

CHURCH CHAPTERS

November 2008



FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST in MANSFIELD
549 STORRS ROAD, P.O. BOX 36, MANSFIELD CENTER, CT 06250

A JUST PEACE CHURCH

A GREEN CHURCH

OPEN AND AFFIRMING TO ALL

Ministers: All the People of the Church

Interim Pastor:
Rev. Matt McCaffrey

Director of Faith Formation:
Louise Labbe-Fahy

Minister of Visitation:
Eileen Stock

Music Director:
Michael Silvestri

Office Manager:
Jana Duffy

Organist:
Erik Haeger

Church Office: (860) 423-9008
Office Hours: Monday thru Friday, 9:00 a.m. - Noon
e-mail: FirstChurchMansfield@snet.net
Web: www.myFCC.info

From The Interim Pastor

Top Three Things About... (or, “Welcome to Our Church!”)

It’s a true pleasure for me to have arrived among you in this new season of life at the First Church of Christ in Mansfield Center. As I write this, I have had just a little worship time, but lots of encounters with the remarkable people and striking ministries of this congregation. I have to say it: I’m energized by what’s happening here, even as I work to take it all in.

I know I came in the full swing of autumn, traditionally the time when churches are deeply into activities and preparations for the winter ahead. With so much going on, I have found myself at meeting after meeting with individuals and groups. I have had the opportunity to introduce myself to those groups, and I find that their “questions of introduction” are interesting and challenging.

This page won’t always be about me (in fact, this is probably the last time it will be so biographical), but I think it’s good to let you know a bit of who I am as we walk into this new time of ministry together. I’ll do it through some of the questions I’ve been asked.

What are the top three things you’d like us to know about yourself? Only three? Okay: 1. I love what God has called me to do...including the fact that my work is about change. 2. I enjoy making music, bicycling, and reading. 3. I’m proud of my children and surprised that they’re already out in the world. (My list sometimes changes, so don’t hold me to this one!)

Do you have a spouse or partner? Yes. Alison is the Associate Minister of our UCC Church in Cheshire, where she is just about to complete her seventh year specializing in Parish Life. She is very interested in how things are going with our church, but you will not see her very often because of the obvious conflicts with her church calendar.

Would you ever want your own church? (or, “Do you think you’d like to be a full-time minister?” or “Have you ever thought of settling down?”) I know this question in different forms springs from a perplexing thought: Why would anyone go to all this trouble to be with a church for a time, then be forced to leave just when things are getting interesting? The answer, I believe, is that I am called to walk with you while we prepare ourselves for a new minister. It’s a full-time call, and I make the promise not to consider settling here so that we can be about our work. I make that promise in love, and some day I will leave, also in love.

Why did you choose *this* church? It’s so far away from your home! Ahhh. There’s two answers to that question. One is that I did have a choice: there was a church much closer to home, but they were looking for someone who would not rock the boat or want to “make” them do much. I loved the energy behind your church motto, “...Where Faith Takes Action!”—especially when I saw just how true that is.

The second answer, and the one with which I close this note, is that I did not choose to be in this First Church of Christ in Mansfield Center any more than you chose to have me...because I believe that God’s Holy Spirit has been at work to call us together for the work of transition. There are many choices, insights, and decisions ahead of us in the days to come, but our work is part of God’s “light play” in the Creation. The choice was in how we responded to that call, and that’s what brings us together now.

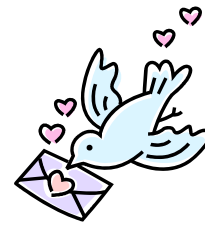
In this new time, may we be blessed, and may we be a blessing to others.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev Matt" followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Rev. Matt McCaffrey

From The Director of Faith Formation



Dear Friends,

November 2008

As I sit to write this it is a day or two before Halloween. So, looking towards next summer let me ask you what are your plans for June 28, 2009 to July 2, 2009? "Louise," you're saying to yourself, "its EIGHT months away, how should we know?!" Well...have I got an opportunity for you! How would you like to spend 4 nights in Schuylkill County PA, just west of the Pocono Mountains, and on the edge of Pennsylvania Dutch County? Sounds GREAT you say to yourself! Well I'd like to personally invite each and EVERYONE to join in a church wide mission trip. Your four days there of ministry will be split between working with children, house painting and doing volunteer ministry. There is a sign up sheet in fellowship hall. A 25 dollar non refundable deposit is due by December 1, 2008. We will be doing fund raising for this trip. Please see me for additional information. This will be a life changing experience for everyone.

