



Tidings

MARCH 2009

First Church of Christ Congregational UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

In the heart of West Hartford we are called by God to grow together, inspiring and engaging one another through worship, learning, fellowship and outreach.

We faithfully serve our diverse community and world, welcoming and nurturing all people in the living Spirit of Jesus.

PREACHING & WORSHIP PLANS MARCH '09

10:00 am - Meeting House
10:15 am - Church School

MARCH 1:

The Faces of Jesus:
"Wisdom Teacher"
Susan Izard preaching.

MARCH 8:

The Faces of Jesus:
"Eternal Spirit"
Geordie Campbell preaching.

MARCH 15:

The Faces of Jesus:
"Prophetic Voice"
Geordie Campbell preaching.
• ANNUAL MEETING

MARCH 22:

The Faces of Jesus:
"Healing Touch"
Geordie Campbell preaching.

MARCH 29:

Lenten Music Sunday
Jim Boratko leading.

Sponsor a Rocker!



See
page
4



Spiritual Journey Anyone?

My Dear Friends,

Fifteen years ago I took a sabbatical journey to the Holy Land. Though I was only there for two weeks the experience profoundly changed my life. It was transformative and made my faith much more vivid and alive. Old stories that I have always held dear came to life in astonishing ways for me. To this day I am still discovering the treasures of that journey - and I am ever grateful.

Nine years ago I went back, though this time I had some traveling companions. My parents provided kid-care at home so Pam was able to go with me. I organized a group from our then-community-of-Granby and we set off as an entourage of thirty-two inquisitive souls.

Dennis Dewey, renown for his skill at Biblical story-telling, was our teacher and guide. His artful way of opening up the stories of Jesus in the ancient land of the Bible was nothing shy of amazing. In a single glance we could see the context of a story as we heard the text; we could sense and experience the contrast of modernity and antiquity; we could imagine and understand so much more and deeper as the Holy Land came to life.

One year from now I am cueing up a plan to make that journey again - and I'd like to take a group of folks from our Church Family with me. I have been in conversation with Dennis Dewey who will be guiding the trip with his insightful and inspirational grasp of scripture. The trip will visit Nazareth, Bethlehem, Capernaum . . . the Sea of Galilee, the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane . . . Jerusalem, Jericho, and Qumran . . . and more places in between and along the way. I am confident that it will be a life-giving experience of rare portion for any who make the journey!

The details? In a nutshell, we would depart from NYC on January 25 with a flight to Tel Aviv and return on February 3. The base cost is set at \$2,599 per person and is inclusive of Dennis's leadership, hotel, airfare, admission to all sights, ground-transportation, and breakfast and dinner each day. Alpha Christian Tours will be making the specific arrangements.

I will be hosting a meeting after worship on March 29 to fill in the other details for any who would like to know more - so keep your ears tuned! In the meantime, give me a call if you have any interest!

On the journey of faith with you,

Geordie Campbell
Senior Pastor



*Pam and Geordie in
Cana of Galilee
(where Jesus turned
the water to wine).
Jerusalem as seen from
the Mount of Olives,
January 2000.*



One Great Hour of Sharing: March 22. See page 2

**CHURCH BULLETIN BOARD
AND FAMILY NEWS**



WEDDINGS

None Reported



CIVIL UNIONS

None Reported



BIRTHS

None Reported



BAPTISMS

None Reported



DEATHS

Virginia Beekley
(member) died on 2/9/09.

Please note, we do our best to be sure all announcements make it on our "Church Bulletin Board." If you have an announcement to share with your church family, please call the church office.

Baskets Coming Soon

We will again be filling Easter baskets for Covenant to Care for Children. We will let you know the details during March, once we talk to the social workers. Look for notices around church and in the bulletin! – *Bev, Cindy and Carole*



**Looking for a Church
to Call Home?**

Does it really make a difference if you join a church? We think so! Deciding to join a church is a way of acknowledging and affirming that each of us needs a spiritual home. It's a way of being more intentional about tending to the needs of heart and soul.

