

## The March 2005 Landmark The First Congregational Church of Guilford, Connecticut

### Vol. 52, Number 3

We have already begun our Lenten journey with our Ash Wednesday service and theologian Phyllis Tribble's provoking sermon and lecture. This month I'd like to give you a little background on this important time of the Church year.

The season of Lent is determined by the date of Easter. Easter is a lunar date, determined by the phases of the moon. You can calculate it this way: Easter is the first Sunday after the full moon following the Spring Solstice on March 21, or if the full moon is on Sunday, the next Sunday after. This can cause Easter to fall anywhere from March 22 to April 25, but these two extremes are very infrequent. This year Easter is very much on the early side, occurring on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

In the very early church, there was no Lenten observance as we know it today. The last week of Jesus' life was remembered from the beginning, but it was some time before the period of fasting and penitence was extended to forty days. It was not until the sixth century that Ash Wednesday was established as the beginning day of preparation. In some churches, the symbolic act of anointing the head with ashes is practiced as a reminder of our mortality and our need for penitence.

The word "Lent" is derived from an Anglo-Saxon word, "lencten," meaning "spring," and possibly has some reference to the lengthening of daylight. In Latin, lent is *quadragesima* which simply means forty days. The forty days of Lent do not include Sundays, for Sunday is always celebrated in Easter. For the Christian, each Sunday is a day of resurrection.

The symbolism of forty days is rich and is easily identified with Jesus' forty days of spiritual struggle against temptation in the wilderness. However, it all recalls Noah and the Ark suffering forty days and forty nights of rain (Genesis 7:4), the Hebrews wondering forty years in the desert (Deuteronomy 8:2, 4), Moses who stayed on Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights (Exodus 24:18), Elijah who walked for forty days and forty nights to Mount Horeb (I Kings 19:8), the forty days that Jonah gave Nineveh to repent (Jonah 3:4). And there are the forty hours that Jesus lay in the tomb before his resurrection.

What all these events linked to forty have in common is that they are times of trial, introspection and preparation for something new to be born—a new attitude, a new hope, and a new relationship with God. To help Christian pilgrims enter into this dark time of transition three practices have been encouraged: fasting (Matthew 6:16-18), almsgiving (Matthew 6:2-4) and prayer (Matthew 6:5-6). These are not performed in order to be seen by others (Matthew 6:1), but rather as private and personal acts that help us to deliberately turn ourselves once again toward God and God's creation. This season encourages us all through prayer, discipline and study to share again in the great drama of our Lord's ministry, death and resurrection.

*Kendrick*

### MORE NEW MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES

**Jackie and Geoff Fix** grew up on the same cul-de-sac in Farmington. They lived in Boston for 10 years and have lived in Guilford for seven years. They were introduced to First Church by Ginny and Julius Friese who helped convince them that our church was the church for them. (Ginny is the godmother of their son, Sam.) Geoff likes to work outside and has had Lyme disease to prove it. Jackie enjoys grafting and gardening. All three children enjoy school and Church School. Sam, 6, is the family artist and enjoys reading. Austin, 4, rides his two-wheeler with NO training wheels. Lexi, 2, likes everything. They like the values at First Church and its laid-back attitude.

**Robbyn Green** and her husband, David, moved to Guilford one year ago. They have lived in the Stratford/Shelton area for seven years. Robbyn grew up in Cheshire and later attended First Presbyterian Church in Fairfield. First Church reminds Robbyn of her church from her youth. She likes that children attend some of church, that our church school is active and exciting, and the spirit of PF. An outdoor enthusiast, she enjoys exercising in almost any form, but likes bike riding in particular. She is a social person and considers volunteer work important in her life. She and her husband are expecting their first child in May.

**Jo-Ann Peterson** grew up in New Hampshire but has lived in Guilford for more than twenty years. She is a single mother of three children who have grown and left the nest. For many years she heard friends rave of the many virtues of First Church and decided she wanted to be part of it. She likes to exercise, play bridge, and also enjoys reading and dancing. She is looking forward to creating some arts & crafts for the Harvest Fair.

## A HUGE THANK YOU

to Martin Ewing for his gift to the church of computer expertise, troubleshooting and hours spent installing the new office computer.

## POSITION AVAILABLE

The North Guilford Congregational Church/UCC has an opening for a part-time Church Office Manager/Administrator (18-20 hours per week). Candidates should demonstrate strong secretarial and computer skills, an ability to work independently, strong organizational skills and sensitivity in confidential matters. Interested individuals should forward a resume along with a letter of interest to the NGCC at 159 ledge Hill Road, Guilford, CT 06437 or electronically to ngcc@sbcglobal.net.