Well, back to present day. October has been a busy time with lots of change at First Church. We started the month off with thanking Lindsay for her 12 years here and wishing her well in her new ministry at Ladera Community Church. We welcomed our Interim Pastor, the Rev. Matthew McCaffrey. We have begun our series of First Hours with a "Tree of Life" (have you seen it yet in Fellowship Hall?) We started a "Green Church Banner", had a Fall Festival for the children, and celebrated Heritage Sunday, just to name a few things. First Church is certainly a busy place!

So if you think November and December will be less busy...let me just assure you now that WILL NOT be the case. During November we will continue our "Tree of Life" along with our "Green Church Banner". My hope is that we can dedicate these two items during worship on Thanksgiving Sunday (November 23). We will have our annual Harvest of Gifts, Goods and Talents Auction, we will have a family night out to see "Godspell" at Storrs Congregational Church, we will welcome new members, and we will have the annual "Walk for Warmth", just to name a few things. I encourage you to read your announcements in each week's bulletin so you are sure not to miss anything.

As November will come to a close we will begin the Advent season. A time of waiting. A time of preparation. A season associated generally with great joy. This year especially with the tough economic times ahead, first let us be thankful to God for all we have been given, and remember all we have is only on "loan" from God. Let us each be mindful of the "other guy" and see what gifts of time, treasure, and talent we can share with others.

*Shalom,
Louise*



The Tree of Life

Prayers of healing for:

Bob and Arline Burkinshaw

Adelaide Corcoran

Anne and David Hall

Helen "Muffet" Dawson

Anna Storrs

Joe Kiss

Helen Fish recovering from surgery

Pat Dobush recovering from surgery

Jennifer Churchill recovering from a broken ankle



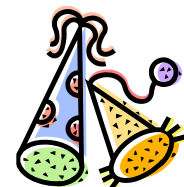
Thanks to everyone for prayers, calls, visits, cards, e-mails, and meals during and following my hospitalization. I feel truly blessed to have such a wonderful church family!

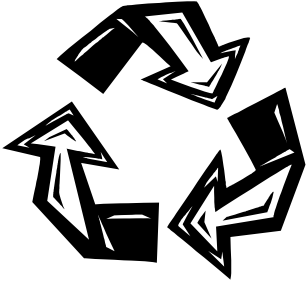
~ Pam Bridgeford ~

November BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER

- 1 Teresa Corcoran Grebe
- 2 Bill Hayes
- 3 Steven Briggs
- 4 Randy Shirshac
- 5 Maggie Knapp
- 6 Dawn Clauson
- 7 Richard Hobby, Janna Pedersen
- 8 Rebecca Bridgeford,
Parrish Protheroe
- 10 Jennifer Bailey Churchill
- 12 Richard Vaillancourt
- 14 Debbie Hubbell
- 15 Sheilagh Garrity
- 16 Don Baxter,
Addie Johnson
- 17 Greg Hopkins
- 18 Ann Bailey, Stella Ross
- 19 Christine Reed
- 20 George Bailey, John Bent,
Julia Haeger
- 22 Rebecca Hall, Dale Truman,
Kevin Brodie, Caitlin Garvey
- 23 James Truman
- 24 Sandra Hodrinsky
- 25 Scott Hoyt, Justin Chase
- 28 Michael Phelps
- 29 Anna-Marie Bellizi





GREEN TIPS

FOR THE MONTH OF

OCTOBER

THE EMPOWER AMERICA CHALLENGE **WEEK OF OCTOBER 5, 2008**

As a follow up to Gary and Gloria Bent's marvelous presentations on Global Warming and a continuation of our "350" Campaign, we can think of no better single resource to excite you than the Empower America Challenge. It offers concrete solutions to both the energy and environmental crises. Coincidentally, in light of events over the past two weeks, it offers great hope on jobs and the economy. Modeled after John F. Kennedy's challenge to put a man on the moon and return him safely to earth within ten years, this challenge is much more important and the time period far more critical.