First Church offers an opportunity several times a year to welcome new folks into the membership of our congregation. We would be delighted to include you! New folks will be joining on **March 15** - depending on the weekend that works the best for all. If you would like to know more about this opportunity, please speak to one of the pastors! ❖

The Faces of Jesus

Our Lenten Sermon Series this year takes a look at the different "faces" or "dimensions" of the life and lessons of Jesus. Of course there are far too many for us to focus on in the brief six weeks that we have so we have been selective. Beginning on February 22 (the week leading up to Lent) we will look at "Tempted Savior" . . . "Wisdom Teacher" . . . "Eternal Presence" . . . "Prophetic Voice" . . . "Healing Touch" . . . and "Suffering Servant". Please plan to be with us! ❖

**Church School
News**

**Coming Soon To a
Workshop Near You!**

Sharpen your pencils and put your thinking caps on,

We're going back to (Sunday) school!

Starting March 8th

our WoRM (Workshop Rotation Model) Unit

Lenten praying with Jesus

will include a fifth Inter-Generational Workshop!

Our church school children will be inviting parents, grandparents and special church friends of a different generation to learn about prayer.. what, when, where, how and why will be part of the discussion.

The guests will have an opportunity to share in the lesson and experience our innovative approach to Christian education. Each inter-generational team will visit the workshop one of the five Sundays in this unit.

More information and a class schedule to follow

Questions? Colleen Mitchell, Associate in Christian education

colleenmitchellfcc@yahoo.com or 233-9605 ext 106

THERE'S STILL TIME TO SIGN UP FOR THE '09 WOMEN'S RETREAT!!

The annual Women's Retreat will be held at Wisdom House in Litchfield, Connecticut on March 27 and 28. Please contact the church office to sign up, 233-9605.

Remember your earliest lessons about sharing? At the time, sharing may have seemed like a burden, a needless sacrifice – giving up part of what you believed was rightfully yours. Over time, however, we come to realize that all of our gifts come from God, and that sharing actually enriches us. In blessing others with our gifts, goodness and love flow from our hearts. And blessing returns to us, building that desire to respond even more generously to God's call "to do good and to share what we have"

One Great Hour of Sharing offers an opportunity for each of us to share with people in need around the world—

**ONE GREAT
HOUR OF
SHARING**



giving them much more than a handout. When we share our resources, we can help to ensure that children suffering from disease not only receive

treatment, but enjoy the benefits of a community made safer with proper sanitation and clean sources of water. We partner with a family living in hunger, offering them not just food, but the tools and training

to build a sustainable source of income for themselves—improving their world and ours. This year's OGHs offering will be received on **Sunday March 22nd**. Please use the envelope in the *Tidings* if you can not be with us on March 22nd (Service & Outreach Ministry). ❖

Delightful Children

Once again, First Church Nursery School families displayed overwhelming generosity! Our classes lovingly bundled up donated toiletries for South Park Inn and the donations were brought over on February 18th. Our children talked about the needs some people have and how our individual contributions become a large donation when everyone pitches in a little. It is such a good reminder for us to remember to do what little we can for those in need and not wait for a "grand" moment.

Also in February, our children experienced a family fun night of bowling and pizza. Over twenty families participated in the festivities. If you've never seen young children bowl, you need to come next year! Laughter rang throughout the alley!

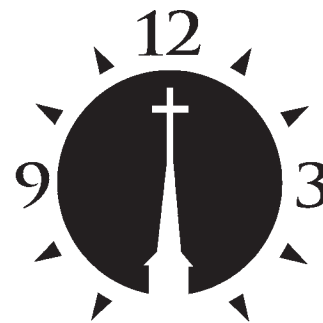
We were delighted to have one of our many talented parents, Rebecca O'Neill, present an extremely informative workshop for teachers and parents on the developmental stages of speech and language. Rebecca described the normal continuum and pointed out where red flags would be indicated for unusual development. Rebecca has a private practice, Pediatric and Adolescent Speech Therapy here in West Hartford.

We thank you for your support of our Munson's fundraiser. The candy will be delivered in time to fill the Easter baskets.

Hatching chicks, baking muffins to give to families at our Muffin Breakfast and preparing Art Work for the J.P. Webster Art Gallery will be keeping us very busy during the next two months. Our very creative teachers work collaboratively to develop themes and activities to keep both hands and minds engaged!

