



APRIL 2011

# Tidings

## 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 APRIL '11**

10:00 a.m. - Meeting House  
10:15 a.m. - Church School

**April 3**  
"The Ancient Truth of Jesus"  
Geordie Campbell preaching

**April 10**  
Music Sunday, (see p. 2) Jim Boratko, Music Director

**April 17**  
Palm Sunday  
"The Steep Path"  
Geordie Campbell preaching

**April 21**  
7 PM Maundy Thursday  
Tennebrae in the Chapel  
"The Large Room"  
Geordie Campbell preaching

**April 22**  
7 PM Good Friday  
Service in the Chapel  
Susan Izard preaching

**April 24**  
6:00 Community Sunrise Service  
Elizabeth Park, Sunrise Overlook

**April 24**  
Easter Sunday  
"Easter's Glad Promise"  
Geordie Campbell preaching



## My Dear Friends,

With a winter of record snowfall left behind (sort of!) and a spring of delight out ahead (we truly hope), the tease of warm days followed by ice and snow has been confusing to say the very least. It has made the most patient and positive among us grunt and grimace! And it is surely why Nathaniel Hawthorne once said, "April is the cruelest month!"

Another New Englander, Robert Frost (note the last name!), put the month of April in more poetic terms, though he too felt the twist in the season (at right).

What a good thing for us that Easter comes to our lives despite the weather in April! What a good thing that regardless of the natural rhythm of the season we receive also the very unnatural surprise of the resurrection! And what a good thing that in the midst of our everyday lives and a world torn asunder the Good News of Jesus, alive and present, is all around us!

Alleluia!

Geordie Campbell  
Senior Pastor

The sun was warm but the wind was chill.  
You know how it is with an April day  
when the sun is out and the wind is still;  
you're one month on in the middle of May.

But if you so much as dare to speak,  
a cloud comes over the sunlit arch,  
a wind comes off a frozen peak,  
and you're two months back in the middle  
of March!

- Stanza from *Two Tamps in Mud Time*, by Robert Frost

## Annual Easter Egg Hunt...

Easter Sunday, right after worship. (Meet us on the front lawn for instructions!)



**MARRIAGE**



● **Gloria Hwang and Mike Forzano** are to be married on April 1, 2011.

**BAPTISM**



● **Harold Steever** (new member) was baptised on March 13, 2011.

**DEATHS**



● **Robert Heavilin** (former member and step-father of Chuck Calvert) passed away

February 25, 2011.

● **Jeanne (Noonan) Hart** (former member) passed away on March 5, 2011. *If you have an announcement to share with your church family, please call the church office: 860-233-9605.*



**HOLY WEEK**

**PALM SUNDAY • April 17**

Join us for worship at 10:00 a.m.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY • April 21**

Please join us for Tennebrae in the Chapel at 7:00 p.m. "The Large Room" – Geordie Campbell will lead the service.

**GOOD FRIDAY • April 22**

A Good Friday Worship Service will be held in the Chapel at 7:00 p.m. This will be a service of scripture, music, prayer and reflection. Susan Izard will give the homily. All are welcome.

# Thank You and Best Wishes to Sheila . . .



**Sheila Harris**, our church secretary for the past 4 ½ years, retired on March 31st. Her announcement, while not a surprise, caught us off-guard! She has played a significant role in helping First Church to establish a new culture and tone in the office and will be missed. Her kindly way of being the face and voice of First Church was exemplary. Sheila's resignation, received on March 11th, made special mention of how much she appreciated working with the members of First Church. A special staff luncheon at Grant's sent Sheila off with our fond wishes.