## MARCH WORSHIP AND LENTEN SCHEDULE

**Wednesday, March 2: Lenten Program**

6:00 p.m. Pot Luck Supper - FH

7:00 p.m. Program:

“Lenten Hymns: *Old and New*”

**Sunday, March 6: Fourth Sunday in Lent/Communion**

8:30 a.m. Worship—Chapel—*Kendrick preaching*

10:00 a.m. Worship – The Fauré Requiem & Church School

11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour

12:00 Noon: Soup & Bread Luncheon

**Wednesday, March 9: Lenten Program**

6:00 p.m. Pot Luck Supper-FH

7:00 p.m. Program:

“Music and Imagery: *New Explorations*”

**Sunday, March 13: Fifth Sunday in Lent** *Linda Carleton preaching*

8:30am Worship – Chapel

10:00am Worship & Church School

11:15am Adult Forum: Panel: Children of Elderly Parents

**Wednesday, March 16: Lenten Program**

6:00pm Pot Luck Supper-FH

7:00pm Program: “Bridge to Easter: *The Alleluia Within*”

**Sunday, March 20: Palm Sunday** *Elaine preaching*

8:30 a.m. Worship - Chapel

9:45 a.m. Ecumenical Blessing of Palms on the Green

10:00 a.m. Worship Church School

5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Spring Family Supper & Program

## PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE FOR EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES!!!!

**Thursday, March 24: Maundy Thursday** 7:30 p.m. Worship

**Friday, March 25: Good Friday** 7:30 p.m. Worship

**Sunday, March 27: Easter!!** – *Kendrick preaching*

6:00 a.m. Sunrise Service – Indian Cove – led by Pilgrim Fellowship

**\*\*9:00 A.M. FESTIVAL SERVICE** – Sanctuary

9:15 a.m. Easter Program for children up thru Grade 4

**\*\*11:00 A.M. FESTIVAL SERVICE** - Sanctuary

11:15 a.m. Easter Program for children up thru Grade 4

## PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES

If you had your picture taken for inclusion in the directory and have *not yet* picked up your free copy, please call the Church Office to arrange that. If you are ill or have trouble getting out, please call the office to arrange for someone to pick it up for you. If your picture does not appear in the directory and you would like to purchase one, you may do so at cost: \$5.00.

## BAPTISMS

February 13, 2005

Angela Marie Rispoli  
daughter of Jennifer and Andrew Rispoli

Jack James Magee  
son of Patricia and Douglas Magee

Meaghan Rebecca Ema Henry  
daughter of Ruth and Edward Henry

## THANKS TO OFFICE ANGELS FOR FEBRUARY:

Betty Barnes, Betty Brown, Betty Cummings, Peg Heidtman, KC Long, Alice Mitchell, Ruth Neale, Peter Rebuzzini, Pat Rutlin, and Larry Donahue.

## DEACONESS OF THE MONTH

**Deaconess for March** is Cindy Caligan (453-2640 or gcaligan@comcast.net). Please notify her of births, adoptions, or anyone who may need a note of sympathy or encouragement. Pam Welch (458-2340) 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 prayers, please call Pam. **Audiotapes** of Sunday services are available to sign out in Spencer House Kitchen.

## ALPHA CLUB MEETING

All are welcome to attend on **Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm** in Fellowship Hall when Sandra Ruoff, of the Guilford Free Library, will be our guest speaker. Her topic is the Library Expansion Project. If you are new to First Church, the Alpha Club is a social and service group of women of the congregation. We meet monthly, except July and August, for a variety of interesting programs, generally on the fourth Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. In addition to monthly meetings, the women organize and hold two Rummage Sales a year, and host receptions after Memorial services. To obtain a schedule of Alpha Club meetings please contact the Church Office at 453-5249.

## SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

The Alpha Club Spring Rummage Sale will be held in Fellowship Hall on Friday April 1<sup>st</sup> from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Saturday morning April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Donations will be accepted in Fellowship Hall during set up hours:

Wednesday March 30 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Thursday March 31 <sup>st</sup>	10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Friday April 1 <sup>st</sup>	10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The Alpha Club Spring Rummage Sale is being dedicated in memory of Ethel MacGregor who was the chairperson for many years. Ethel enjoyed being at the cashier table collecting money and visiting with all the customers and her friends.

If you have any questions regarding the Rummage Sale, please call Cynthia Magee (453-5487).

## THE MUSTARD SEED GROUP

This is an interfaith discussion group for mothers of children with special needs. We meet monthly to share information, network with other moms, and provide and receive comfort and inspiration. Our March meeting is planned for **Monday**,

**March 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.** in the Minear Library. If you have any questions, or would like more information, please call Kim Beckett (453-9957) or Elaine (453-5249).

### **RED TENT MARCH RETREAT**

We welcome women of any age who want to come together for fellowship, spiritual reflection and sharing. In March we have a retreat to welcome spring. The date is **Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.** at the Mercy Center in Madison. Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager will lead us in the first part of her two-part experience entitled: "Stepping Stones of the Spirit." (Part two is planned for Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at a place to be announced.) For more information, please call the Church Office (453-5249) and speak with Penelope or Elaine.

