



# The Summer 2010 Landmark

The First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Guilford, Connecticut

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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## SUMMER SABBATH

We all have those few books that are like “gospel” to us – books that changed not only our outlook, but also our way of living. To these books of rare significance, we return many times through the years to be re-rooted in a message that not only awakened us, but changed us. One of my “gospel” books is Wayne Muller’s *Sabbath*.

For church members, summer is a time of the church’s Sabbath. Boards and committees don’t meet, church school is out of session, the choir doesn’t sing, the church office keeps more limited hours. We take this season to do more than rest from our labor. Sabbath includes our much-needed rest, but it is also a potent force: in it, we become available to essential insight that can only arise in this absence of activity and talk.

Church work, ministry, discipleship – the tasks we undertake here are not about utilitarian solutions. The problems we take on and the pathways we seek are about the deepest truths of human nature, human destiny and God. To do this work well, we need the deep understanding, insight and wisdom found in Sabbath. Muller notes:

*I have sat on dozens of boards and commissions with many fine, compassionate and generous people who are so tired, overwhelmed and overworked that they have neither the time nor the capacity to listen to the deeper voices that speak to the essence of the problems before them. ... Without the essential nutrients of Sabbath embedded in the problem-solving process itself, the solution we patch together is likely to be an obstacle to genuine relief.*

The season of summer Sabbath as well Covenant time in meetings and our own individual unhurried times are channels for these essential nutrients.

The processes of dormancy and fallow space are quite unlike those of action-oriented tasks. For one thing, they begin with emptiness. Emptiness can seem frightening; we worry, What if nothing happens, nothing arises, nothing is there? But scripture and tradition assure us that emptiness, however uncomfortable, is good; indeed, all creation springs from emptiness: *“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void ....”*

As Muller notes, our willingness to enter into Sabbath depends on what we will find there. I commend it to you because, in it, I have found so much more than blessed rest; I have found the edges of truth and sometimes the center of goodness. And they have come whilst I was not striving to discover anything at all.

*Summer Sabbath Blessings,*  
Susan

**JULY & AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE****Sunday, July 18:** *David Johnson preaching*

8:30 AM Worship- Chapel

10:00 AM Worship, Nursery care

11:15 AM Lemonade on the Church Lawn

**Wednesday, July 21:**

7:00 PM Service of Prayer and Healing-Sanctuary

**Sunday, July 25:** *Kendrick preaching*

8:30 AM Worship

10:00 AM Worship, Nursery care

11:15 AM Lemonade on the Church Lawn

**Sunday, August 1:** *Shannon Clarkson preaching*

8:30 AM Worship – Chapel

10:00 AM Worship, Nursery Care

11:15 AM Lemonade on the Lawn

6:00 PM Contemporary Worship Service

**Sunday, August 8:** *Susan preaching*

8:30 AM Worship – Memorial Garden

10:00 AM Worship – Memorial Garden, Nursery care

11:15 AM Lemonade on the Lawn

**Sunday, August 15:** *Lisa preaching*

8:30 AM Worship - Chapel

10:00 AM Worship, Nursery care

11:15 AM Lemonade on the Lawn

**Sunday, August 22:** *Susan preaching*

8:30 AM Worship - Chapel

10:00 AM Worship, Nursery care

11:15 AM Lemonade on the Lawn

**Sunday, August 29:** *Nancy Leckerling preaching*

8:30 AM Worship - Chapel

10:00 AM Worship, Nursery care

11:15 AM Lemonade on the Lawn



**SAVE the DATES: October 15-17**  
**Theologian-in-Residence:**  
**Diana Butler Bass**

*1 Spiritual and Religious: The Shape of  
 Congregations for a Vital Future*

Diana Butler Bass will be our theologian in residence this fall, October 15-17. She has studied numerous congregations across the US and will bring helpful insights from her experiences. Several of her books are in the church library, so it's not too soon to begin preparing! Her first lecture will be Friday evening, followed by two Saturday morning and one in the afternoon. She will then preach at both services on Sunday morning and lead a sermon discussion afterwards. Do save the date!

**BAPTISMS****May 30, 2010**

Quincy Christopher DePetris  
 son of Megan and Greg DePetris

Lillian Autumn Carey  
 daughter of Kara and Edward Carey. IV

**June 20, 2010**

Logan James Dumais  
 son of Rebecca and James Dumais

**July 11, 2010**

Casey Brennan White  
 Evan Patrick White  
 sons of Margot and Joe White

Courtney Alder Wilson  
 daughter of Corinne and Matthew Wilson

**DEACONESS OF THE MONTH**

**Deaconess for August** is Irene Kubitsky (203-453-6672). 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](http://www.firstchurchguilford.org)

**NEW IN MINEAR LIBRARY**

Piper Kerman's Orange is the New Black, her memoir of 13 months in a woman's prison for a 10-year-old crime, offers an inside perspective on the criminal justice system and far more. Recommended to those in prison Ministry and those who support them.