## Music Ministry Events



**Adult and Children's Choir to present Duruflé's Requiem on April 10**

The next Music Sunday will be presented on April 10. The Adult and Children's Choir will present selections from Maurice Duruflé's Requiem, Op. 9. Duruflé (1902-1986) was a noted French organist and composer. Duruflé was known for being very critical of his compositions, often revising them even after they were published. There are several settings of the Requiem, including one for organ alone, one for orchestra, and one for organ, brass, and timpani. Our presentation will be accompanied by organ, with a special cello obbligato during the "Pie Jesu" setting. The final movement, "In Paradisum", will feature our Children's Choir, the first time that both the Adult

Choir and Children's Choir will be presenting a major work together.

**Two Section Leaders to Present Senior Recitals**

Two of our section leaders will be presenting their senior recitals on April 15. **Danielle Guilbault** will be performing hers at UHARTT, and **Nicole Caskey** will be performing hers on the same evening at our church. These recitals mark the culmination of their college careers. Please come out and support our section leaders by attending one of these recitals.

**Joyful Noise Concert - May 1**

The Music Ministry ensembles will be presenting our annual Joyful Noise Concert on Sunday, May 1, at 4:00 PM in the Meeting House. A free will offering will be collected, with the proceeds going to the Music and Fine Arts Fund. Come and enjoy a wonderful concert on a spring afternoon.

**SILVER LAKE 2011 APPLICATIONS HAVE ARRIVED!**

It's time to send in your reservations for Silver Lake Conference Center's summer programs. The listing will be posted on the CE bulletin board on the 3rd floor and in the main office or you can view it online at [www.silverlakect.org](http://www.silverlakect.org).



## We Want Your Help to Deliver Easter Lilies!

After church on Easter Sunday April 24th, the Lilies come down and need to be delivered. If you can take one or more, to a church member, after church or early in the week, Parish Care would be very appreciative. Please call the office (860-233-9605) if you intend to help, otherwise just approach the chancel and speak to a Parish Care member after Easter worship.

## Covenant to Care for Children

We will be filling Easter baskets for children at Klingberg Family Centers and Middletown Dept. of Children and Families. If you would like to participate, please sign out a basket on April 3. Bring filled baskets, in a clear bag or wrapped securely, to church by April 17, Palm Sunday. Questions? Call Bev 860-561-1521.



# First Church of Christ Congregational

### AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

Rev. Dr. C. Geordie Campbell, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Barbara Frey, Associate Pastor

12 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
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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 photos as jpegs) to editor/designer Joy Taylor: jtaylor@hometownmarketing.com.

Please share, save or recycle your TIDINGS with your newspapers



# HERE'S THE SCOOP on the MISSION TRIP TALENT CHALLENGE

Rev. Barb Frey & Youth Group Members

In November we received a generous gift of \$500 from Craig, Karen and Susan Cornelius in memory of their parents, Thomas and Barbara Cornelius who were members of First Church. Just about a week or so before this gift arrived, I was inspired by the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14-30 to challenge our youth to dream up creative ways to *earn* the airfare for their mission trip to Puerto Rico.

As you know, it takes money to make money and I originally thought \$25 would be a good "start up" fund for each project, but Geordie and Katie Zahara both agreed \$50 was a better sum. I concurred but I wasn't sure where I'd find these funds. So many times I have been amazed at how the Holy Spirit works - it is unexplainable really! Well, the next day this Cornelius gift of \$500 arrived. I gave \$50 to each young person who accepted the challenge to use their creativity and resourcefulness to increase that amount.

So this gift of \$500 did indeed help a mission trip to happen but this gift also encouraged a group of young people (and Dawne) to be responsible, use their personal gifts and understand the meaning of generosity. Part of the challenge was to share the results with the church community who have been so generous and supportive. Here are their updates (in alphabetical order), in their own words:

### Monique Asselin

For my talent project I made cards and chocolate pretzels. Due to circumstances out of my control I was only able to sell for two Sundays and the project was mostly a wash. I believe that if I was able to sell on all of the Sundays that I had intended to sell, then I would have gotten much more of a profit. For the future I know now how important planning is on selling and making merchandise. I would have started sooner and probably sold near Christmas and New Year's and not just Valentine's Day.