### **FORUM ON CARING FOR AGING PARENTS**

Sunday March 13<sup>th</sup>, a panel of "experienced" adult children of elderly parents, Kim Hackett, Marcia Myhre, Bob Howard, and Letty Russell, will discuss issues they face/faced in caring for their parent(s). They will welcome participation from all those interested in discussing this matter, which affects or has affected many of us. Join them in the chapel following the 10:00 worship.

### **JOYFUL NOISE! CONCERT**

On Sunday April 3<sup>rd</sup> the Music Committee welcomes you to the second Joyful Noise! Concert, which features the Conn Artists, a seven member, all male, a cappella singing group.

The Conn Artists will present a program of various and very entertaining music, and First Church's own Charlie Dear is a member of this wonderful group. If you have never heard the Conn Artists before, or you have and know how great they are, you'll want to be in the Sanctuary on April 3<sup>rd</sup> for this 4:00 concert. The suggested donation for adults is \$10.00 with no admission charged for students. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the church office or at the door.

### **SEAMSTRESS HELP WANTED**

The Music Committee is looking for someone who can sew and replace zippers and stitch torn seams in our aging collection of choir robes. We are willing to pay to have these repairs done, but before we ask someone else, we thought we'd begin by asking church members first. If you are willing to help out with this project and are willing to receive payment for your services, please call Catherine Leonard (466-6999) or Ann Sandin (453-5662) and let them know. Thanks for your help!

### **DEDICATE A HYMNAL TO HONOR YOUR CONFIRMAND OR YOUR GRADUATE!**

The Music Committee would like to remind you that a hymnal may be purchased for the church with a dedicatory label celebrating any occasion or person: your confirmand, your graduate, a birthday, a wedding, a baptism, or an anniversary. What a wonderful and long lasting way to memorialize a person or event. The price is \$15.00 per hymnal and may be purchased by contacting the church office (453-5249).

### **EASTER FLOWERS**

**Dear Congregation:**

Easter Sunday is March 27<sup>th</sup>, and it's time to place your Easter memorial donations with the Flower Committee. These flowers decorate our Sanctuary and then are distributed to those who are ill, grieving, homebound or reside in nursing homes. Lilies and tulips may be ordered for \$10.00 per plant. The deadline for placing your memorials is **Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>**. Please fill in the form, enclose your check and mail to: First Congregational Church, 122 Broad St., Guilford, CT 06437. Call Barbara Wells (453-5949) if you have questions.

*Please note Easter flowers on your check and on the envelope. Thank you!*

I want to order \_\_\_\_\_ plants @ \$10.00 each for a total cost of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Given in loving memory of: \_\_\_\_\_ By: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## MUSIC NOTES FROM MARY

Opportunities abound for participation in the many ways that music can be a part of your spiritual life and development at First Church. Here are some of the many ways that *you* can partake in these opportunities:

***For the young people:***

*Cherub Choir* for grades K-2 meets Wednesdays in Griswold Hall. Having the delight of observing and working with director Karen Owen-Buckley I know that this is a foundational opportunity for your children to learn all about what serving the church through Music Ministry is all about! Children learn the basics of singing, movement to music, fellowship all in a fun and loving atmosphere.

*Junior Choir* for Grades 3-8 with the creative and sometimes "rowdy" Liza Catino continues the quality of direction for young people through vocal warm-ups, variety of anthem and sacred music repertoire and the yearly musical (to be held this year on April 10) created and directed by Liza. The Junior Choir sings periodically with the Senior Choir for special services and will be featured this Palm Sunday...

***For High School Students through adult:***

*Senior Choir* has been growing in number and enthusiasm this fall and winter. We are currently looking for more singers for the special Lenten music offering on March 6 and for Easter Sunday. We will be performing the beautiful *Requiem* by Gabriel Faure'. A classic for the Lenten Season, it features a string and brass orchestra, harp, organ and soloists. Soprano soloist is Martha Onepo and baritone soloist is Richard Lalli. To participate in this service, come on Thursday nights from 8:00 – 9:00 p.m., and to a special rehearsal on Saturday February 26 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in the choir room.

***For Bell Ringers:***

Having recently acquired a 3-octave set of Schulmerich Handbells, we are setting up various opportunities to ring. An *Intermediate/Advanced Adult* bell choir will ring for Easter Sunday services at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. If you are interested in ringing for Easter, contact Mary in the music office (458-9701). Rehearsals will be Sunday after worship from 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. on February 17, March 6, 13, and 20.

*Beginning Bells* will rehearse during the day that will be announced in the bulletin (still waiting to hear back about Evergreen Woods scheduling). We are inviting residents to ring with us.