For all our electrical needs, the U.S. can be powered by 100% CLEAN, RENEWABLE ENERGY WITHIN 10 YEARS!! That's 2018, folks, not 2050! Google "Empower America Challenge" or visit www.wecansolveit.org. to watch a 27 minute, 18 second video. Take that amount of time this week and view it. You won't be disappointed.

Cutting across every political spectrum from libertarians on the right to environmentalists of all persuasions, on July 17, 2008 Al Gore offered far more than words - concrete solutions to seemingly insurmountable problems. "As the demands for coal and oil increase, the prices inevitably rise; as the demand for clean renewable sources rises, the prices go down." That's just one sentence from his challenge speech, and he offers proof.

Special thanks to the Bents and the approximately 40 members who attended at least a significant part of last week's First Hour. Come to the 9:30 First Hour next Sunday for discussions to direct our delegates in their voting on the UCC "Resolution on the Urgency for Action on Climate Change." Help return the CO2 number from its present 387 to "350."

TIP OF THE HAT TO SOME OF OUR CARBON-CUTTING MEMBERS **WEEK OF OCTOBER 12, 2008**

The tip this Columbus Day Weekend is a tribute to three families among us who have recently made heroic efforts to cut their carbon imprint. They are helping to bring the CO2 p.p.m. number back from 387 to 350, while hopefully saving money in the long run. Coincidentally, members of all three families happened be sitting kitty-corner from us at the September Council meeting.

Ann and George Bailey have installed an air geothermal system for their heating and cooling needs. Janice Chamberlain and Bill Kerensky have a new "spider" geothermal system for the same purposes. Donna and Jack Clauson have installed not only two solar hot water panels, but banks of photovoltaic cells to generate electricity for many of their remaining energy needs. These people can be inspirational models for the rest of us. Seek them out.

There are probably others of you who have made significant conservation efforts in either physical design or behavioral patterns. Please let us know. Also continue to spread the word on 350!

GOD IS STILL SPEAKING ON GLOBAL WARMING **WEEK OF OCTOBER 19, 2008**

Yesterday our delegates and those throughout the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ voted for the "Resolution on the Urgency for Action on Climate Change." Today Bob O'Connell is addressing Columbia Congregational Church on their desire to become a green church and what that wish will ask of them. They are at a point where our own church was just five short years ago. How far we have come as individuals and a congregation!.

Let us not rest upon our laurels. This week and next in our Green Tips, we will look beyond our accomplishments to the still greater prophetic tasks to which our Creator God is calling us. Consider the words of Reverend Peter Sawtell:

"For many good reasons, churches have often addressed - or at least introduced - climate change in the context of personal choices. Change a light bulb, drive less, hang your laundry on a clothes line, etc. Our focus has been on individual actions and consumer behaviors. Let me affirm - those actions are essential,

(continued)

(Green Tips Continued)

and those points of personal commitment can be good entry points toward deeper involvement.

"But personal choices won't come close to bringing the changes needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. and around the world. We need massive and rapid changes in economic incentives. We need a transformation of our infrastructure for energy generation, transportation, housing, food and more. Working toward those changes requires coordinated action by governments and institutions.

"Churches, as agents of moral leadership, have a distinct and influential role to play in addressing these social and institutional matters." (1)

(1) All three of these excerpts are from a recent "Reflection on the Environmental Crisis" by Reverend Peter Sawtell, Executive Director of Eco-Justice Ministries.