### Molly Bohman

I chose Babysitting and later I decided to do Gifts-in-a-Jar. I chose babysitting because I love it and I chose the gifts-in-a-jar because I liked the idea. I worked on it alone. I plan to make the gifts in a jar this week and sell them next week. I found the recipes on line and plan on buying the ingredients at BJ's. The jars were donated. Including the initial gift of \$50, I am returning over \$200.

### FuRen Bemis

My projects were offering animal sitting and baby sitting for my neighborhood. Because it was the holiday season, I also offered to wrap presents. I chose this project because I love animals, and work-

ing with little kids is fun, and I love wrapping presents. I chose to work on this project alone and it was done between Thanksgiving and Christmas. I worked really hard on a pretty flyer to hand out to my neighbors. I spent my \$50 on pretty wrapping paper and ribbon for the presents, and printing the flyers. My mom and I drove through the neighborhood and stopped at every single house, and folded the flyer neatly into a tri-fold and put it in every house's mail slot. I spent a total of \$30 dollars of my startup money and I am returning \$335 dollars to the Puerto Rico mission trip.

*Puerto Rico here we come!*

### Grace and Molly Bugos

We think that Olivia's report summarized our baby-sitting event very well (see next page), but we would like to add some of our personal experiences: It was a very good experience for us to coordinate, plan, and put together this event. It was something neither one of us had ever done before and we both learned a valuable lesson about doing future events on our own. Also, it was nice to get to know some of the younger youth in our church.

### Hannah Gluck

For my talent challenge, my mom and

*Mission Trip Challenge / page 4*

## Mission Trip Challenge

from page 3

I made toffee and put it in little boxes. We sold it at church and took pre-orders for three weeks in a row for 8 dollars a box. We decided to do this project because we thought it would appeal to a lot of people and we're also pretty good at it because we make it for every holiday. I measured ingredients and my mom made it, then I made the boxes and wrote on them. I also had to break apart the pieces to fit it in the box. For starting the project we probably used about 40 dollars for all of the ingredients and the boxes. So far in total, we have made \$125 dollars but we have plans to sell for another week.

### Anna Lumbruno

My project was a bake sale. I wanted to do a bake sale because I love to bake and thought it would be a good idea to do before a big holiday. I did my project the

weekend before Christmas. It involved getting a couple friends to help bake the food and then I wrapped all of the items up. I used \$20 for a start up and then my mom donated money for the supplies. Including the initial gift of \$50, I am returning \$140 to the mission trip project.

### Olivia Mitchell

In cooperation with Grace and Molly Bugos, we held two babysitting events in the First Church Auditorium. Because of the number of kids involved in Church School, we knew the service would be used. Also, the first event was Valentine's Day weekend and the second event was the night of the Wine Night Fundraiser - two times when babysitting would be useful for many of our members. As well as being a fundraiser, the event was a time for bonding between members of the Church; the kids with other kids and Molly, Grace and I with the kids and parents. Overall, I think working with the

Bugos girls worked out really well. We were able to collaborate about ideas, often times they thought of ideas I would never have thought of. We wrote the advertisement and publicized the event, as well as going shopping for materials together. The interest was really great; we had a number of kids who showed up for both events and we had kids from the nursery school attend. After the cost of materials, we made about \$160 each, including the \$50 start up money. The event would not have been possible without the help of our parents who acted as supervisors and assisted in much of the planning.

### Dawne Quinn

My project was a Valentine's Day themed wine tasting event on February 12 from 7-10 pm. I selected this project at the encouragement of Barb. She was able to secure the donation of the wine tasting from West Side Wines - a huge part of the event's success. I was excited to be a part of a new kind of fundraiser at First Church.