*Youth Bells* for Middle-School age students will be held in April from 3:15- 4:00 p.m. on April 13, 27, May 4, and 11. They will ring on Children's Sunday, May 15.

***Adult Education***

*Songs in the Desert: When God Seems Absent* is the Wednesday Lenten Series. We are exploring the many ways that Music and Spiritually are intertwined in this topic. Come at 6:00 p.m. for supper and program from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

*Nurturing Spiritual Development through Music* is an originally designed course in the stages of transformation or change. Each week through music, imagery, prayer techniques, meditation and dialog we explore these stages: *Surrender, Mystery, Abyss, Hope, Discovery, Renewal*. Each class is self-contained, so you are welcome to drop in and join at any time. Classes meet in the choir room on the following dates: March 15 and 22 at either 11 am- 12:30 pm or 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. Contact Mary for more information (458-9701).

Thank you for your participation and support of music ministry at First Church. It is a privilege to serve such a warm and loving congregation, staff and choirs! May you have a renewed sense of awe in the journey through Lent to the glory of the Resurrection.

In Joy,  
Mary

**HEIFER INTERNATIONAL**

Heifer International is a 60-year-old organization that provides farm animals to impoverished families all over the world. Along with the animal, the family receives training in caring for it, and they are required to pass on the gift by giving one of the offspring to another needy family. Thus, the gift of one goat or chicken, multiplies over the years, bringing food, economic prosperity, and hope for the future to many families.

This year our Church School will be raising funds for Heifer through a Book Fair on April 3<sup>RD</sup>. We invite all our children and other members of the congregation to donate any gently used books they no longer want, to be sold at the Fair. The Board of C.E. will be collecting books in Fellowship Hall after church on March 13, 20, and 27.

On April 3, each grade will have an opportunity to make their own purchases during Church School time, and then the entire congregation is welcome to browse and buy during coffee hour. Prices will be very reasonable. All children's books \$0.25, teen or young adult books \$0.50, adult paperback books \$0.75, and adult hard cover books \$1.00. We cannot take textbooks. Any books left over at the end of the Fair will be donated to the Guilford library for their Book Sale.

**We hope that this will be a good way to help you (1) recycle some books you have already read, (2) provide you with new material for your summer reading, and (3) raise some money for Heifer at the same time. Start checking your bookshelves NOW, but don't bring them in until March 13.**

#### **"JOURNEYS" 2005**

Our eleventh annual children's summer vacation program will take place this year from **Monday, June 27 through Thursday, June 30, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon each day**. It will be open to all children from Grade 1 and up. You don't have to be a member of the church to attend. Each morning there will be stories, songs, crafts and games, with a grand finale potluck supper and program on Thursday evening for participating families and friends. Details will be announced later, but in the meantime, make a note of the dates on your summer calendar.

The cost will be \$15 per child to cover snacks and supplies, with a maximum of \$25 per family. Registration forms will be distributed later in the spring. Parents or friends who would like to help out in "Journeys", either all week, or even just one day, should contact Betsy Work (458-7708) or Daphne (453-3983).

#### **I WAS IN PRISON ... (MATT. 25: 36)**

Have you ever felt a tug at your heart to do something for people who are in prison?

It may interest you to know the ways members of First Church (and you) are involved in alleviating the suffering of women at York Correctional Institution, our state prison for women.

There are several women in our church who are personally involved in interacting with women at the prison: Martha Maguire teaches two yoga classes every week; Susan Kukle taught an art class where women made beautiful prayer cloths and will be teaching another class soon; Gail Thompson serves as a prayer partner for one of the women in the Chrysalis Community, an interfaith residential program at the prison, visiting her inmate partner once a week; Donna Cunningham volunteers her time in an evening spiritual program; Beth Chipman regularly visited an inmate until she was released over a month ago.

Three of our major boards have also gotten involved. Our Board of Deaconesses regularly donates flowers from our Sunday morning worship services to be taken to the prison where the women can enjoy them during a prison worship service. The Deaconesses have also generously contributed for two years to the Toy Project, the program that ensures the children of women in prison have Christmas presents each year.

The Board of Deacons has donated plastic communion cups for the monthly communion services held at the prison. The Board of Community and World Concerns made a generous contribution in 2002 to help start *A Sacred Place*, the non-profit organization that provides human and material resources for the Chrysalis Community and other spirituality programming at the prison. Recently the Alpha Club made a donation to *A Sacred Place*.

There are also those church members who are concerned about the systemic problems within our criminal justice system and have begun to study issues related to prison reform. These members are Beth Chipman, David Johnson, Donna Cunningham, Elaine McNally Fitzpatrick, Phil Reilly, and Susan Kukle. **At our next meeting on Thursday, March 31, we will have two guests from *People Against Injustice***, an organization based in New Haven that is both a support group for people facing the criminal justice system and a grassroots organization working for justice and the elimination of unfair practices by police, courts and prisons. We will meet in the **Spencer House Library at 7:30 p.m.** We are always happy to have anyone join us who would like to learn with us.