Our classes are quickly filling for the '09/'10 school year. If you have friends or neighbors who are looking for an excellent pre-school program with nurturing child care, please refer them to us!

Blessed to be here! **Ruthie Johnson, Director 232-2106**



Let's Worship As ONE

The experience of worship is at the very heart of Christian Faith -
a time to lift our praise and thanks to God,
a pause to center our lives around the lessons of the Gospel,
a moment to collect our many thoughts and feelings from the busy-ness of life,
and a nudge to send us back out into God's world
as instruments of love and grace, peace and justice.

A change in our Sunday Morning format encourages us to worship as ONE as Lent begins. Effective on March 1, Sunday Worship will be at 10 AM in the Meeting House.

The last of our 8 AM Services in the Chapel will be on February 22. The decision to discontinue the early service has followed a long season of conversation. Budgetary restraints were only a small part of the discussion. More important was the significant decline in attendance over time. Ten years ago that service averaged about 20 people. In these most recent months we were a small circle of six - including minister, deacon and organist!

We will be looking for new ways to provide worship in addition to Sunday at 10. One growing example of this is our Third-Sunday-Evening-Taize service in the Chancel. This opportunity has grown from a small circle of folks to twenty-some over the past year.

Questions, concerns or comments are welcomed! Please speak to one of the Deacons, or to our Pastors. ❖



First Church of Christ Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

An Open & Affirming Congregation

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Tidings submissions are due on the 14th of every month for publication on the 1st of the following month. Please email submissions (including digital photos as jpegs) to editor/designer Joy Taylor: jtaylor@hometownmarketing.com.

Please recycle your

TIDINGS with your newspapers



The Adult Choir and Soloists to Present **The Seven Last Words on Sunday, March 29**

As a special musical offering for the Lenten season, the 10:00 service on March 29 will feature a musical presentation of *The Seven Last Words*, a cantata by Heinrich Schütz. The work will be presented by the Adult Choir, with soloists and orchestral accompaniment. The painting shown with this article was created by no other than Rembrandt, which indicates the level of importance Schütz had in his day.

The work will be presented as part of the normal Sunday morning service, taking the place of the sermon for that Sunday. Additional soloists and musicians required for this production will be made possible through the Music and Fine Arts Fund. ❖



New Direction

This *Tidings* entry will be my hardest one to write. Unfortunately, after a wonderful year and a half working with the youth groups so far, I have handed in my resignation as of the end of the school year. This was a very difficult decision to make, and a very personal one. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with our youth and found them to be amazing members of our congregation. I hope that you all have an opportunity to get to know them like I have and see what great energy, character, and potential they all have. My reason for leaving centers around my family and my need for my evenings and weekends to be free to spend with them. I do plan to remain an active member of the church through in whatever capacity I can.



Now on to the fun stuff:

March Happenings

■ **Sunday, March 1st** – Service project within the church (time TBA)

■ **Friday, March 6th** –

Rock-a-thon Fundraiser

5:30 PM - 6 PM - Pizza

6 PM - 12 AM - Rocking

12 AM -7 AM - Fun and sleep

Sponsor a Rocker!



There's still time to sponsor a rocker! It's just 10 cents per minute for a great cause! Contact me by March 5th at 561-1210 to

pledge your support.

■ **Sunday, March 15th** – Preparing lunch for the annual meeting (9AM -12)

■ **Sunday, March 22nd** – Labyrinth Walk. 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM - High School.

4:30 PM - 5 PM - Social time for both groups. 5 PM - 6 PM - Middle School

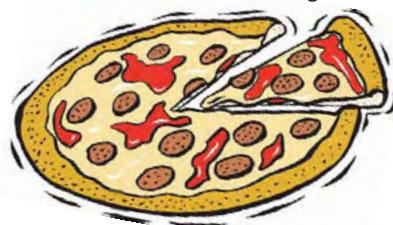
■ **Sunday, March 29th** – Give2 event American School for the Deaf (time TBA)

One last thing - I'd like to say a big **THANK YOU** to all of the youth group members who volunteered their time and energy for all of our recent events.

