



The December 2010 Landmark

The First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Guilford, Connecticut

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Vol. 56, Number 11

AN ADVENT WELCOME

Looking out over the Church's Memorial Garden from my office window, on a Tuesday afternoon, I saw the Middle School Youth Group gathering, getting ready to welcome a U.S. soldier who had served in Iraq. I stopped this writing and ran out to meet them, shaking hands with a lively and friendly group of young people. Lively and friendly—that's how I would characterize First Church after two short weeks among you. I have been shaking a lot of hands: at the Fair, at worship, your reception for me after the 10:00 service on November 14, and as members pop in at Spencer House. It is enjoyable to be welcomed so extravagantly to this short—but significant—time together as your Interim Associate Minister.

Extravagant means a bit over the top, more than expected, generous to a fault. Being asked to step in here for the interim seems to be an extravagant gift of God to me, unexpected and joyous. I knew First Church from the few months I spent here in 2002, as a field work student from Yale Divinity School, but I did not expect to find myself here this fall. Through a fortuitous combination of circumstances and lots of grace, here I am.

I have a varied background: former Roman Catholic, I studied first with the Jesuits in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in the early 1970's, hoping for the ordination of women. I then studied theology and ministry in Washington, D.C., Geneva, Switzerland, and Lyon, France. Returning from Europe, with Patrick, my French Swiss husband, and two young sons, I was a consultant in ethics education and corporate trainer.

After joining the Orange Congregational Church, I felt re-called to ordained ministry, and pursued a second master's degree at Yale Divinity School. Ordained by the New Haven Association in 2003, I served as associate pastor in Naugatuck for almost five years. I left to care for our son, Nathanael, who died in 2008. I had just decided that I was ready to return to active ministry when the interim position at First Church became available.

As Advent flows into Christmas, and we begin to feel overwhelmed by all that we want to do and all that we have to do, we sometimes begin to get self-critical and frustrated. Maybe it all seems too much, and we lose sight of the reason we celebrate. But all the preparations can also be places of grace, moments when we realize that the efforts made are part of our way of welcoming the Christ Child.

This small but significant shift can make light of the longest "to do" list. The only thing we have to do is welcome God with us. Extravagant welcome is an attitude we can carry within, throughout the season. And as we "let mutual love continue", may we reflect God's extravagant love for us in sending us Jesus.

Clare Robert

DECEMBER WORSHIP & PROGRAM SCHEDULE**Sunday, Dec. 5: *Second Sunday in Advent****Lisa preaching*

- 8:30am Communion- Chapel
- 9:00am Bible Study – Church School Bldg Rm 9
- 10:00am Communion, Nursery care, Church School
- 11:30am Harvest Mini-Fair – Fellowship Hall
- 5:00pm Advent Family Supper – FH
- 7:00pm Pilgrim Fellowship - FH

Sunday, Dec. 12: *Third Sunday in Advent**Clare preaching*

- 8:30am Worship - Chapel
- 9:00am Bible Study – Church School Bldg Rm 9
- 10:00am Worship, Nursery care, Church School
- 5:00pm Service of Lessons & Carols-Sanctuary
- 6:30pm Soup & Bread Supper – Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, Dec. 15: 7:00pm Service of Prayer and Healing-Sanctuary**Sunday, Dec. 19: *Fourth Sunday in Advent****Kendrick preaching*

- 8:30am Worship - Chapel
- 9:00am Bible Study – Church School Bldg Rm 9
- 10:00am Festival Service, Church School, Nursery
- 11:30am PF Cookie Walk- Fellowship Hall
- 7:00pm Pilgrim Fellowship – FH

Friday, Dec. 24: *Christmas Eve*

- 5:00pm Christmas Pageant – Sanctuary
- 10:00pm Candlelight Communion Service –
Clare preaching

Sunday, Dec. 26: *No 8:30am Worship*

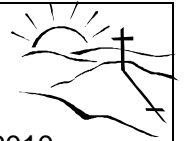
- 10:00am Worship, Kendrick preaching, Nursery care, *No Church School*

NEW IN MINEAR LIBRARY

The Other Wes Moore, gripping narratives of two Baltimore kids with so much in common including the same name, similar circumstances, pressures, and needs. Their choices ultimately lead “to astonishingly different destinies.” Recommended to those in the Prison Ministry.

*Marjorie Colton, Librarian***α****ALPHA CLUB MEETING**

Our Annual Christmas Party will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 14th at 7:00pm at the home of Carin Small, 52 Church Street. Members should bring an unwrapped toy for Christian Community Action and adult socks for the homeless in new Haven. All are welcome!