I worked with **Barbara Frey, Laury Currier** and **Ertan Sener** from West Side Wines. I also received donations of gourmet cheesecakes from **Harold Steever** and gourmet heart cookies to use as favors from **Karen Alcorn. Marcy and Kevin Clewes** also provided great appetizers and chocolate covered strawberries. Working with others is what made this event a great success. Barb helped with coordinating the wine store, and appetizers. Laury allowed us to use her home and provided appetizers. Ertan gave a wonderful presentation and provided excellent wines for tasting.

After the wine tasting was secured, Laury, Barb and I met to flesh out our menu and details of who would do what pieces. I printed up tickets to sell. Our original intent was to sell 30 tickets at \$30/each. Sales were slow so we lowered our ticket price to \$25 and managed to sell nearly all of them. The event was publicized in the eblasts and bulletins. I also sent an email to all of our CS families. Tickets were sold by Laury Currier to people outside of church. I also invited my own circle of friends.

Approximately \$20 was spent on paper goods and supplies for wrapping our favors. The rest was donated by friends and church members. The profit is \$653.



## 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 24. Lilies with white blossoms are available for \$16.00 per plant. **The deadline for placing orders is Friday, April**

**15.** Please fill out the information below, and send your order along with your payment in to the church office before April 15. If you have any questions, please call Sheila Harris, Church Secretary (860-233-9605). **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 10:00 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 15:**

In Memory/Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

# John P. Webster Library

**Patricia Malahan, Director**

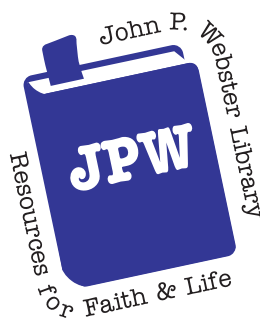
(860) 232-3893 • Look for regular updates online: [www.jpwlibrary.org](http://www.jpwlibrary.org).

## HOURS:

Sunday, 9 – noon

Monday 9 – 5 • Tuesday 9 – 7 • Wed. & Thurs. 9–5

Closed Friday and Saturday



## Christian Classics Book Group

Our group meets on Mondays at noon to discuss books on Christianity, religion, spirituality and other germane topics. Copies of the books are available in the library. In April we will continue our discussion of “Reading Jesus, a Writer’s Encounters with the Gospels,” by Mary Gordon. Please bring a bag lunch; coffee and tea are provided.

## Soup and Scripture

On each Tuesday from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 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 reading from the Book of Isaiah.

## Food for Thought Book Group

This popular book group discussion is held on the first Thursday of each month, from October through May, from 5:45 to 7:00 p.m. Participants are invited to bring their own “brown bag” supper and the

library will provide beverages and dessert. Our next meeting is Thursday, April 7 when we will discuss “Dreamers of the Day” by Mary Doria Russell. Copies of the books are available in the library.

## John P. Webster Gallery

The creative artwork of the talented young artists of the First Church Nursery School will be on display from April 1-May 15. Please stop by the Gallery to view it!!

## New Resources

### ADULT FICTION AND NON-FICTION

- The A to Z guide to finding it in the Bible : a quick-Scripture reference by Seth Ehorn
- The Christian faith: a systematic theology for pilgrims on the way by Michael Scott Horton
- Faith in the future: religion, aging, and healthcare by Harold G Koenig
- From age-ing to sage-ing: a profound new vision of growing older by Zalman Schachter-Shalomi
- Guide to ministering to Alzheimer’s patients and their families by Patricia Anne Orwell
- Guide to the spiritual dimension of care for people with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias
- In the valley of the shadow: on the foundations of religious belief by James L Kugel
- Inside Alzheimer’s: how to hear and honor connections with a person who has dementia by Nancy D. Pearce
- Jewish visions for aging: a professional guide for fostering wholeness by Dayle A. Friedman
- Journey to the common good by Walter Brueggemann
- Making health care whole: integrating spirituality into health care by Christina M. Puchalski
- The new interpreter’s Bible: one-volume commentary
- Opening to God: lectio divina and life as prayer by David G. Benner
- The rise and fall of the Bible the unexpected history of an accidental book by Timothy K. Beal
- Sacred treasure, the Cairo genizah by Mark Glickman
- Saving Jesus from the church: how to stop worshipping Christ and start following Jesus by Robin R. Meyers
- The sound of a wild snail eating by Elisabeth Tova Bailey