*Charlotte White*

Chaplain at York Correctional Institution and Member, First Church

### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing will take place on March 6, 2005. Of every dollar given to One Great Hour of Sharing for 2003, 95 cents was used directly for mission. The UCC responds to needs in more than 90 countries, working with local mission partners.

Contributing to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering is a significant symbol that says, "I hereby enter into commitment with the strangers of our world." In the process, we may discover that participating in the offering is, indeed, a means whereby God's presence becomes more real.

### HISTORIANS' CORNER REMINISCENCES OF OUR MEETING HOUSE

BY PHIL DUDLEY Salt Box 1980

"A new meeting house was built 150 years ago by devoted members of the First Congregational Church of Guilford. Its three front doors, set between four graceful pillars, face the Green. Its white steeple points to the clear blue sky, or stands in contrast to black clouds. That's for everyone to see and admire.

"Invisible is the cellar underneath the edifice. At first it was just that - a dirt -floored cellar. I don't know how soon it began to figure in the activities of the parish, and I am not going to research it now. I'll just share some memories of it, which are within my lifetime.

"The 'parlors' were in the northwest corner of the cellar. You could get there from the outside by areaway steps, or from the Sanctuary by a stairway. The Improvement Society, the Men's Club, the Christian Endeavor Society met there. At the north end of the unimproved part of the cellar, huge bellows puffed and wheezed to pump air for the organ upstairs. They were activated by a water motor, fed from the public water system. Its trailrace discharged into an old well in the cellar. If the diligent organist practiced too many hours, the well would overflow. In 1908 when the organ was built, the town's electricity was turned on only at night. Later, when electric service came all day, a blower and motor supplanted the gears and levers that pumped the organ. But the bellows stayed there as a reservoir providing vast stability under the organ's fluctuating demand for wind. A coal bin and two pipeless hot-air furnaces were other cellar appurtenances. The sexton, shaking down the ashes and stoking the fire at prayer time in the morning service, could produce not only a disturbance but perhaps too graphic a reminder of alleged dire consequences of sin.

"With 'progress' the basement crept farther into the cellar. The organ reservoir was scrapped, and in that location was put the boiler for a hot water heating system for the building - still coal-fired during its early years. The 'parlors' gained a kitchen and more space. The constricted cellar held discarded benches, broken chairs, remnants of stage props from pageants, and gravestones that had been brought there years before when the burying ground on the Green was discontinued.

"Eventually the social facilities grew still more. The cellar was 90 percent eliminated. Only the furnace room and the organ blower room remained at the north end. And no one dared tamper with the great stone pillars, which are the foundation for columns supporting the steeple. The 'parlors' then acquired the title, 'Fellowship Hall'. So it is that while the outside of the Church hasn't changed during a century and a half, the cellar has come to be a useful basement, but that doesn't show unless you come inside. Likewise, someone standing on the Green can't see that the congregation, too, isn't the same as it used to be.

"In the mid-1800s the people deemed an organ too devilish a device to be accepted in church. But one Saturday night a melodeon was spirited into the gallery and used in the service next day. "I like it and I'll help pay for it," said one of the pillars of the parish, "but I fear it will lead to an organ". It did lead to an organ, and to still another, both donated to the church by generous members. Last Sunday the congregation of the 1980s voted to buy another new organ. An observer on the Green wouldn't see this change, which a century had wrought in the congregation; but if he had listened that evening, he might have gotten a hint. Where I used to play the piano in the parlors for the Christian Endeavourers to sing 'Rock of Ages', a foot-tapping audience in Fellowship Hall was reveling in the rock of teen-agers. Drums and guitars and saxophones, electronically amplified, belted out the music of today in a concert to benefit the Organ Fund - great fun!

"Some might have expected the sod to quiver in the erstwhile graveyard on the Green. Would that have reflected outrage among the straight-laced forefathers and foremothers buried there? Not necessarily. Some of those people would be capable of stirring the spirit and joy to the rhythm of this century!"

**PEACE, AFFIRMATION, AND JUSTICE  
PERSPECTIVE****“QUI TACET CONSENTIVE VIDETUR” \***

As Jesus is our Advocate (1 JOHN 2:1), we, as Christians, are called on to advocate for the less fortunate of God's children – the poor, oppressed, and marginalized.

We do this by voting, contacting our representatives in Hartford and Washington, writing to newspapers, marching and demonstrating, speaking out, setting an example and being knowledgeable about the issues.

The P,A,&J Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall provides flyers for you that list who to contact, how to write a letter, how to prepare for a phone or in person meeting, and where to find information on the issues. It also has handouts on issues and information on meetings, lectures, and opportunities for demonstrating your feelings.