IN MEMORIUM

Edwin J. Brooks
February 24, 1921 – October 6, 2010

Carolyn Drew Leese
December 18, 1934 – November 2, 2010

DEACONESS OF THE MONTH

Deaconess for December is Peggy Russell (203-458-0660). Please notify her of births, adoptions, or anyone who may need a note of sympathy or encouragement. Mary Norris (203-457-9483) 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 love and prayers, please call Mary. **CDs of Sunday services** are available to sign out in Spencer House kitchen and **sermon recordings** are available on the church website: www.firstchurchguilford.org.

ANNUAL REPORT REMINDER:

Annual Reports need to be submitted by each of the Boards and Committees for inclusion in the Book of Reports prepared for our Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 6th. To insure the Book of Reports is ready by January 23rd for all members and friends to review before the meeting **please submit your reports to the Church Office by Monday, January 10th**. If you can submit them early, by all means do so!

Reports may be submitted in different ways. the easiest for me is to receive it as an attachment via email to office@firstchurchguilford.org. - I use Microsoft Word. You may also submit a hard copy that is “copy-ready.” Of course, if you do not have access to a computer, I am happy to key your report into the computer – just submit it as early as possible, please. Check last year's Book of Reports if you need guidance in preparing this year's report. If you have any questions, please call 203-453-5249.

Thank you! Penelope

Thanks to Office Angels for November:
Cindy Caligan, Liza Catino, Dianne Hughes,
Susan Leete, Alice Mitchell and Jane Rowen
Thank you all for your help!!

**CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS
November 9, 2010**

Council welcomed Clare Robert as she was introduced as our new interim minister, and Bill Speed opened in prayer. For our covenant time, each Council member took turns sharing their "Joys and Concerns" for their committees and boards. Many reported the need for additional volunteers to serve. The Deaconesses need additional knitters for prayer shawls, the Music Committee has a number of members rotating off, Stewardship and Board of Finance have been operating with several vacant positions, and Eric Sandin, our assistant financial secretary, and Virginia Corbiere, our recording secretary in charge of Council reports, have asked to be replaced after serving for many years. Lisa Horst Clark spoke of her joy in working with our Christian Ed teachers. Joe Catino reported that the Trustees attended a workshop on endowment management, and the good news was that we already have in operation everything they have recommended. Kendrick expressed his joy of our strong, vibrant church and his appreciation of Kim Beckett's service as chair of Church Council. He announced that Joe Catino will be Kim's successor, and Council celebrated that great joy.

2011 Budget – Although the expense side of the 2011 budget is fairly complete, the income side is not known at this time. Some forecasts have been used, which show a \$40,000 gap. Kendrick introduced the idea of a couple of fundraisers, and a Capital Campaign Committee is in the process of being formed.

Stewardship – We are about halfway through the Pony Express stewardship campaign. There were 475 households on the list of active members that are involved, and some bags are moving along quickly, while others are a bit slower. The committee is still working through the logistics of using credit cards as a means of payment. At the November 21st service, the pledges will be brought forward to the altar. An additional 75 people, who either live outside of Guilford or are infirmed, had pledged cards mailed to them. The benediction was read and the meeting was adjourned.

ANNOUNCEMENTS DURING WORSHIP

Announcements are so important to the life of our church. They inform us about opportunities for spiritual growth, fellowship, education and mission. In addition, we get to experience the enthusiasm of the person making the announcement and sense the vitality of our community. However, multiple, lengthy announcements burden rather than excite the listener and end up detracting from, instead of adding to, our worship. So when your committee needs to make an announcement, please be passionate but brief, calling attention to the complete announcement in the bulletin. We ask that each committee have only one announcement per week and announce it only on one Sunday. The Sunday worship bulletin and The Landmark give opportunity for complete information about the event. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

LESSONS & CAROLS

What emotions do the words "All is calm, all is bright" evoke in you? Can you smell evergreen and mulled cider when you hear the tune of "Away in a Manger"? At what point in December can you step outside the Christmas marketing and step into the Christian nativity? One of our church's most beloved services will be held on December 12th at 5:00pm. Through word and melody, Lessons & Carols will tell the eternal story of Jesus' birth. The congregation will sing favorite hymns such as "O Come, All Ye Faithful" and "Angels We Have Heard on High." Leaders from church committees will read scripture passages. The choirs of First Church will sing beloved carols such as "I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In" and "Bring A Torch, Jeanette, Isabella." The First Church Ringers will play "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" and "Silent Night". Welcome in this worship the newborn Christ.