- Symphony of spirits: spiritual dimensions of Alzheimer’s and elderly dementia by Deborah A. Forrest
- Wise stewards: philosophical foundations of Christian parenting by Michael W. Austin

### CD’s and DVD’s

- CD Renewal of spirit
- DVD Building the great cathedrals
- DVD Signs of Lent



### CHILDREN

- And you shall be a blessing...by Debbie Friedman
- The Berenstain Bears forget their manners by Stan Berenstain
- Do unto others: a book about manners by Laurie Keller
- Don’t throw that away!: a lift-the-flap book about recycling and reusing by Lara Bergen
- It looked like spilt milk by Charles Green Shaw
- I say– you say–: a zany peep at opposites by Sandy Pugh
- Little white rabbit by Kevin Henkes
- Little cloud by Eric Carle
- Michael Recycle by Ellie Bethel
- Mouse paint by Ellen Stoll Walsh
- Scott Gustafson’s animal orchestra by Scott Gustafson
- A sick day for Amos McGee by Philip Christian Stead
- Stuff: reduce, reuse, recycle by Steven Kroll
- We’re going on a bear hunt by Michael Rosen
- What will the weather be? By Lynda DeWitt

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



Thanks to the culinary skills of **Ralph (shown left) and Brenda Worth, Joe and Sue Tobin and Joy Taylor**, and the assistance of many, approximately 90 people feasted on pancakes, sausage and warm fellowship during the church’s traditional Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, March 8. Rev. Barbara Frey led us in a round-robin hymn as our blessing and provided information on the meaning of Shrove Tuesday. Members of the Youth Group pitched in to help make the evening a wonderful pre-Lenten supper and proceeds from the donations

will benefit this year’s mission trip. Special thanks also go to Donna Dobbins, Jan Schermerhorn, Lyn and Joel Huntington, Marge Bishop, Cathy Mieczkowski, Trish Accetta, Patti Malahan and the John P. Webster Library as well as everyone who made this gathering a great success!

## Taizé

### Worship Services

Taizé services are held monthly at 6:30 p.m. at the First Church of Christ Congregational, in the newly remodeled Chapel, on the second Sunday night of the month.

The date for April is the 10th.

Note: May Taizé Worship service has been rescheduled to May 15th

### MAY TIDINGS & WEBSITE DEADLINE:

Submissions are due on APRIL 14th to Joy Taylor (Tidings) [jtaylor@hometownmarketing.com](mailto:jtaylor@hometownmarketing.com) AND Patti Malahan (Website) [jpwebsterdir@snet.net](mailto:jpwebsterdir@snet.net)

# Reach Out

(A column from Service & Outreach)

This month the Reach Out Special Offering will benefit One Great Hour of Sharing. Working with international partners, the UCC provides support to health, education, refugee, agricultural and emergency relief initiatives to people in more than eighty countries.

**Through your generous contributions, last month's Special Offering raised \$ 1,053 for the benefit of Church World Service.**

Service and Outreach sponsors a Special Offering every month to benefit a service organization that helps those in greater need than us. In this time of economic uncertainty, we hope you will be able to support those who most need our help. If you support organizations that need the Church's wider support, please let us know. We encourage you to consider a contribution.

Please note that we no longer use the purple "Reach Out" envelope. Instead, there is now a single common envelope for all church offerings. To make sure that your Reach Out contribution is properly allocated, make sure to check the Reach Out box on the common envelope. Thank you for your support.