There is also a suggestion box for your ideas, questions, criticisms, and requests for information on particular subjects. Please visit the bulletin board or talk with a committee member.

\*CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARD FOR A TRANSLATION

**STAMPS, ANYONE?**

Have you ever been interested in stamp collecting? Would you like to undertake such a project?

For many years an elderly gentleman in Georgia (Habitat for Humanity) has received and sorted stamps, especially foreign stamps, to benefit Church World Service. The total sum has long since passed five figures. Now he is no longer able to manage this project. There must be members of our congregation whose mail produces special stamps, even valuable ones. It's a pity to waste these. If you have time and an interest in such an undertaking, please call Gladys Minear (453-5380).

**SOCIAL DINNER GROUPS**

Here's a chance to meet other people in our church! Are there folks you know to speak to but would like a chance to talk to in a more leisurely setting? Would you like to meet someone you've seen but don't know? The Welcome and Inclusion Committee is organizing a series of dinners (or picnics) for groups of six to eight people: couples and/or singles. You may remember that this was done a few years ago, and we think it's well worth doing again at this time. All you have to do is sign up before April 1; beginning on February 27, signup lists will be available after the 10:00 a.m. service both in the Narthex and in Fellowship Hall. You will be assigned to a group, and you will be contacted sometime in May. You may be asked to be the leader of a group to start things off. Your group can decide how often they'd like to meet; perhaps once a month or once a season is right for you. Then just enjoy the evenings!

**PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP NEWS**

PF will be officiating at the Easter Sunrise service at Indian Cove once again. This takes place at sunrise on Mar. 27th, and will be accompanied by various talented student musicians. Please join us!

Also, our Mission Trip news is that the group will be traveling to work in Polk County, Florida, to help rebuild, sheetrock and paint to repair hurricane damaged homes. Many of these are homes of migrant workers who have no insurance. We are working with a FEMA director. The PFers will be staying at a Lions Club camp in Lake Wales, FL that caters to blind and disabled children. They will also be repairing damaged camp facilities in return for their stay. Stay tuned for more information on ways you can help, including Mission Sponsorship opportunities.

We also ask for special prayers for Sarah Garcia, daughter of Merrilyn and Raymond Garcia, in their search for a treatment for Sarah's eyes.

Thank you to all who continue to support our PF activities. We couldn't do it without you!

## MINUTES, CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

February 8, 2005

Attendees: Peter Rebuzzini, Acting Chairperson and Finance; Kendrick Norris, Minister, Elaine McNally Fitzpatrick, Associate Minister; Eric Sandin, Financial Secretary; Deborah Peluse, Treasurer; Phil Reilly, Peace, Affirmation, and Justice; Peter van der Grinten, Stewardship; Albert Bishop, Trustees; Daphne Stitt, D.C.E.; Betsy Work, Alpha Club and Christian Education; Eva Ewing, Deacons; Marcie West, Welcoming & Inclusion; DeWitt Zuse, Memorial Garden; Dianne Hughes, Clerk/Melita House; Betty Brown, Deaconesses; Gail Pappas, Community & World Concerns; Martha Carlson, Pilgrim Fellowship.

Peter Rebuzzini called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. Kendrick led us in prayer. The minutes of the January 11, 2005 meeting and the special meeting on January 30, 2005 were approved. Peter welcomed new board and committee representatives to Church Council.

Kendrick Norris had nothing major to report but was happy to relay the news of the declaration of a cease-fire in the Middle East and recommended we all pray for its success.

Elaine McNally Fitzpatrick brought to our attention the back page of the first section of the current U.C.C. ConnTact newspaper which featured Phyllis Tribble who will be with us this Sunday preaching and providing an open lecture as part of our Adult Education program. Elaine reminded us of the Ash Wednesday service on February 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Elaine and others from the trip to India over the holidays (including Dick Fitzpatrick, Laura Fitzpatrick, Marcia Myhre) will present an Adult Education forum on February 27<sup>th</sup> entitled, "Echoes of India" discussing their adventure.

Treasurer Deborah Peluse reported that she has been on the job for two days and is learning the job with much assistance from Martin Ewing. We need to replace the bookkeeper who leaves at the end of February, and Debbie asked for any ideas from people for a replacement.

Debbie discussed the Treasurer's Report hand out and brought to our attention a few items from the report, including the end of January balance of \$36,367.69 in the Current Expense Fund, up from minus \$780.31 at the end of January 2004. Weekly offerings for Current Expenses are about \$6,700 higher than January 2004 and CWC is up about \$600 compared to January 2004.

Daphne Stitt had a question about regarding the new Advanta credit cards being issued to replace old ones. There will be a problem if all the older cards are cancelled and there is a week or so before new cards are available and activated. Debbie will work with Martin to deal with this issue. PF has requirements to charge more than the church maximum of \$20,000 when the plane tickets are purchased for the mission trip.