*Marjorie Colton, Librarian*

**Thanks to Office Angels for May/June:**

Holly Bollier, Cindy Caigan, Jan Campaigne,  
 Liza Catino, Kelly Garcia, Susan Leete,  
 Alice Mitchell and Jane Rowen

*Thank you all for your help!!*

**CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

June 8, 2010

**What Color Are YOU?** The June Council meeting was a most enlightening one as First Church member, Annie Merkle, delivered the Color Q personality test to our group of church leaders. It was no surprise that anyone with ministerial training fell into *Green* – the empathetic, creative and expressive bunch. They have an unusual ability to influence, excel in verbal and written communication and draw out the best in people. Two individuals were *Reds* – bold, spontaneous and focused on “now.” These people handle crisis well and look for the thrill of adventure. They excel as negotiators and trouble-shooters. Only one person present was *Blue* – theoretical, competitive and driven to acquire more knowledge and competence. They do not care for routine. They challenge authority and are visionary. (Can you guess who?) Almost 50% of Council are *Golds* – grounded, responsible, realistic and accountable. These people need to contribute with powerful drive and are society’s protectors. They like procedure, admire common sense and resist change. It was an exercise of fun and laughter as we all discovered who we were and how we like to work. Annie is the president and founder of The AMI Solution, Inc., a consulting firm that provides guidance in organization effectiveness and change management. She holds an MA in Organization Psychology from Columbia and works with senior leaders in Fortune 100 companies, universities and non-profits. Church Council was incredibly fortunate to have Annie offer her leadership and knowledge at one of our meetings, and we expressed our sincere gratitude for her willingness to join us.

**Financials** – Debbie Peluse has created a separate account on her report for the grocery card money making it more transparent. To date the net proceeds for the grocery card program are \$1,913.24. It was announced that we need to find someone to fill Eric Sandin’s position of assistant financial secretary, which requires about three hours per week. Debbie Bishop can cover the responsibility over the summer, but we need someone by this coming fall. (Please contact Debbie B. if you are interested in helping out with your financial talents!) Debbie Peluse also reported that the church is looking for a replacement for our bookkeeper, Karolyn Dunn, who has served us for many years. This position works approximately two hours per week.

**PF Director Search** – Council approved the PF director search committee, which is being chaired by Kurt Linske. Already there are three applicants for the position, and it is the committee’s hope to have someone on board by August.

**Updates and New Business** -- Bob Leete updated that Viridian, our new electric supplier, will be offering rebates to the church with member sign-up. He is working with Martin Ewing to get the information and link on our website.

After many years of serving as the recording secretary in charge of compilation of Council’s monthly reports, Virginia Corbiere has asked to be replaced. Anyone willing to serve in this capacity, just until February, please contact Kim Beckett.

Welcome and Inclusion is setting up for the picnic this weekend, and would appreciate help of any kind. The benediction was read and meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

**PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP DIRECTOR**

The First Congregational Church Guilford is seeking a dedicated individual to serve as Director of its high school youth group, the Pilgrim Fellowship. The mission of PF is to create a broad-based and close-knit fellowship, provide an atmosphere where the moral and faith issues of the day can be explored, give opportunity for youthful exuberance and the joy of life to be fully expressed, and to serve those in need. In collaboration with a team of well-seasoned adult volunteers, the Director will plan and lead regular Sunday evening meetings (academic year) of approximately 60-100 teens, organize local service projects, and retain relevant speakers as necessary. In addition the PF director will coordinate fundraising efforts, and organize, supervise and participate in an annual mission trip during April school vacation, in concert with a team of adult advisors. September through June. \$17,000. For more information please contact Kurt Linske at (203)453-6838 or [kurt.linske@siemens.com](mailto:kurt.linske@siemens.com). We desire to fill this position by the beginning of August, but applications will be accepted until the position is filled. A detailed job description is available upon request.

### CONFIRMATION

In June we celebrated and welcomed into membership those who completed the two-year Confirmation program:

Renee Bollier  
Maggie Durso-Smith  
Kevin Gozzi  
Patricia Hennessy-Thomas  
Jane Motter  
Emily Ott  
Jacob Schmidt  
Kara Welch



### NEW MEMBER BIOS

In June, we welcomed fourteen persons into membership at First Church. We are blessed by what each brings to our worship and ministry. Some of their bios follow:

**Karolyn Dunn** (to some people “beachlvr”) resides in Guilford with her husband Dan. They have 4 grown children between them, 3 of whom were active members in Pilgrim Fellowship. Serving as Church Accountant for The United Church of Christ for the past 15 years prepared me for my position at the Catholic Chapel at Yale University, a very exciting and dynamic atmosphere indeed.