## Church Fundraising Ideas

A workgroup set up recently is collecting fundraising ideas for submission to the Church Council, against the \$20,000 Revenue line item approved in the 2011 Church Budget. Please think of ideas you have or have seen and give them to George Stone (860-521-0554 or george@stone-stone.net) or Ralph Worth (860-561-2217 or worthy15@comcast.net). All ideas are welcome in a brainstorming fashion; once a list is compiled and additional information obtained, it will be provided to Church Council for evaluation and implementation.

## Troop 12 News: April 2011



● On Friday, March 4th, Troop 12 ran its annual food concession for Pack 292's Pinewood Derby. This activity is not only a fund-raiser; it also provides a service to parents, Cubs, and their families for this evening activity. It also allows our Boy Scouts to speak with potential new members of our troop. We sold typical kid food of hot dogs, pizza, drinks, chips, and cookies.

● On the following Saturday morning, members of the troop traveled to Camp Workoeman in New Hartford, CT for an overnight camping expedition. We found more snow than we had in West Hartford. West Hill Pond still had over a foot of ice (we learned from local ice fishers), but had a light layer of water on the ice, indicating that the weather is, indeed, getting warmer.

● Victor Derby's Eagle Court of Honor has been scheduled at his church for Saturday, May 14th at 2:00 PM. First Church parishioners, and especially Eagle Scouts, are cordially invited to attend the ceremony at United Methodist Church, 571 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT. You may contact Scoutmaster Fred Brown (fredbrown3@aol.com) for more information.

● Scoutmaster Brown and Reverend Barbara Frey have begun discussions about how Troop 12 Scouts can be of service to First Church. If you have ideas, please contact Mr. Brown or Rev Frey.

*Troop 12 meets weekly on Tuesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 at First Church's Youth Room and welcomes all boys 11 to 18.*

## Junior Youth Group News • 5th-7th Grades

April Showers bring May Flowers. Let's just hope there are no showers on Sundays. This will be a very short month for JYG, so let's make the most of it!! The weather is getting warmer so we can enjoy some outdoor activities. Unless otherwise noted, we will meet at our usual time of 4-5:30 PM in the Youth Room and remember, you are always welcome to bring a friend

**April 3** We are working on scheduling "Ballonman" to come to our meeting to show us how to make our own balloon characters.

**April 10** We will spend the time outdoors, weather prevailing, flying kites or playing Frisbee in Elizabeth Park.

**April 17** NO JYG School Vacation

**April 24** EASTER SUNDAY

-Cindy Bemis

[cindy.bemis@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:cindy.bemis@whfirstchurch.org)

## Endowment Gift

The Church received a wonderful gift of \$100,000 from the Richard and Joanne Gates Trust to be used for general charitable purposes. The gift has been placed in the General Endowment.

The Guidelines for the General Endowment limit the yearly distribution that can be used for the annual operating budget. This allows the Endowment to maintain and increase its value during inflationary times thus preserving the original value of bequests and gifts. Persons interested in a private meeting to discuss a bequest or gift are encouraged to contact Betty Leete (Home 860-233-4908, Work 860-249-8100).

## SAVE THE DATE: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is July 18-22

"A Special Summer Experience"

Our Director is Dawne Quinn.

[dawne.quinn@whfirstchurch.org](mailto:dawne.quinn@whfirstchurch.org)

## Church School News

### News from the 4th Floor-Faith Journeys Program

Our workshops continue to buzz each week with activity. The children spent the last 4 weeks learning about The Great Commission. The "Easter: Go and Tell" unit was filled with fun ways to spread the good news of Jesus' resurrection.

**Jonah's Workshop:** The children made batches of "Pass it On" cookie dough-one to keep and one to pass on to a friend or neighbor.

**Moved By the Spirit:** The Good News Decathlon had kids moving through 10 activities from singing "Jesus Loves Me" to rolling a stone the length of a yardstick!

**Bible Quest:** The children explored the butterfly as a resurrection symbol. They studied the life cycle of the painted lady butterfly. We raised 5 painted ladies from tiny caterpillars-we hope to release these butterflies into the memorial garden weather permitting!

