habitat for Humanity	1	2	3	4	5
c. Other: _____	1	2	3	4	5
6. Training					
a. The Art of Listening	1	2	3	4	5
b. Other: _____	1	2	3	4	5
7. Dinner/dialogue sessions on a different topic (please specify): _____	1	2	3	4	5

Additional comments: _____

**BLESSINGS TO THOSE CONFIRMED
SUNDAY, JUNE 14TH**

Taylor Ashley, James Carroll, Molly Durso-Smith, Ben Kalbfeld, Katie Kalfaian, Brad Lowery, Jamie Makara and Bryan McNamara

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS
RECEIVED ON MAY 31, 2009**

Jan Bruegel, Ellen Edens & Nathan Walk, Dee Janer, Holly Langewisch, Pamela Lydon, Preston Maynard, Cheryl & Henry Norton, Beth O’Bymachow

NEW MEMBER

Isaiah and I are very proud to be new members of the First Congregational Church. I have long appreciated the architecture of the church, the pristine landmark at the head of the green. More importantly, I have admired the many positive contributions the church and the congregation make to the Guilford community. My two sons, Adam and Asa were active in Pilgrim Fellowship and our family has been to many interesting musical and religious ceremonies at the church. I would very much like to help in the social justice work and ministries to those less fortunate through the church. Thank you all for being so welcoming to me and Isaiah as we become new members.
Preston Maynard



WEDDING INVITATION

On Saturday, July 11, 2009 at 4:00pm in First Church’s Sanctuary Pacific Giordano and Daniela Kokschi will be married before God, this community and the people they love and care about. They would like to share this very special time with the people in this incredible community of faith. They are inviting all who would like to make this day even more special by their presence to attend the ceremony.

**SAVE THE DATE—SUNDAY OCTOBER 4TH—
CROP WALK!**

The CROP Walk program is designed to call attention to people who do not have access to clean drinking water or adequate food and is a primary element 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. You can participate by walking, pledging support to a walker, or offering return transportation from Madison for the walkers. Watch for more information!

**MUSIC & TRANSFORMATION
AUGUST RETREAT AT FIRST CHURCH**

Recently Marjorie Colton had the opportunity to experience a 7-day retreat using Mary Morreale’s *Music and Transformation* curriculum that she condensed from the weekly format followed here in classes for the past 5 years.

As an outgrowth of that wonderful experience, Marjorie is offering a 7-day retreat this summer and you are invited to consider participating. The group will meet in the Spencer House from 7:00 – 9:00am Thursday, August 6th through Wednesday, August 12th. Yes, it is early but think of it this way: the building will be quiet, cool, and conducive to prayer and meditation at this hour and you will have the day ahead of you to carry the experience around for further reflection. If you consider committing to this process, clear your calendar for those days at that time. Once the retreat has begun, it won’t be in the group’s best interest if you decide to take a day off for whatever reason. A group of 4 will work well in this space.

This is a new opportunity for anyone who has already completed the cycle of 28 weeks. Although you know this material, daily attention sharpens it. If you have wondered what this course is about, here is your chance to experience an overview in one week. If you sense an inner need for spiritual attention, and music resonates with you, consider accepting this invitation. Call Marjorie at 245-3463 with any questions, and your “Yes.” Those who are not participating directly in the retreat can contribute by holding the group in your prayers.

1SEX AND THE CHURCH

"Sex and the Church" is the theme of a two-day conference at Union Seminary in NYC October 8-9. Kate Ott, from our church, is one of the panelists. The program addresses the following issues:

- What makes a congregation or seminary sexually healthy?
- How do I talk with my community about sexuality?
- Where can I find resources within scripture or within my tradition to foster healthier sexuality?

Kate was the author of a two-year study of sexuality education at 36 leading seminaries, which found that only one seminary requires a course in sexuality issues for religious professionals, and that two-thirds of the seminaries do not even offer such a course. Kate teaches second grade in the church school and may lead a workshop this fall on how parents can talk with their children about sexuality issues.

THE BILLBOARD FROM BETHLEHEM

In May of 2007, I Wage Peace founder and Connecticut native Bruce Barrett, with artist Russell Rainbolt, and documentary film maker Tom Jackson, joined 100 Israeli and Palestinian children and The Combatants for Peace (former Israeli soldiers and former Palestinian armed resisters) to hand paint a giant 48-foot long Peace mural in the West Bank of occupied Palestine. The sign was received at religious services in the West Bank and Israel, then shipped to the United States to a Connecticut mosque, a synagogue, and a church, and finally posted on Connecticut Interstate I-95 and RT 84.

The Billboard from Bethlehem is a one hour documentary of the project offering insight into the history of the conflict, the dynamics of the fighting and a vision for a just and lasting peace. The documentary weaves a tale of design with eight combatant's stories of personal transformation: how they grew up, how they engaged in violent action against their enemy and how they became soldiers of non-violence.

If you would like to read more about this and see photos of the children working on the project, go to <http://iwagepeace.org> click on The Billboard from Bethlehem.

Susan Murtha mentioned this film in her sermon on June 28th and encouraged us to watch it. In the fall, the Peace, Affirmation and Justice Committee will be showing it. We are hoping that Bruce Barrett, the project originator, will be present for the showing.

Shannon Clarkson

JOURNEYS IN A JET AGE

Children first grade through sixth will participate in crafts, folk stories, games, songs and worship as they learn about the church at work in China, India, Peru and Africa. Please fill out the registration form included in the Landmark and send it to the church office or call Betsy Work 458-7708 or Lisa Horst 453-5524. Although Journeys is not until August 3 through 6, your registration is needed ASAP so that materials can be ordered. Junior High and High School are invited to participate as aides. Please inform Betsy or Lisa.

SUMMER NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

10:00 AM SERVICE

During the summertime, our nursery staff takes a well-deserved rest, and we as a church need volunteers to care for our youngest members and as an outreach to families in our church and new to our community. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex, and we will need two adult volunteers for each Sunday. What a lovely way to spend a morning with the kids and serving the church! If you have any questions about what is involved or wish to call to volunteer, Lisa Horst can be reached at lisa@firstchurchguilford.org or the Church School office 453-3324.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP IN THE FALL

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 & 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!!!!

COLUMBUS HOUSE

SUMMER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to prepare and serve dinner at Columbus House in New Haven on **Thursday, August 6** from approximately 4:30/5:00pm to 7:00pm. We need 6 or 7 people, including several strong men to lift heavy pots! This is a great opportunity for a family to volunteer together. The Board of Community and World Concerns provides the food. Please call or email Miriam Olsen at 457-0058 or miriamgolsen@comcast.net if you can help or have any questions.

Miriam Olsen,

Board of Community and World Concerns

JOURNEYS IN A JET AGE

Summer Vacation Program

Monday, August 3—Thursday,
August 6
9:00 am - 12 noon each day

A four day vacation program for children entering Grade 1 through Grade 7. Through crafts, songs, stories, artifacts, drama, games, and snacks, participants will see the church at work in China, India, Peru, and Kenya.

Suggested donation \$15/child \$25/family

Thursday, August 6th, 6pm
International Pot-luck supper and children's presentation of folk dramas, dances and songs
Families & friends are invited.

Initial registration form

Name: _____

Address _____

Phone #: _____ Entering Grade: _____

Email: _____

For more information: Lisa Horst (453-3324), forms may be mailed to 122 Broad St Guilford.

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