-Adrienne

firstchurchyouthprogram@yahoo.com

Come to a BINGO Party!



PRIZES:
Bring a
"Yankee Swap"
item!*

Bring a
salad or
dessert to
share

Blest Be the Pie that Binds An Intergenerational Pizza Party In the Auditorium

Friday, March 13 • 6:30 – 8:30 PM



Please
**SIGN UP/ call the
church office
233-9605**

Hosted by the CE Board and
the Fellowship Committee

*Each adult and child are asked to bring a wrapped "Yankee Swap" item (a treasure or gift you're not using, OR a new or old item, OR a food item, OR a joke gift, OR just about anything is O.K.). The "Yankee Swaps will be our prizes!

We are the Temple of the Living God.

Glorify God in your body.

(2 Corinthians 6:16,

1 Corinthians 6:20 NRSV)

YOGA

Sponsored by the C.E. Ministry of First Church
This gentle Kripalu yoga class, taught by Nancy Murray, RYT, is appropriate for students at all levels, including beginners. Early Spring series starting the week of March 3: Three different 6-week classes will be offered:

Tuesdays: 7:00pm - 8:15pm

Wednesdays: 9:15am - 10:30am

Thursdays: 9:15am - 10:30am

Please call Nancy Murray 521-8186 for more information, including suggested donation, or to sign up.

The Flower Delivery Request:

Coffee Cans are needed to be used for Parish Care Floral Arrangements. One-pound coffee cans or any 28-ounce can are appropriate for our use. Please check your cabinets and leave your donation at the Church Office! Thank you!! ❖

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

A Confirmand Needs Your Help!

The West Hartford Food Pantry needs the help of our Congregation in these tough economic times. As a Confirmand, I ask you all to contribute non-perishable food items so that families right here in West Hartford can gather around their dinner tables and have a meal together.

I will be collecting your donations during Fellowship on March 1st and March 8th. *Thank you – Olivia Mitchell*

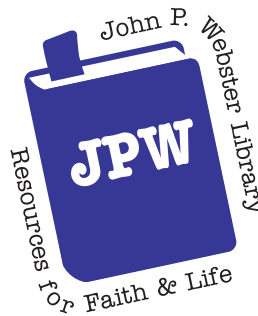
John P. Webster Library

Patricia Malahan, Director

(860) 232-3893 • Look for regular updates online: www.jpwllibrary.org.

HOURS: MON. - 9:00 - 5:00 • TU. 9:00 - 7:00 • WED., TH. 9:00 - 5:00
FRI. 9:00 - 3:00 • SUN. 9:00 - 12:00

We have many NEW Resources, come check us out!

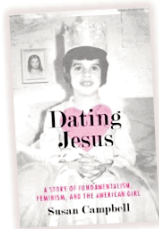


Food for Thought Book Group

This popular book group discussion is usually held on the first Thursday of each month from 5:45 to 7 p.m. Participants are invited to bring their own “brown bag” supper and the library will provide beverages and dessert. Our next meeting will be on March 5, when we will discuss the Pulitzer Prize winner, “**Gilead**” by Marilynne Robinson. Copies of the books are available in the library.

Christian Classics Book Group

Our group meets on Mondays at noon to discuss books on Christianity, religion, spirituality and other germane topics. In March, we will be reading “**Dating Jesus: A Story**



of Fundamentalism, Feminism, and the American Girl” a memoir by *Hartford Courant* columnist Susan Campbell in anticipation of her upcoming discussion at Temple Beth Israel (see right). Copies of the books are available in the library. Bring a bag lunch; coffee and tea are provided.

Soup and Scripture

On each Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., our group meets in the library. A basic meal of soup and bread is served, we then take turns reading scripture and have a brief informal discussion of the readings. We are currently reading from Genesis.

John P. Webster Gallery

In March and April, the Gallery will be showcasing the diverse works from the very local and talented friends and artists from the First Church Nursery School.