**Gather Round:** The children successfully raised \$20 to buy a flock of chicks through the Heifer project. During this 4 week mission project the kids learned about the Heifer organization and the value of a gift of chicks to a needy family. Our 6th and 7th grades spent one class in the JP Webster Library, doing online research.

**Coming Next:** April 10 and 17th-Easter centers, April 24th Easter Sunday-no CS, May 1st, 8th and 15th-The Clown of God and May 22nd, a circus themed Church School Day with picnic!

### A Special Request

The Dobbins family created a wonderful life sized game board on canvas. We are need of some finishing touches. Our game pieces need to be outlined in black paint and some details added. Additionally, we have a beautiful mural that has been drawn on the wall of our Jonah's Workshop room. It now needs to be painted. If you like to paint and are interested in either of these projects, contact Dawne Quinn. We appreciate your help!

*If your children are in Kindergarten through 7th grade, please have them join us on the 4th floor for our Faith Journeys church school program. We'd love to have them!*

*Please contact Dawne Quinn about Kindergarten - 7th Grade Programs:  
dawne.quinn@wbfirstchurch.org or 860-233-9605 x206*

## Organic Lawn

Spring is upon us (hopefully). And many of us are looking forward to a lush, green lawn. This year, think about going organic. Unlike synthetic fertilizers, which are chemically simple and don't last very long, organic fertilizers are slow release and work gradually over a couple of months.

The best may be an organic fertilizer rich in nitrogen (rather than in phosphorus or potassium, key chemicals in synthetic fertilizer). Blood meal (12% nitrogen), corn gluten meal (9%), and cottonseed meal (6%) are all good choices. Liquid fish emulsion is an excellent plant food, high in nitrogen, but it isn't slow-release. If you use it for your lawn, you may need to follow-up within a week or two with another dose. Apply fertilizer evenly over the grass in the late afternoon or evening, or in the morning just before you water. Water thoroughly, before sunlight reaches the treated areas. A healthy dose of organic fertilizer will yield more grass than you want to mow.

*If you have ideas to help us all become more green, please contact Bob Izard, izard@izardnobel.com.*



### Notes from First Church Nursery School!

First Church Nursery School staff and children, like all other New Englanders, are thankful for God's gift of springtime!

● Our Red Wigglers (worms!) have been busy making compost from our scraps which we will be raking into our garden soil as we prepare it for our plantings. All classrooms have seedlings started - peas, onions and all sorts of flower seeds are poking through the soil. We are learning that everything comes from seeds and that, with good nurturing, they will grow strong and healthy and ready to produce a wonderful yield for us.

● We have set up the JP Webster Art Gallery with samples of fabulous preschool artwork. We hope that you will take some time to enjoy the creativity of our children. Their work will be displayed through the end of April. Much appreciation to Patti Malahan and Trish Accetta for inviting us back and for helping to hang the works with an artist's eye!

● On Wednesday and Thursday, April 13th and 14th we will be hosting Muffin Breakfast from 7:30-9:30 for our families and others who help us in so many different ways. We invite you to stop by and have a cup of coffee or tea and a delicious homemade muffin. Come to the Auditorium and sit down for a chat.

● Thank you to all who purchased Munson's candy as part of our fundraiser. As always, it was both successful and scrumptious!

● Calling all graduates of First Church Nursery School...we will be celebrating our 70th year serving the community and celebrating next spring (2012.) Be watching for information and be sure to call us if you have any old pictures or information about graduates. Call the school -860-232-2106 or e-mail us fcnswh@att.net.

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



APRIL 2011

# Tidings

## First Church of Christ

*Congregational* UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

12 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
WEST HARTFORD, CT 06107

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### Stewardship witnessing for 2011

**The 205 members and friends listed below have pledged their financial support for the missions and ministries of our church for 2011. All in our church and those we serve are thankful. They have pledged a total of \$456,005; but there is still time to pledge! And add your name to the list of supporters of our missions and ministries.**

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