I was blessed to have been invited to the opening day ceremony at Melita House, which led to the most relevant and transforming 6 years of my life. I remain very close to many of the “strangers” that passed through those doors.

I have served as President of the Shoreline Outdoor Education Center in North Guilford for the past 18 years. We celebrated our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary last fall with a mushroom festival! Our two room school house was the original Melissa Jones School.

I am an artist of oils, and avid walker and beachcomber. While my “home Church” is in the northern part of Guilford, I look forward to being “united” with my other church family here!

**Diane Grigaitis** – Becoming a formal member of First Church is taking place after many years of attending services at First Church. My faith journey has deepened through participation in the most recent Music & Transformation class, the Services of Prayer and Healing, and the Lenten and retreat programs. I look forward to continuing my faith journey here at First Church. Interests include a love of nature and animals, gardening, travelling, reading and movies, as well as a devotion to life-long learning. Current volunteer activities include the Elder Horizons program (YNHH) and High Hopes Therapeutic Riding Program in Old Lyme, CT.

**Laura Grom and John Hodson** – We have lived in Guilford for four years. Previously, we belonged to Dunbar Congregational in Hamden. We joined due to the open-minded and spiritual philosophy. Laura is a certified teacher but has stayed home with her family for the past ten years. Presently, she is looking to get back in the field. Liam, the oldest, is an artistic, compassionate and intelligent teenager. He has a keen eye for visual arts. He enjoys horseback riding and cooking. Riley is a very well-rounded child. He has diverse interests. Along with sports he loves to dance and sing. He gets along with everyone and accepts others’ differences. Bella is a vibrant five year-old. She has a sense of humor and enjoys her family. She will be entering kindergarten in the fall. We are happy to join the church family and help others in any way we can.

**Jack Linville** was born in New York City in 1946 and grew up in Scarsdale, New York. He graduated from Princeton University and Columbia Law School. He has lived and practiced law in New York City until retiring recently and moving to Guilford where he and his wife have had a home in Sachems Head since 1985. Jack’s wife, Anne, is a landscape designer who continues to practice in New York. Jack and Anne have two sons, James and Andrew, who both graduated from the Trinity School in New York City and are now in college at University of Virginia and Davidson College, respectively. In retirement, Jack serves on corporate and not for profit boards. He enjoys running, bicycling, tennis, sailing, music, reading and helping in Anne’s garden.

**Catharine S. Walker** earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from the College of New Jersey, a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Albertus Magnus College and a Master of Liberal Studies from Wesleyan University. She studied watercolor in the Bucks County, Pa., studio of Judi Wagner and oil painting with Karl Mayan at the Art Students League in New York City. For seven years she was a Docent at the Yale University Art Gallery. After moving to Florida in 1997, she served as a Docent at the Norton Museum and continued her studies and painting at the Armory Art Center in West Palm Beach. Returning to Connecticut in 2005 she again took up her studies and work in art. She lives in Guilford, Connecticut.

**Fred E Walker's** entire career has been in the field of quality broadcasting. Starting in high school and college Mr. Walker developed new innovative programs all with an overtone of education and community spirit. From School Scoops to Labor Talks It Over (both winners of the national: Ohio State Education and Alfred P Sloan awards) his innovative style as manager and developer of people has led him to work in markets including, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, San Francisco, Pittsburgh, Miami, Cleveland, Oklahoma City, New Orleans, Quad Cities, Hartford and New Haven.. In each market, small or large, Mr. Walker left his mark as a dedicated communicator, where profit and community service went hand in hand. He served in numerous management positions with Group W (Westinghouse Broadcasting Company) and in 1971, with Richard L. Geismar, founded the Broad Street Companies consisting of radio, television stations and cable systems. In Addition Broad Street consulted with many companies including Time, Inc and Lifetime TV.

Since 1972 within his home community of New Haven he has served on the Board of the nationally acclaimed Long Wharf Theater. He was chairman from 1986 to 1997. For many years he served United Church on the Green, a UCC denomination, as a dedicated layman. Mr. Walker attended the College of New Jersey and New York University. He is an Associate Fellow at Berkeley College, Yale University on an appointment until 2010.



**Dear First Church Members:**

For good Congregational transparency, I want to let you know that this week I organized a Financial Summit with members from the Board of Finance, Stewardship, Finance Council, Trustees, present and former Chairs of Church Council and a few invited guests to begin addressing the issues around our remaining debt on God's Acre (the 19 Church Street property.) We had a very fruitful, pragmatic and spirit-inspired discussion. We will meet again in September. Once ideas are crystallized and proposals are up for consideration, all this information will be shared with the entire congregation for discussion and action. If you have any questions or ideas you would like to share, please do not hesitate to call me at 203-453-5249.