Book Discussion at Beth Israel

Rabbi Stephen Fuchs and Jane Zande of Congregation Beth Israel have extended an invitation to us to join them and interested members of their synagogue for a book discussion and to meet with local author and award winning *Hartford Courant* columnist Susan Campbell. Many of you are fans of Susan’s writing and her new memoir is entitled, “**Dating Jesus: A Story of Fundamentalism, Feminism, and the American Girl.**” The discussion will be held on Sunday, March 22 at 4:00 p.m. at Beth Israel. The JPW Library will have copies of the book available for loan prior to the discussion. If you are interested in borrowing the book and/or attending the discussion, please contact Patti Malahan at 232-3893 or stop by the library. ❖

Lenten Quiet Morning: The Spiritual Life Ministry is sponsoring a Quiet Morning on March 4th from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Quiet Room. This is a morning for reflection and prayer – time to be still and be present to The Holy. Susan IZARD will lead participants in guided prayer and gentle body movement. There will also be open time for walking the labyrinth, journaling, contemplative reading, knitting and silence. Hot tea will be available throughout the morning. Please sign up in the church office, 233-9605.

Lenten Labyrinth Walk: The Spiritual Life Ministry is sponsoring an all church Lenten labyrinth walk on Wednesday, March 4th from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. The labyrinth is an ancient tool for spiritual renewal and prayer. The labyrinth path is a symbol of our spiritual journey. By walking the path we are able to open our hearts to God’s presence in our lives and listen for deeper understanding of our own spiritual journeys. Come and treat yourself to this experience of contemplative walking. All are welcome. ❖

\$5 for a little history

You are invited to donate \$5.00 for your very own copy of that old favorite the red “Pilgrim Hymnal.” Since its retirement from active use at First Church, the Music Committee has pondered what to do. Better than storing them forever in the attic or the landfill, we are happy to announce that copies in good condition will be available for a \$5.00 donation to the Music and Fine Arts Fund at coffee hour on March 29 and April 5. Thank you.

–First Church Music Committee

A Sacred Connection Passover/Seder Meal and Holy Communion

Jesus was Jewish and experienced the Seder. Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with the disciples and transformed this meal into a meal of sacred memory which Christians refer to as “The Lord’s Supper.” You are invited to experience this sacred connection: Seder and Communion

**On Maundy Thursday, April 9
Save the Date!
Come and learn and celebrate!**



Lent

Reach Out

(A column from Service & Outreach)

Mission of IRIS

Have you ever wondered what happens to ordinary people whose lives are turned upside down by the turmoil you hear about in the news? Some of them come to Connecticut.

They come with the same desire that our ancestors brought with them to America – to work hard and build better lives. Entering our complex society, often without any relatives who can help to support them, they need some help.

The mission of IRIS (Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services) is to help refugees and other displaced people establish new lives, regain hope, and contribute to the vitality of Connecticut communities. IRIS provides people with housing for their first few months, helps them navigate government bureaucracies, and offers an adult English class and an after-school program for children. The all-important job placement program enables most families to be self-supporting within four to six months.

Contributions from First Church and other friends of IRIS, which supplement basic government and foundation funding, allow IRIS to house people in safe, friendly neighborhoods, instead of in lower-rent areas where drugs and crime are ever-present problems. They allow IRIS to keep the English class running year-round, instead of only when public schools are in session. And they allow IRIS to give people things like umbrellas or thermal underwear, which make waiting for buses in New England weather a little easier.

Investment in these courageous people pays rich dividends, as they go on to buy houses, start businesses, earn college degrees, and give back to their adopted communities. Thank you for helping to make all this happen! ❖

First Church member Linda Bronstein has worked with IRIS for 13 years. Ask her to tell you some stories, or to tell you what household items you can donate if you want to help more. Or visit the web site – www.irisct.org.

The 2009 Annual Meeting of First Church will be held on **March 15th** in the auditorium following the 10:00 Worship Service. This will be preceded by a delicious lunch prepared by our Youth. They have graciously offered to prepare this lunch as an additional fund raising project for their upcoming mission trip. Salads and desserts will be prepared by the Church Council. So please come for fellowship at lunch, participate in the annual meeting, vote for the slate of new officers and members of the Boards and Ministries, thank those whose terms are expiring, and show your support for all those whose terms are continuing.