**"LISTEN CAREFULLY AND PRAYERFULLY
PRAYERFULLY;" EDUCATE YOURSELF AND
OTHERS ON CLIMATE CHANGE
WEEK OF OCTOBER 26, 2008**



Our Green Church Mission Statement commits us, as faith-filled and responsive stewards of God's creation, to the well being of our planet through education and action.

Last weekend the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ passed the 2008 "Resolution on the URGENCY for Action on Climate Change" (editorial emphasis). That resolution contains five "Be It Resolved" statements, the second of which reads:

"that we urge the entire United Church of Christ, clergy and laity, officers and members, to listen carefully and prayerfully to the scientific consensus now available, to make education on these matters a priority throughout the United Church of Christ, and to take immediate steps, both individually and collectively, to address the changes required at all levels by this unprecedented global crisis;"

Enough said. Next week we will consider the fourth and fifth resolved statements, which deal with advocacy.

Stewardship

Dear Friends,

We are anxiously looking forward to sharing with you our 2009 Stewardship appeal. We will begin on Sunday November 2nd and continue through November 16th. Your pledges will be consecrated at the Thanksgiving service on Sunday November 23rd.

As we enter into this new season, please join us as we call to mind, the "Treasures" we have come to cherish at First Church. The Treasures that each of you share helps to make First Church a bright light to the world. May we journey together.

~ Steve Lane ~



Community XMAS Tree Lighting

Can you believe we already need to think about Christmas season? The last Sunday in November will be the day the lights will again illuminate our Christmas tree on the front lawn. Traditionally cookies and caroling accompany that event. A sign up in Fellowship Hall will let us know who can provide the refreshments. Please help.

~ Kitchen Committee ~

SERRV catalogue of fair trade items available from developing countries.

There is a catalogue available if anyone wishes to place an individual order or if interested in hosting a sale of fall and holiday items to earn a percentage for First Church. The handmade products and foods make wonderful gifts and benefit the makers as well.

Please use/take the catalogue found on a table near the Mission bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

For further information, please contact Carol McMillan, 423-3774.



Use of New Dishwasher

Demonstration Sunday Nov. 9th

The new industrial sized dishwasher is now ready for use when more than 20-25 people are served. It will be a requirement that training and demonstration is needed for all those who may wish to use it. A demonstration will be held following coffee hour on Sunday November 9th.

If you are unable to attend at that time, please contact George Bailey, Elizabeth McCosh Lilie or Carol McMillan to arrange for a time to train in the future

Please save the date!

First Church Friends will hold its next get-together at the Bansals' house on Fri., Dec. 12 at 2:30

Godspell is coming to Storrs!

On the evenings of November 14 & 15 at 7:00, at the meetinghouse on 2 North Eagleville Road on the UConn campus, the Storrs Congregational Church will bring **Godspell** to Eastern Connecticut. The production features members of Storrs Congregational Church and thespians from the wider community, as well as students and faculty from the University of Connecticut and Eastern Connecticut State University. Tickets are \$15 and will be available at the door or may be purchased in advance by calling the church office at 860-429-9382. (Seating is limited so it's recommended that you get your tickets in advance.) All proceeds will go to the Storrs Congregational Church accessibility project.

First Church Shopping List

For any of you who are inclined to add items to your family list, for local needs:

For Soup Kitchen:

- Canned fruits
- Other nonperishables

For Sewing and Service group Kits:

- Notebooks (150-200 pages)
- 12 inch rulers w/metric
- Hand towels
- Nail Clippers

Of course, any items outside of this list are welcome!

Church Family Night Out!

If anyone would like to go see **Godspell on Saturday, November 15th**, with other church members, please sign up in Fellowship Hall. (We will need to purchase tickets as early as

SCRAPBOOK FOR LINDSAY

We are making a scrapbook for Lindsay with pictures and items from the service and celebration on 10/5.

Please send any pictures you may have taken (along with any ideas you might have for the scrapbook!) to Ava Little

Email is little_dna@hotmail.com.