Peter Rebuzzini had many kind words to say about Martin Ewing, who has most recently served as Treasurer (now Assistant Treasurer) and was not at the meeting. Martin put in incredible time, energy, and talents to clean up the church's books, etc. when everything was a mess. Martin brought our books into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Debbie seconded that he has been a great teacher for her as she has assumed the role of Treasurer. Debbie said that our monthly notes and reports from the Treasurer are really well done now thanks to Martin. Kendrick moved that Stephen Dudley write a thank you note to Martin; DeWitt Zuse seconded that motion.

Financial Secretary Eric Sandin has not been able to figure out why his numbers are slightly different from the Treasurer's Report currently. Tsunami Relief donations received in January 2005 should be deductible for 2004 taxes. Eric sent notes with the dollar amounts to those who donated letting them know that.

There were no new comments on the Visioning item on the agenda.

D.C.E. Daphne Stitt had two items to report. Members of the Confirmation Class are going to St. John the Divine on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Up to 25 students can go.

Liza Catino is currently working on writing the Jr. Choir Musical. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> acts are completed, and she is working on Act 3. Liza is great at choosing appropriate music for their voices and abilities.

Pilgrim Fellowship – Martha Carlson reported that about 50 students are going on the ski trip to Silver Lake. It is from Friday afternoon through Sunday evening. They are preparing for the Easter morning Sunrise Service. For the PF Mission Trip in

April, there are 97 PFers and 12 Chaperones signed up to go to Babson Park, Florida. 6 PFers have full or partial scholarships. Michael Dalton is headed to Florida over the weekend to check out accommodations. Hopefully, they will be staying at the Lions Club Camp which has cabins for sleeping. These accommodations will be provided for free or reduced rates in exchange for some of the PFers providing labor assistance in fixing up their campsite. 23 PFers did not qualify to go on the trip due to the new guidelines for qualification set in place by Michael Dalton and the PF Committee. Each PF participant must meet or exceed a 70% involvement rate to qualify for the Mission Trip. The PF Advisors have been invaluable and have been attending the PF meetings. As part of a team building exercise, Swing and Marengo dance lessons were taught. It was mandatory and all PFers did get involved. Although some were reluctant at first, by the end of the evening everyone had loosened up and had a good time. Daphne said she had looked at the website for the Lions Club Camp, and it looked very acceptable to her. This year PF will not have to supply their own tools or additional supplies as FEMA has provided those and is just looking for the labor assistance. Because one of the tasks will involve the removal of moldy sheetrock, some heavy duty respirators will be ordered for anyone working on that project.

Peace, Affirmation, and Justice – Phil Reilly reported that they have already had a meeting with the new members who are all enthusiastic. The committee will work with Charlotte White on her prison reforms project. The issue of same sex marriage will be addressed by the committee.

The Adult Education volunteers will provide refreshments between the Joyful Noise! Concert and the public lecture by Dr. Phyllis Tribble this Sunday.

Stewardship – Peter van der Grinten said that the committee will coordinate with the Deacons to perform a phone canvas of all congregants who have not yet pledged for 2005 to inquire as to why they have not pledged.

Trustees – Al Bishop had nothing to report.

Alpha Club – Betsy Work reported that on January 25<sup>th</sup> Charlotte White led an evening of stories and poetry, which gave insight into her prison reform program. Next on the agenda is a program is a Comfort Evening on February 22<sup>nd</sup> featuring Bob Raines as a speaker.

Christian Education – Betsy Work reported that the committee has met and elected a new Chairperson, Pam Ertelt; Secretary, Cindy Caligan; and Treasurer, Bonnie Gaboury. There will be a program on Sacraments led by Kendrick, Elaine, and Daphne. C.E. will hold a Spring Book Fair in March.

Deacons – Eva Ewing reported that Marci Myhre is now the new Chairperson with Shannon Clarkson as Vice Chairperson. The Deacons will lead an effort to contact by phone all congregants who have not pledged to find out why, if there is a reason.

Welcoming & Inclusion – Marcie West announced there is now a bulletin board in Fellowship Hall with pictures of new members. W&I plans to re-start the small dinner groups and may also begin some small “interest” groups such as theater, kayaking, or the like.

Memorial Garden – DeWitt Zuse had nothing to report.

Melita House – Dianne Hughes was happy to report that Melita House is now full with two families from Cuba and one man from the Sudan. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of February a new family from Ethiopia will arrive marking Melita House’s 100<sup>th</sup> refugee that has been welcomed through our doors.

Deaconesses – Betty Brown said that about 100 people attended the luncheon after the Annual Meeting. Members of PF helped and did a great job. The Deaconesses donated \$1,500 to PF. The left over food from the luncheon was donated to the Branford Community Dining Room.

