



The Summer 2011 Landmark

The First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Guilford, Connecticut

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Vol. 57, Number 7

PORTICO RESTORATION UPDATE

After the long process of grant applications, First Church is finally ready to break ground on the portico restoration project! On June 17, 2011, we delivered the Notice of Award to Paragon Construction Company and signed a contract for the work to start this summer. The portico and our front entrance will take on a “work-in-progress” look from August 1st through mid-October, while the old column is taken away, a new column fitted, lead paint is removed, the portico roof is replaced, and our beautiful church is restored to its original majestic beauty. From August 9th—12th, keep an eye open for photo opportunities to record the column transformation.

The time between now and August 1st will be used to make the column and ship it here from California. During most of the construction period, the portico will need to be sealed in plastic, per state regulations, due to the removal of lead paint. A tunnel will be created allowing us an entry through the middle doors. During that time, you may also enter the narthex via the side handicap entrance, or come through the church school building.

You may ask “What about weddings and funerals?” Church leaders and our consultants have worked faithfully around this summer’s wedding schedule, and we have promised the contractor immediate notification of any upcoming funeral, during which time, there will be a temporary work stoppage. Work days will be Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., and some Saturdays may also be necessary.

Once the work has been completed, all invoices have been paid, and a completion report has been filed with the state, a Historic Restoration Grant award in the amount of \$25,000 will be issued back to First Church. Combined with the grants already received from the Guilford Preservation Alliance and the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, funds awarded to our church will total \$41,371. This is an exciting time for First Church, and we appreciate your patience.

If anyone has a question about the portico restoration project, please contact me at kim.beckett@yale.edu.

Kim Beckett

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, July 3: Communion, *Clare preaching*

8:30am Worship-Chapel

10:00am Worship, Nursery care

Sunday, July 10: *Kendrick preaching*

8:30am Worship - Chapel

10:00am Worship, Nursery care

Sunday, July 17: *Rev. Vance Taylor preaching*

8:30am Worship - Chapel

10:00am Worship, Nursery care

Wednesday, July 20:

7:00pm Service of Prayer & Healing – Sanct.

Sunday, July 24: *Hymn Sing*

8:30am Worship – Chapel

10:00am Worship, Nursery care

Sunday, July 31: *Kendrick preaching*

8:30am Worship – Chapel

10:00am Worship, Nursery care

Sunday, August 7: Communion, *Nancy Leckerling preaching*

8:30am Worship – Chapel

10:00am Worship, Nursery care

Sunday, August 14: *Clare preaching*

8:30am Worship – Chapel

10:00am Worship, Nursery care

Sunday, August 21: *David Johnson preaching*

8:30am Worship – Chapel

10:00am Worship, Nursery care

Sunday, August 28: *Clare preaching*

8:30am Worship – Chapel

10:00am Worship, Nursery care

Sunday, September 3: *Chris Solimene preaching*

8:30am Worship – Chapel

10:00am Worship, Nursery care



In Memoriam

Arthur Bruce Sale, Sr.

December 2, 1920 – May 12, 2011

Carole L. Fisher

January 14, 1943 – May 20, 2011

Ronald Ernest Schoenfeldt

December 10, 1946 – May 23, 2011

SUMMER DEACONESSES

Deaconess for July is Pacific Giordano (203-488-2250.). **Deaconess for August** is Irene Kubitsky (203-453-6672.) Please notify them 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.



Thanks to Office Angels for May and June:

Cindy Caligan, Liza Catino, Emily Etter,
Yvette Howard, Susan Leete, Alice Mitchell,
Martha Rebuzzini, Meg Rebuzzini and
Jane Rowen

Thank you all for your help!!

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

June 14, 2011

The Search Committee presented their progress thus far on the search and the timeline ahead.

Sara Nelson then presented an update on the Portico Restoration project which is due to begin in August and run through the end of October.

Kendrick shared the following information with Council. First Church, Guilford has been approached by the CT UCC to host the UCC CT Conference Annual Meeting at our church on Saturday October 22, 2011. The CT UCC will pay all costs. We will be required to provide space and manpower to host 500 people for one day. We will solicit the help of other churches in our community to provide meeting rooms for workshops and also parking facilities. The large group meetings of 500 people will be in our sanctuary. Another responsibility of our church will be to arrange for the lunches of the attendees.

Since we have never hosted this event in the 34 years that Kendrick has been at our church, it was voted that we would welcome this opportunity. Many church members will be needed to organize and work on this event. The Business Committee will facilitate some "sprucing up" of our facility prior to the meeting.

Debbie Peluse and Debbie Bishop presented the financial reports through May. We are in a satisfactory financial position currently in regard to the operating budget. Pledge payments are holding as expected. Funds have begun to come in from the Parable of the Talents Program.