JOYFUL NOISE! CONCERT



Nick Catino & Friends, an acoustic jazz trio, will present a *Joyful Noise!* Concert on Sunday, January 9th at 4:00 PM in our sanctuary. The program will include original compositions and jazz standards featuring Nick Catino on trumpet, Noah Preminger on tenor sax and Matt Rousseau on drums. The three musicians currently reside in New York City where they have been playing in various venues to critical acclaim. They have been performing together since 2004, when Nick met and collaborated with Noah and Matt as jazz performance majors at the New England Conservatory in Boston. A graduate of Guilford High School, Nick has graced our sanctuary for Easter, Christmas (and a Jr. Choir Musical), as well as a wildly successful *Joyful Noise!* Concert three years ago, which also featured Matt and Noah. Nick is earning a Master's degree in Music Education at the Steinhardt School of Music at New York University. Their performance is sure to be fun and amazing and awesome!

A free-will offering benefits The Myrtha Licht Fund.



"Human life includes so much real gold, so many precious jewels, that he who knows these will not be tempted to set it off with gewgaws."

Benjamin Whichcote

CHRISTMAS TEA AT MART'S HOUSE

Join us on December 7th for our third annual Christmas Tea at the Hartford home for women ex-offenders. We will meet in the church parking lot at 12:50 and depart at 1 for the 2-4pm tea. A member of the North Branford Church is bringing prayer shawls she has knitted. Marcia Myhre will bring along gift bags for each of the women. If anyone has a jewelry item to donate, please let Marcia know, 203-453-5116. Many of us recall the verse "I was in prison and you visited me" Mt. 25:36. Here is our chance to continue showing our concern for those who have been imprisoned. If you plan to join us, please call Shannon Clarkson, 203-453-6640. This is always one of those experiences where you receive far more than you give.



**CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE
FYI AND THANKS**

After more than four years, we have decided to end the monthly Contemporary Worship Service. Our last service was November 7th. I would like to thank the Deacons for their support of this service, particularly Pamela Dear and Rebecca Bunting. A huge thank you to the many talented musicians who were so incredibly dedicated to showing up every month with smiles on their faces and joy in their singing and playing: Charlie Dear, Brian Gillie, Bill Welch, Bill Bailey, Kathy Nichols, Tom Tomsich, Liza Catino, Bob Glaser, Molly Durso-Smith, Sara North, and Bill Speed. Thanks to the Revs. Todd Shipley and Susan Murtha who participated in almost all of the 48 services. And finally, a heartfelt thanks to those congregation members who attended and so loved our special monthly service. I will miss seeing you all each month.

*With peace and gratitude,
Stuart Wilkie*

HISTORIANS' CORNER OUR CHRISTMAS TAPERS

Once again the Christmas season will be celebrated in our lovely sanctuary. As it has been for the last 43 years, the aisles will be outlined with pew tapers radiating a soft glow. These are here due to the generosity and hard work of two church families, Gustaf and Virginia Bodin and Edward and Helen Petzoldt.

Up until the late 1960s lighted candles were held and carried by worshipers during Christmas services. The Rev. Hal Helms was concerned about the safety of this practice. Deacons Bodin and Petzoldt offered to work on a solution for this and came up with a design for the construction and installation of 32 electric tapers. This was a complicated and time consuming project which involved many months of work in their private homes and included their provision of all materials.

The vases of these tapers were handcrafted from teak wood affixed to a metal rod enclosed in a plastic sleeve. Gus and Ed searched for a special candelabra fixture and tried several bulbs before finding the taper-like one now used. Installation required rewiring along the base of the pews. After many months of working on this project, the candles were lit on December 24, 1967. For over 20 years, Gus, Virginia, Ed and Helen installed and carefully stored these candles to avoid damage. As their family situations changed in recent years, this is now done by our sexton.

Traditionally these candles enhance the Christmas season but on special request have been used for weddings. As we worship this year of 2010 let us remember and give thanks for the beauty of this gift.



INTERGENERATIONAL ADVENT SUPPER SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 5:00 PM

We will be celebrating our Advent Traditions with an Advent wreath. If you have a family advent wreath, you are invited to bring it to share on the tables. This is *not* a potluck, so put down the cookie-dough and come for a great evening of seasonal song and fun. Questions? Lisa Horst Clark (203-453-3324)
There will be a freewill offering to help cover our expenses.