*Kendrick*

**CHURCH BOOKKEEPER**

I've hired a new part time church bookkeeper. Heather Collinson will be joining the church staff starting June 30 when I'll begin training her. She will work one afternoon a week. I'm looking forward to working with Heather.

Heather replaces Karolyn Dunn who has been our able bookkeeper for 5 years. Karolyn left due to her fulltime job demands, but recently joined First Church as an associate member and plans to become a church volunteer.

*Debbie Peluse  
Church Treasurer*

**THANK YOU**

I want to thank you all for the loving support I received from so many during my mother's decline and death this April.

I would like to share with you a little poem I found in her dresser as I was cleaning out her things. It reminded me that living from our hearts enhances forever our lives and those of others.

*Many Blessings to you all-  
Nancy Mann*

LOVE makes our friends a little dearer  
JOY makes our hearts a little lighter  
FAITH makes our paths a little clearer  
HOPE makes our lives a little brighter  
PEACE brings us all a little closer.

**LOWER YOUR ELECTRIC BILL  
AND  
INCREASE CHURCH INCOME**

As an economy measure, Church Business Committee has selected an electric power supplier called Viridian. CL&P still brings the power to our meters, provides service, and sends us our monthly bill. But a line on that bill under "Supplier Services Detail" changes – where it formerly showed "Standard Services," meaning full-cost CL&P electric power, it now reads "Viridian," and the charge per kilowatt hour (KWH) of electricity is lower. The Church now saves over \$50 per month for electricity.

CL&P actually encourages both commercial and residential users to change to a less expensive electric power supplier – only the supplier changes, CL&P continues to provide service and bills. But savings proportional to your electricity consumption are available to all, generally without penalty fees, within one or two monthly billing cycles. The list of alternate suppliers is available at [http://www.ctenergyinfo.com/display\\_rates.htm](http://www.ctenergyinfo.com/display_rates.htm). You can type in your approximate average monthly KWH usage, and your savings for a list of alternate suppliers, their price plans, and cancellation fees (usually none) will appear. This month, Viridian is tied for 3<sup>rd</sup>, least costly, and offers more "green" energy from renewable sources than any supplier listed, (20% renewable as opposed to the 14% renewable-source energy required by law).

Viridian also offers a special program for non-profits like churches. If non-profits sign up as Viridian "Associates," they can invite their membership to sign up with Viridian too. In our case, for each congregation member living in Connecticut who signs up with Viridian using a special link on the Church website, Viridian agrees to pay the Church a reward of \$2.00 per month when the customer pays his electric bill, assuming his or her usage exceeds 500 KWH. (An average small home uses about 700 KWH per month.)

(Please note: In order for the Church to benefit from your switch to Viridian, you must sign up through the link to Viridian on the Church website, <http://www.firstchurchguilford.org>. If you sign up through the regular Viridian Web-site, you save money but the church receives no credit.

The Viridian website that appears has two rows of graphics at the top, on which you may click for background on Viridian and its services. Look BELOW the graphics for detailed instructions on how to sign up with Viridian. Information from your CL&P electric bill will be needed.

Paper application forms for signing up with Viridian should be available soon, for those who wish to have their applications sent in by FAX through the Church office.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact FCC/Business Committee/ Bob Leete, at (203) 453-5860, or email him at [robert\\_b\\_leete@sbcglobal.net](mailto:robert_b_leete@sbcglobal.net).



**MENTORING NEWS:  
Children with Incarcerated Parent**

As you know, we have several mentors at York Correctional and nearly ten at Manson Youth Correctional. But the incarcerated ones aren't the only ones needing mentors---their children need them, too, and this is where you can be helpful! Might you have four extra hours a month to share with a child whose parent is incarcerated? We have begun a new program with Big Sisters/Big Brothers in New Haven and they are delighted to work with us. First, interested mentors are assigned a social worker who will talk regularly with them and determine the best match for their interests. Mentors will then meet every other week with their assigned child. The activities you decide to do and the places you choose to visit are up to you, though your case worker can provide suggestions. In addition, we will have a training session at church as soon as we have six people signed up.

Last year, Betsy and Clyde Work mentored a brother and sister and although the program they were working with succumbed to budget cuts, they are willing to try again with Big Brothers/Sisters, as the experience was very rewarding for them. Rewarding for the mentees, too, as they taught the 16 year old young man how to swim!

Please call Penelope at the church office and she will keep a list of names and give them to Shannon Clarkson.