Deadline is November 8th.

Silver Lake International Mission Trip For High School Students!

For the second year, Silver Lake Conference Center and Simply Smiles will be hosting a mission trip to Oaxaca, Mexico for high school students. Participants will live for a week at the Casa Hogar Children's Home and have the opportunity to build homes for families who survive off of what a garbage dump can provide.

It is a life changing opportunity for you and those who we will be helping!

**Trip Dates:
April 18 -26
2009**

For More Details:

Please Contact:

Rev. Peter Allen, Senior Pastor,
Monroe Congregational Church

203.268.9327 or revpwa@sbcglobal.net

SilverLake.ctucc.org

Thank You!

SimplySmiles.org

If you are interested in this mission trip, please see Louise or Emma Lane.

Dear Friends,

I want to thank all of you for your support and participation of my Simply Smiles fund raiser to aid the families and children of Oaxaca, Mexico. As you may recall, the goal for the dinner was to raise \$2,400, enough to build one house in the Oaxaca dump. To date, through your generous contributions, together we have raised \$5,400, enough to build two houses! I could not be happier with the results. Your generosity has not only warmed my heart, but will touch the lives of many in the Oaxaca community.

I plan to travel back to Oaxaca in April of 2009 and will help to build one of the houses that is being funded by the money that we have raised together.

With the holidays approaching, please consider keeping Simply Smiles and the Oaxaca community in your heart and on your charitable giving list. The mailing address is:

Simply Smiles
1771 Post Road East,
Westport, CT 06880

Thank you all again for your overwhelming support. I feel blessed to have a community like you.

Sincerely,
Emma Lane

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!

Rolling along the highway toward CA, I keep thinking of you all and the wonderful send-off you gave me. Beginning with the lovely reception from community members at the Messier home, with music by Laurel and Cheryl, Bob O'Connell, and "The Crustaceans", the beach glass and water blessing, the fabulous food - filled heart and soul. Followed by a service so full of sentiment and celebration, from the procession of banners, the color filled sanctuary, serving communion to one and all, special music, the incredible quilt stitching together your creative expressions, (thank you Donna!) and your generous gift - and wrapped up with the beautiful blessing from the "Daughters of the Light"... many, many thanks for all your thoughtfulness, time and effort. I feel so appreciated, celebrated and loved - thank you!

And what a thrill, to be able to join my sister in the spirit, fellow church-lady Gloria and Monty Hall and those swell Righteous Brothers for fun and games, and then be treated to the memory stirring retrospective Deb Hubbell put together. Fabulous! How much fun was the decor, too - the travel books and cars and all...what a treat!

Most of all, thank you again for the joy and privilege of serving you, of getting to know and love you, and blest be these ties that bind!

I'm excited for the new chapter beginning for First Church, and will be holding you all in my prayers.

Blessings, peace and love
and THANK YOU!

Lindsay

SPECIAL THANK YOU'S

To the Interim Search Committee:
Gloria Bent, JoAnn Waide-Wunschel,
Dave Hovorka, & Donna Clauson.

To the Deacons for hosting the party
for Lindsay's friends and area clergy
and to the Messier's for opening their
home for the special occasion.

**To those who served on the Party
Planning Committee (for Lindsay):**
Gloria Bent, Warren Erickson, Carol

McMillan, Deb Hubbell, Ava Little &
Louise Labbe-Fahy

**To those who helped during the
October First Church Work Day:**
Carol McMillan, Jack Clauson,
Rich Vaillancourt, Dave Little &
Ava Little

To Ruth Berube, who volunteers weekly in the
church office, for the recent extra hours!





Church Wide Mission Trip June 28th – July 2nd, 2009!

Your are cordially invited to join in our Church Wide Mission Trip in Schuylkill County PA, just west of the Pocono Mountains, and on the edge of Pennsylvania Dutch County. Please mark your calendars and sign up in Fellowship Hall.

A \$25 deposit per person will be due by December 1st. Please see Louise for more details.