UCC CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING

Five Delegates from our church attended the Fall segment of the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference held in the Middletown High School on Friday evening and Saturday, October 22 and 23. The focus this year was on Global Missions and the keynote speaker was Robert Orr, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations. Thirty workshops were offered, mostly related to the Global Ministries theme, including one by Clyde Work and Bob Tilton describing our Landmark Newsletter series on "Where in the World is the UCC?"

Our church was commended in three categories for the level of our giving to OCWM (Our Church's Wider Ministries). Of the money First Church sends to the Conference, 37% supports Conference programs and 63% is forwarded for national and global support. Our OCWM for 2009 was:

1. the third largest dollar amount of any church in the Conference,
2. 13.84% of our expense budget reported for 2009 and
3. more than 10% of our expense budget for the past five year period.

Two resolutions were passed: One "to Explore Becoming a Global Global Mission Conference. The other was entitled, "Calling for Recognition of Sacred Time.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christmas Pageant and Rehearsal



All children of the church are invited to participate in our Annual Christmas Pageant! It is a wonderful chance to be part of worship and for children to learn about the Christmas story. Children (and any Parent helpers) are invited to the "one and only" rehearsal on Saturday December 18th from 9:30 AM-11:00 AM, where we will assign parts and costumes. The pageant itself will take place at 5:00 PM on Christmas Eve. A little shy? You should come! A big ham? You should come too! This is a fun chance for kids and youth of any age to explore the Christmas story!

What is Rotation Church School?

This January, we are excited to experience a new model of church school together. Our current model: For most of us, Church School looks much the same today as it did growing up. Students meet in the same classroom with same-age peers, a different story is taught each week, and after the story we have some kind of craft or activity. At First Church, we teach about 25 stories in a year and each lesson is taught every other year. That is a lot to learn in one year! The "traditional" model of curriculum presents some challenges for both teachers and learners. As we know, scheduling is hard for everyone these days, and in our current model, if a student misses a Sunday, they won't have that story again for another two years. It can be hard for teachers to build upon material if a class doesn't have the same "base" of information. In academic classrooms, we would never teach a lesson once and then move on! In addition, the traditional model requires that our volunteer teachers' prepare a new lesson each week.

In response to some of these challenges, a new model of Church School has been developed called **Workshop Rotation Model**. In this system, a single lesson is taught for 4-6 weeks in a row to give children the opportunity to really learn and embrace a story. The same lesson is approached in different interactive ways by rotating through different theme "workshops." The teachers have the chance to teach a lesson several times in a row, giving more of their "volunteer time" directly to kids. The kids get excited about the upcoming "workshops" on the horizon. We are excited to have a chance to try out a new "rotation workshop" this January for grades 1-5. These grades will meet in the Chapel following worship and follow their teachers to one of four theme based rooms

	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Photography</u>	<u>Cooking</u>	<u>Games</u>
1/9	Gr. 5	Gr. 1	Gr. 3/4	Gr. 2
1/16	Gr. 1	Gr. 2	Gr. 5	Gr. 3/4
1/23	Gr. 2	Gr. 3/4	Gr. 1	Gr. 5
1/30	Gr. 3/4	Gr. 5	Gr. 2	Gr. 1

Our hopes for kids in our rotation unit: At the end of four weeks, the kids will really know this story. Even if they miss a week, they have a chance for reinforced material. The workshops are "hands-on," something that will appeal to children with very different learning styles.

Our hopes for teachers in the rotation unit: It is a chance to call on special skills. Teachers prepare a lesson only once and then adapt to different ages. Our regular teachers will "shepherd" children through the different workshops to provide continuity.

Looking for Digital Cameras

Do you have an older digital camera that you are not using? Have a camera that Christmas has replaced? Donate it to Church School! We are looking for used, working digital cameras that children would be able to use for class projects throughout the year. Megapixels and zoom don't matter, but we can only use cameras which can still work and upload photos. We are especially looking for cameras to use this January for a special photography unit. Have a camera you might be able to donate to the church? Please contact Lisa Horst Clark (203) 453-3324

THE GIVING TREE

Most of us at First Church have the means to provide Christmas presents for our families and loved ones. However, there are many families in this town who do not have this ability. For those families just providing food and basic clothing is a challenge. The Giving Tree is our opportunity to help **Guilford Families** have a Merry Christmas.



For the last several years First Church has helped to provide a Merry Christmas for 5 families registered with Guilford Social Services. Social Services asks each family member for 3 needed items and 1 "most wished for" item. This information is then given to us, and we get the fun of shopping and giving. Remember that these families do live in Guilford, the children attend Guilford schools, and we are in an age of technology, so some items may be expensive. For more expensive items join with another family or 2 to share the cost.