Community & World Concerns – Gail Pappas reported that C&WC will have a meeting next week with all members including outgoing and incoming members to help ensure a smooth transition. “One Great Hour of Sharing” will be on March 6<sup>th</sup>.

Business Committee – Ray Dudley was not in attendance but submitted a written report, which Peter Rebuzzini read to the Council. The painting will begin soon in the Spencer House kitchen and office areas. Leo Kamin will be stripping the wallpaper and painting the ceiling in the kitchen and walls in both areas. The Decorating Committee has reported on colors, etc. and has been coordinating with Penelope. John Kennedy has completed the new mailboxes, which will be installed after

the painting. The Decorating Committee has recommended installing a new overhead light in the kitchen, and John Kennedy will be giving them the lighting options and then taking charge of installation. Kendrick spoke to Larry about problems with access to the Church School Building. Ray believes the doors at the east and west entrances are original, and Jonathan Wuerth recommends replacement with doors similar to those he installed at the entrance to Fellowship Hall. The current doors have steel center posts which can be eliminated with new doors. These posts are badly corroded and prevent wheel chair access because each opening is only 30 inches wide. The lock cylinder and the panic bar on the Church Street door are both broken, and will be expensive to repair and replace. The new doors will be all metal and have a raised panel design. Jon will present us with choices which should satisfy the Historic District's regulations. We will need both District and Town approval. Jon is estimating cost of doors, hardware, locks, removal, and replacement at between \$5,000 and \$6,000.

Ray asked for Council's approval to begin the project. Kendrick reiterated that he had received multiple complaints from different organizations that use our buildings about these doors and how crucial it was that we replace these doors. We are beginning to alienate some of the groups that use our space as they are having problems getting into and securing the building afterwards. This issue was briefly discussed, then DeWitt made a motion, Betty Brown seconded, and Council voted to give the Business Committee approval to commence this project.

Music – Stuart Wilkie read from a joint report from Mary Morreale and the Music Committee. Mary had been away for a week on vacation. The first Joyful Noise! Concert featuring Mark Sullivan on piano will be Sunday at 2:00 p.m. Mary will be leading five classes during Lent entitled, "Songs In The Desert, When God Seems Absent." Mary is also teaching a few different classes that incorporate music and spirituality. The first is "Nurturing Your Spirit Through Music and Prayer" at the Mercy Center in Madison on February 18th and 19th. The second course entitled, "Nurturing Spiritual Development Through Music" is a seven-segment course with each segment having four different classes, for a total of 28 classes. The four classes from the first segment "Surrender" will meet at First Church on February 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> and on March 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. There is a nominal fee for this series of classes. Mary is offering two different times for each of the classes. The Music Committee is welcoming a few ad hoc members to assist with the workload of the committee including publicity for concerts and hopefully with the choir room re-decorating project. The Music Committee will complete a mid-year performance review of Mary to be done by the end of this month.

### New Business

Debbie Peluse asked that all committees submit to her member names including Chairpersons, Treasurer's, etc. so she knows who is authorized to sign for check requests and the like.

Al Bishop reminded Council that there were no new names for the Nominating Committee announced at the Annual Meeting.

Betty Brown asked if it has been determined or discussed how the money from the 2004 Harvest Fair is to be used. It had not been discussed to anyone's knowledge, but Kendrick thought the money may be going toward the new fire suppression system project.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m. following a closing prayer by Elaine. The next regular Church Council meeting will be held on Tuesday March 8, 2005 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stuart Wilkie on behalf of  
Pam Knowles Council Secretary

### **Dear Jr. Choir:**

My Valentine's Day presents were AWESOME!

I love my decorated bag -it's not only useful, but wonderfully artistic. I also love my special book of your letters.

You are the BEST, and I enjoy teaching you very much!

Yours in Song,  
*Mrs. Catino*

**THE LANDMARK**

Please submit your Landmark articles, announcements, and notices by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month for inclusion in the next month's issue. You can place your entries in the labeled mailbox in the Spencer House kitchen or e-mail them to me:

[slwilkie@snet.net](mailto:slwilkie@snet.net) or to  
[landmark@firstchurchguilford.org](mailto:landmark@firstchurchguilford.org) or  
send via fax to 458-1019.

Please include your name and a phone number so if I have a question on spelling, date, time, etc., I can easily reach you for clarification.

Thank you.  
Stuart Wilkie (458-9253)

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

The toll of anger and resentment: *Living in resentment is potentially harmful. Robert D. Enright, Ph.D., president of the International Forgiveness Institute, says research has demonstrated that people who do forgiveness-related acts show decreased levels of anxiety and depression. They also gain greater self-esteem and hope than do those who don't forgive. Similarly, a Hope College study showed that people who sustained forgiveness also lowered their blood pressure and heart rates. The evidence is clear that living in resentment and anger levies a psychological toll on the body and emotional toll on the spirit.*