At Fellowship Hour on April 6th, Palm Sunday, the Kitchen Committee invites everyone to come into the kitchen to see what has transpired and to enjoy some special treats that they will be preparing to celebrate.

The Church Council has appointed a By-Laws Committee to revise the current by-laws to bring them into conformance with the existing By-Laws document. Members of this committee are Betty Leete, Court Lewis, and Bob Sitkowski. They have very willingly agreed to serve, and their report will probably be ready for a Congregational vote in the late spring. Many thanks to them for undertaking this task. (Please see opposite page.)

The 2009 Church budget which was presented at the Congregational meeting in January, reflected the difficult financial times of our country. In order to come up with a balanced budget, it was necessary to freeze salaries, eliminate some staff positions, reduce some hours and cut back on the budgets of the Boards and Ministries. As a result of the discussion about priorities, the Council has voted to form a committee to study how best to allocate resources in the future within the confines of fixed expenses.

It should be noted that our church is very committed to helping the needs of others. In the year 2008, the **Service and Outreach** budget of \$61,584 included donations to 22 different organizations such as **Foodshare, Habitat for Humanity, My Sister's Place, the South Park Inn and Loaves and Fishes**. In addition, our Special Offerings amounted to \$8,943 for seven organizations such as **One Great Hour of Sharing and Covenant to Care for Children**. Special gifts made by members in the year 2008 to the **UCC Hurricane Relief Fund** and the **Mid-west Flood Relief Fund** amounted to \$1,244. Eight programs and funds, to which we donated \$9,232 in 2008 included the **Town that Cares Food Pantry**, scholarships to four students, the **Senior Minister's Discretionary Fund** to support people in need, and the **CT Department of Children and Families**. This comes to a total of \$81,003 in actual dollars donated.

Not included in that figure are the ministries housed at First Church: **The First Church Nursery School, The First Korean Church of the UCC, and the John P. Webster Library**. We had special collections for Thanksgiving food baskets, gifts for the **Klingberg Family Center**, food for the **West Hartford Food Pantry**, back-packs for school children and others.

We provided facilities for meetings of community organizations including the **Boy Scouts, Fidelco Guide Dogs, the Mental Health Associates Support Group, the Redeemed Christian Church of Hartford, and the UCC Connecticut Conference**.

On a personal note, I have enjoyed serving First Church as Moderator for the past two years. You are a compassionate and giving Congregation, spiritual, forward looking, and we are a vibrant community. We are blessed to have Dr. Geordie Campbell as our leader, healer, and inspiration.

Fondly,

Anne Stone, Moderator

March '09
Moderator's
Corner

New Church Office Hours

The church office will be open Monday thru Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. You can reach Church Secretary Sheila Harris during the day at the main number: 233-9605. Sheila's email address is firstchurchwh@yahoo.com.

By-Laws Revisited

In 2002, the First Church By-Laws were revised by a committee chaired by Betty Leete. The by-laws have served us well but with the approval of the new organizational structure by the congregation last spring, the existing by-laws were temporarily suspended. By report from Boards and Ministries as well as Rev. Campbell, the new organizational structure is working well - participation has been excellent, communication has been good, and the "work" of the church has moved ahead in new and exciting ways. Assuming the congregation will vote to adopt the new structure when it's provisional approval ends after 18 months, our by-laws need to change as well.

An ad hoc committee consisting of **Betty Leete**, **Bob Sitkowski** and **Court Lewis** have been charged by Moderator Anne Stone and Moderator-elect, Liz Spencer, to revisit the existing by-laws. Recognizing that our conclusions from the "Big Picture", development of our new vision statement and the organizational restructuring of First Church all emphasize flexibility looking toward the future, it is likely that new by-laws will be designed to support the basic governance of the church but at the same time, be open to changes in our collective vision. All members are invited to provide input into the process by contacting the Moderator, Senior Pastor or one of the ad hoc committee members. ❖

Betty Leete (elizabethleete@aol.com)

Bob Sitkowski (rsitkowski@comcast.net)

Court Lewis (cglewis@mac.com)

Help Build the Easter Lily Cross

The Easter Lily Cross will be created SATURDAY, APRIL 11, at 9:00 a.m. and we need your help! Hope to see many of you there. Please call with any questions - Evie Smith, 521-3040. ❖



Palm Sunday: April 5

An Eagle Scout Project Designed for First Church

Hello, my name is Nathan Mitchell and I am designing and constructing the interior of a closet in one of the 4th floor classrooms as part of my advancement towards the Eagle Scout rank. My family joined First Church in 1992, and I have remained active in the church's activities ever since.