The tree will be in the narthex, December 5th & 12th. Choose a gift and take the gift tag. Return the wrapped gift, **with the tag firmly attached to the package, on DECEMBER 19th.** Call Jeanie Cacopardo (203-453-6981) with any questions.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

The Pilgrim Fellowship will host its annual Breakfast with Santa in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, December 4th from 9:00-11:30 AM.

Get your child's photo taken with Santa. The cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children under 12, and \$7 for each photo with Santa. All proceeds benefit the annual Mission Trip.



**PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP
DECEMBER NEWS**

Dec. 4th **Santa Breakfast:** 9—11:30am; pancake breakfast and picture with Santa

Dec. 12th **Soup and Bread Supper:** 6—7:30pm; \$7 admission for a variety of homemade soups, bread, and dessert; \$5/quart take home soup

Dec. 19th **Cookie Walk:** following the 10:00am church service-Fellowship Hall

PF meeting will be held on Dec. 5th and 19th 7:00pm

FROM THE HARVEST FAIR COMMITTEE



This year's Harvest Fair was a terrific success, offering fellowship and raising approximately \$16,000 (including Next-Day Fair). On a gloriously sunny day, the shoppers streamed in to snap up quality items at great values, to view the beautiful photographs in the Sanctuary and to dine on delicious home-made fare. Thanks to all the volunteers for their time, effort and creativity and to the shoppers as well. We're not done yet! Please mark your calendars for the **Harvest Mini-Fair, Sunday, December 5 at 11:15 AM** in Fellowship Hall.

BAKERY ROOM

Thank you to all the people who baked all the delicious food for the Harvest Fair Bakery Room. We appreciate your help in making the fair a success. Thank you too to those who made calls to remind people to bake and to those who worked in the room the day of the fair. A special thank you to Barbara Bishop for her 60 jars of jams and jellies and to Peggy Benton for the many loaves of friendship bread.

Debbie Peluse & Karen Kalbfeld

SANCTUARY EXHIBIT

A special "thank you" to the wonderfully talented photographers who so generously volunteered to display their work during the Harvest Fair for the Sanctuary exhibit: Adelchi Becker, Mia Corvino, Daniela Giordano, Larry Kalbfelt, Laurie & Kevin Magee, Ruth Nettleton, Nancy & Tom Patton, Sharon Schoenfeldt, Betsy Schwammberger, Tracy Vernon, Lynn Wayne, Clyde & Betsy Work, and Norman & Edie Zabel.

The exhibit wouldn't have been a success without you!

Debbie Montenegro and the Harvest Fair Committee



Where in the WORLD is the UCC?

For the past five years, your generous support has allowed our Church to give 10% of our budget to basic support of Our Church's Wider Ministries (OCWM). At the UCC Connecticut Conference Annual Meeting held October 22-23, 2010, our church was recognized for our sustained generosity to this wider mission. As a congregation, we should be proud that our commitment makes a difference in the lives of men and women, families and children around the world. From the board of Community and World Concerns (CWC), thank-you for your continued financial support.

Clyde Work launched a series of Landmark articles in September 2009 to help raise awareness of the vital mission work around the world. In 2009, Global Ministries placed over 125 missionaries with specific skills in 40 different countries. Their mission is to work together and to walk together with international partners, to bring timely, critical care and help build economic self-sufficiency and basic infrastructure for health-care, education and basic needs. To highlight the untiring work of this mission, members of the CWC, personally contacted and wrote the stories of missionaries in nine countries including India, South Africa, Brazil, Turkey, Hong Kong, Chile, Lesotho, Haiti, East Timor and Hungary. Some of the stories are tragic, others are up-lifting. All of the stories speak to genuine Christ-like love.

In our second anniversary year, we have reported on-going mission work in China (September 2010, Pam Ertelt), Laos (October 2010, Bob Leete) and Columbia (November 2010, Linda Cantley) and plan additional stories on Poland, Egypt, Kenya, Guatemala, Zimbabwe and others. The missionaries are generous with their time and are appreciative that their stories are heard by a congregation in a small town in Connecticut. This year we are sharing these stories with Global Missions Headquarters www.globalministries.org who may share them with other congregations. If you get a chance, look back at the older stories in the on-line Landmarks <http://firstchurchguilford.org/the-landmark-mainmenu-64> and see how your contributions indeed help those in need around the world. As members of the UCC, let us continue to remember our responsibilities to our wider world mission.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

It is time to place your order for Christmas poinsettias with the Flower Committee. These flowers, given in memory of your loved ones, decorate our Sanctuary for the holidays and are then distributed by the Deaconesses to those who are home-bound, reside in nursing homes, or any one who is in need of cheer.