Geoff Fix reported on behalf of Welcoming & Inclusion that the Church Street entry way will be repainted. It would be nice to have completed by the UCC Annual Meeting.

Spencer House is getting a new furnace (gas)

Kendrick reported that the Guilford Interfaith Clergy are organizing a service at our church on September 11, 2011 at 4:00 PM in remembrance of the attack on the World Trade Centers ten years ago. It will be primarily a music service and the entire community is invited.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Nicholas, Acting Recording Secretary*

ASSOCIATE PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

For the past two months, the APSC has been working to complete the Local Church Profile (LCP), which provides information about our community, our church and the associate minister's position at First Church. Your input through the surveys, as well as your conversation during the fireside chats, has been incorporated into this document. On June 14 we presented the LCP to Church Council, inviting their questions, and all expressed great appreciation for the time and effort put forth. The next step is to finalize some details and then post the job opening over the summer so we can begin receiving ministerial profiles. The APSC thanks everyone for their prayers as we enter this next phase of our work.

NEW IN MINEAR LIBRARY

Marianne Williamson's Illuminated Prayers is a treasure of simple wisdom and delicate art that I am grateful to receive from Betsy Schwammberger. You will find it on the mantel with recently recommended resources.
Marjorie Colton, Librarian

ALATEEN

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for providing a place once a week for the teens of our area that have been affected by alcoholism in their families, to meet and seek to better their lives and build a spiritual future for themselves, whether the alcoholic is still drinking or not -

*Yours in service,
Bob B, Alateen sponsor for Tuesday night*

ANNUAL MEETING UCC - CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE

On Saturday, October 22, 2010, we will host the Annual Meeting of the CT Conference of the United Church of Christ. This means that about 450 ministers and lay delegates from our 253 sister churches in Connecticut will gather in our building for the day. We are very excited about this opportunity to share our hospitality with our larger Congregational family. Highlights will include the Conference Minister's Address from the Rev. Charles L. Wildman, the dynamic preaching of the Rev. Dr. Cari Jackson, and breakout groups in the morning and afternoon.

We will have no responsibility for the programming, but will be in charge of logistics, parking, box-lunches, meeting rooms, etc. We are very fortunate that Anne Godsey and Dave Knapp have agreed to chair the committee that will oversee all of these details. Would you like to help them? If so, or if you would like more information, please call me.

I am very pleased to let you know that the churches around the Green have been extremely co-operative. St. George's is letting us use their parking lot and meeting rooms. Christ Episcopal Church and the Church of Christ, Scientist are also providing meeting rooms. Without their generosity that meeting would not be able to take place here.

This gives us about four months to make our church a little more physically welcoming. The Business Committee will be organizing a work day in September, and we will get that date out to you as soon as possible. Also, if there is something about the church facilities or grounds that is bothering you, let me know. Maybe you and a friend would be willing to make it right. Any work needs to be approved by the Business Committee, but we hope you will keep your eyes open.

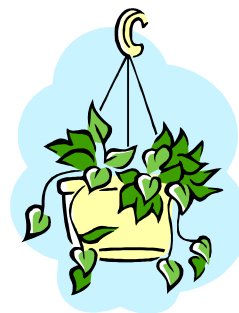
More updates to follow.
In Christ's love,
Kendrick

SAVE THE DATES

Sunday, July 24th we will have our *special hymn services* at 8:30 and 10:00. You get to choose the hymns and share why it is important to you. Hymn selection sheets will soon be in the morning bulletin.

At 4:00pm, Sunday 9/11/11, we will host an **Inter-Faith service**, mostly musical and meditative, in remembrance of the tenth anniversary of the attack on this country. The theme will be "**Prayer for the Lost and Living**".

On Saturday, Sept. 18th beginning at 4:00pm on the church lawn there will be a **Church BBQ** hosted by Chef Paula. Great food for all ages, and musical offerings. (*Part of the "Living Out of 'The Parable of the Talents' 2011"*)



PLANT SALE RESULTS

The Plant Sale Saturday June 4 & Sunday June 5 was a great success for the Parable of the Talents. I want to sincerely thank all the 33 adults, and 4 young people who helped me during those 2 busy days selling the outstanding plants from North Guilford Nursery. They made signs, priced plants, watered, moved the large heavy racks of plants, manned the cashier table, helped customers carry plants, and answered customers' questions. Without all the help I could never have accomplished the sale. We also each met members of the congregation we hadn't met before and enjoyed fellowship with others while we worked. We thus strengthened the church family bonds and, in an enjoyable way, helped the finances of our wonderful church.

Thanks again
Debbie Peluse