Last summer, I met with the clergy to discuss a project for my Eagle Scout award, a distinction that less than 5% of all Boy Scouts achieve. I chose to do my Eagle project at First Church as a way to give back to the community that has given me so much, in addition to benefiting the church itself. My designing and leading of this project will serve to demonstrate my leadership skills. Please consider a donation towards the cost of construction materials. I can be approached before or after the 10AM Sunday service and can be reached at 231-8851 if you have any questions or would like to contribute and I'll be happy to share with you the details of the project. Thank you. ❖

DID YOU KNOW? In 8 years the Prayer Shawl Ministry has knit, blessed and given away 788 shawls. The ministry is now all over the world and spread to many different faith communities.



Easter Lilies

Easter Lilies are a meaningful way to remember or honor loved ones. They will adorn the chancel for worship on Easter Sunday, April 12. Lilies with white blossoms are available for \$15.50 per plant. **The deadline for placing orders is Friday, April 3.** Please fill out the information below, and send your order along with your payment in

to the church office before April 3. If you have any questions, please call Sheila Harris, Church Secretary (233-9605). **Note: Please make checks payable to First Church and write "Easter Lily" on the memo line.**

Given by _____

Daytime Telephone number _____

Email _____

Dedication (please be specific – in loving memory of, in honor of, etc.)

- I/we will take this lily after the 10 AM Easter Service.
- This lily may be used to brighten the holiday for another.

ORGAN AND CARILLON RESERVE FUND

Anyone wishing to donate to the Organ Reserve may do so by filling in the necessary information on this slip and returning it to the Church Office with a check made payable to First Church, and write Organ Reserve on the memo line. If you wish to have your donation listed in the Sunday bulletin, please make your contribution by April 3:

In Memory/Honor of _____

Given by _____



MARCH 2009

Tidings

First Church of Christ

Congregational UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
US POSTAGE
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Hot Water

Producing hot water accounts for 17% of home energy use on average. To lower both your energy use and energy bill, there are concrete steps you can take to cut back. For example, you can install low-flow shower head, which can cut water flow in half yet still pump out plenty of water for a great shower. Aerators on all of your household faucets can cut water flow by 40% as well. If you are in need of a new hot water heater, check out the energy ratings. Electric water heaters are particularly more energy efficient now than in the past. And, if you are really virtuous, you could get out of the shower more quickly. ❖



Please join us as together we care for God's earth. If you have ideas to help us all become more green, please contact Bob Izard, rizard@izardnobel.com.

Directory, Anyone?

In response to your requests, the Membership Committee will publish a short version of the First Church Membership Directory this Spring. There will be no pictures, only contact information for the church family including both members and friends. Please stop by the "Update Table" at the Fellowship Hour after the 10:00 A.M. service to review and correct the information we have on file for you. The completed directory should be in April.❖

**CALL TO THE
ANNUAL MEETING**
Sunday, March 15, 2009
**following the 10:00 AM Worship Service
in the Auditorium**

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the First Church of Christ Congregational of West Hartford, CT will be held Sunday, March 15, 2009 following the 10 AM worship service in the Auditorium to transact the following items of business:

1. To hear and act upon the 2008 Annual Reports.
2. To hear any other matters and take such other action as may legally come before this meeting.

Given February 20, 2009 • Anne U. Stone, Moderator

TIDINGS Deadline:

APRIL Tidings submissions are due on MARCH 14th to Joy Taylor. Email to: jtaylor@hometownmarketing.com
Phone/voice mail: 231-7617, x12 Drop off or mail to Joy:
21 Metacomet Road, Farmington CT 06032