The poinsettias will be ordered for \$12.00 per plant. **The deadline for ordering flowers is Monday, Dec. 6th.** Complete this form, enclose your check, and mail to:

First Congregational Church
122 Broad Street
Guilford, CT 06437

Please note "Poinsettias" on your check. If you have questions, please call Barbara Wells at 203-453-5949.

Please order _____ plant(s) @ \$12 each.

Total cost \$ _____

The poinsettias are given in loving memory of:

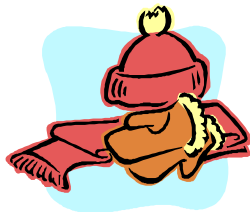
By: _____

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
★★★ 10:00 PM ★★★



CHRISTMAS "MITTEN" TREE

Our traditional "mitten, gloves, hat and scarf tree" will include socks and underwear once again this year as Columbus House continues to have an urgent need for new socks and underwear - especially over-sized underwear - for the homeless population they serve. Place your mittens, gloves, hats and scarves on the tree; socks and underwear beneath the tree. Gloves, mittens, hats and scarves will be distributed to Christian Community Action, Covenant to Care, and Columbus House. Socks and underwear will go to Columbus House.



Unspeakable Monument

Imagine a public monument to the victims of poverty. Imagine that it resembles the black granite wall of the Vietnam Memorial, and it includes the names of everyone who has died of poverty-related causes since the end of the Cold War twenty years ago.

That would be more than 300 million names, mostly children. To make room for so many names, philosopher Thomas Pogge calculates, the monument would have to be 480 miles long, roughly the distance from Detroit to New York City. To keep up with the tally of death that continues daily, the length of the

THE GIVING ALTERNATIVE

With Christmas approaching, it is time to think about celebrating the occasion with **The Giving Alternative**. Instead of giving your friends and loved ones something they may not need or even want, why not make gifts in their names to a worthy charitable organization? Acknowledgement cards can be mailed to you or directly to the recipient.

Here is a list of charities that that **The Giving Alternative** has worked with in the past. You may also designate any other organization of your choice.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY ACTION provides food, advocacy, and temporary shelter for homeless families in New Haven.

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE helps refugees who have fled their homeland, victims of natural disasters, and farmers who need support services.

COLUMBUS HOUSE provides food, referrals, and evening health services for homeless people in New Haven.

THE COVE provides programs for helping children and families work through unresolved grief due to the death of someone significant in their lives.

GUILFORD FOOD BANK provides food for Guilford people in need.

GUILFORD FUEL FUND helps Guilford families in need to heat their homes.

GUILFORD INTERFAITH MINISTRIES offers three separate services: **Meals on Wheels** for Guilford Residents who are homebound, **Friendly Visiting** for those who are homebound or lonely, and **Charlie's Closet**, which provides medical equipment for those in need.

HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL provides livestock and agricultural assistance to needy families all over the world.

AN ORGANIZATION OF YOUR CHOICE

To participate in THE GIVING ALTERNATIVE, send a check (or checks) made payable to each organization you have selected to: The Giving Alternative, c/o First Congregational Church, 122 Broad Street, Guilford, CT 06437. We have provided a form for your convenience. (on the back of this page).


Please have your checks arrive at the church at least a week before the holiday so that we can distribute the checks and send out the cards on time.

wall would have to be extended by half a mile per week. Thomas Pogge, World Poverty and Human Rights, 2008	
---	--

**First Congregational Church
The Giving Alternative 2010**

Your Name _____

Telephone Number _____

Your Address  _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please check one:

Send Acknowledgement cards to me to enclose with my holiday card.

Send acknowledgement cards to the recipients. I have listed the addresses below.

Organization Name	Amount	Gift in name of (recipient)	Recipient's address (for acknowledgement)

Please enclose a separate check **payable to each organization.**

Mail to: The Giving Alternative, c/o First Congregational Church, 122 Broad Street, Guilford, CT 06437.
Please have your checks arrive at the church at least a week before the relevant holiday so that we can distribute the checks and send out the acknowledgement cards on time.

Please contact Robert Harms, 203-453-4871, robert.harms@yale.edu if you have any questions.