AVERY CONCERTS

presents

the Avery Ensemble and its 08-09 series

All's Fair in Love and War?!

at each of the following venues:

Trinity Episcopal Church, Hartford, CT

The Capitol Theater, Willimantic, CT

St-James Church, New London, CT

Lichtenstein Center, Pittsfield, MA

Tel.(860)456-0462 or (860)523-8931

info@averyensemble.org

Unique among American chamber ensembles, the Avery Ensemble performs a breadth of styles spanning the history of Western instrumental music. For them the art music of the seventeenth century and that of the twenty-first belongs to one and the very same musical tradition – Purcell and Mozart become not merely ancestors to Brahms and Schnittke, but siblings. The ensemble's remarkable chemistry is revealed in performances that extract the utmost meaning from each work in its diverse repertoire. Unrivaled virtuosity, depth of understanding and passion distinguish their presentations of the standard chamber music repertoire, seventeenth-century music and post-modern masterpieces. (a brochure is on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall).

**Cleaning Crew Wanted
for
Homeless Shelter
in Willimantic**

Thursday, November 6th 6:30 pm

**If you are able to help,
please contact
Jack Clauson**



November 14, 2008

Harvest of Gifts, Goods and Talents Lasagna Dinner and Auction

We would like everyone to consider donating something to our Auction. Every one of us has gifts or talents that others would love to own. Some ideas to think about might include: making pies, musical performances, few hours of yard work, mystery ride and dinner, gutter cleaning, babysitting, car cleaning, housekeeping, do shopping for someone, taxi service, dinner prepared and then shared for a certain number of people, if you have connections to businesses you could get them to contribute to our cause (gift certificates or items that people will bid on), and you might choose to make a gift basket or purchase something we can auction. The more items of value - - the more \$\$\$\$ we can raise. Our Goal is \$5000; we almost made it last year!

Please turn in your form ASAP if you have not already done so.

If you have any questions, please see Donna Clauson or call her at 423-0638.

Letter from Anne Dodd

We have moved from our home in Mansfield to a retirement facility in Massachusetts.

*We have been members of this church since we moved here in 1961!
It has been a friendly, rewarding experience- many good friends along the way!
We lived next door for a year while we built our house. . . many good memories.
My mother, Roberta Hale, played the organ one winter when
no one else was available!*

*Best Wishes to All,
Anne Dodd*

WALK WITH US... NOVEMBER 23, 2008 WAIM's Seventeenth Annual Walk for Warmth

This is an opportunity for you to take action and Walk for Warmth to raise funds to help families stay warm this winter.

November



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 First Hour 9:30AM-10:10AM Worship 10:15AM	3	4 ELECTION DAY!	5 Prayer Group 10:30AM/ Book Study 1-2:30PM Stewardship: 6PM Mission: 7PM	6 Homeless Shelter Clean Up 6:30PM Choir 7PM	7	8
9 First Hour 9:30AM-10:10AM Worship 10:15AM Dishwasher Demo	10 Sewing & Service 9AM-1PM	11 Veteran's Day Board of Deacons 7PM	12 Prayer Group 10:30am/ Book Study 1-2:30pm/ JPF 5-7pm/	13 Choir 7PM	14 Gifts, Goods & Talent Lasagna Dinner & Auction 6PM	15
16 First Hour 9:30AM-10:10AM Worship 10:15AM	17	18	19 Prayer Group 10:30am/ Book Study 1-2:30pm/ Executive Council 7pm	20 Choir 7PM	21	22 Soup Kitchen Meal 10am-12:30pm
23 First Hour 9:30AM-10:10AM Worship 10:15AM WALK FOR WARMTH	24 Newsletter Deadline	25 Board of Faith Formation Meeting 7pm (CE Wing)	26 Prayer Group 10:30am/ Book Study 1-2:30pm	27 HAPPY THANKSGIVING!	28	29
30 First Hour 9:30AM-10:10AM Worship 10:15AM Tree Lighting 6PM						