



MAY 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 MAY '11

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

**May 1**  
"Walking with the Risen Christ"  
Susan Izard  
preaching



*Dedication of the Chapel after worship (see page 8)*

**May 8**  
"Teach Your Children Well"  
Geordie Campbell  
preaching

**May 15**  
"Close Encounters"  
Geordie Campbell  
preaching

**May 22**  
Church School Day

**May 29**  
"Instruments of Your Peace"  
Geordie Campbell  
preaching

## First Church Blooming Plant Sale

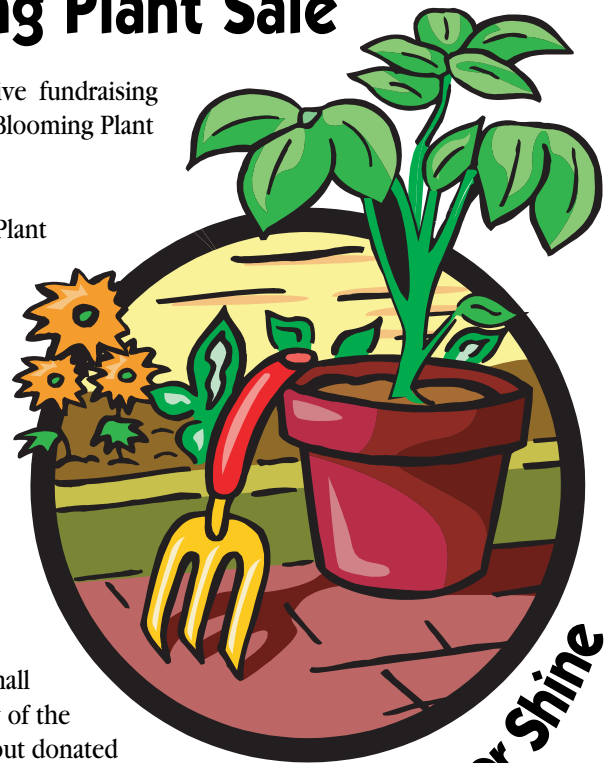
In the spirit of craving GREEN and needing creative fundraising ideas, a workgroup is pleased to announce our first "Blooming Plant Sale."

Everyone is invited to participate in the First Church Plant Sale, which will be held on Saturday, May 21, rain or shine, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

A wide variety of annuals and perennials plus popular vegetable plants like tomatoes, basil, lettuce and eggplant will be offered. The goal is to raise funds for the ongoing expenses of the church. Weather permitting, it will be on the front lawn of the church, where it should attract many buyers.

You can help in one or more of the following ways:

- If you have lettuce, herb and other seedlings in small pots to donate to the sale, please contact Betty. Many of the offerings will be purchased at low wholesale prices, but donated starter plants will be 100% profit items.
- Distribute posters.
- Scout out another plant sale for ideas (we have a list and dates of some earlier sales in nearby communities).
- Check prices at big box stores and other local plant sources so we can price competitively.
- Lend a tent, if you have one, that would provide shelter for the cashiers.
- Work a morning or afternoon shift on the day of the sale, doing setup, cashier duty or making attractive arrangements of different flowers in pots or hanging baskets.
- Plan now to buy your plants at this sale and support the church!



**Rain or Shine**

Please contact Betty Leete at 860-233-4908 or ebleete@gmail.com to volunteer!

#### JUNE TIDINGS & WEBSITE DEADLINE:

Submissions are due on MAY 14th to Joy Taylor (Tidings) jtaylor@hometownmarketing.com AND Patti Malahan (Website) jpwesterdir@snet.net



**BIRTH**



● **Erin Kathleen "Katie" O'Keefe** was born on March 28, 2011. Her parents are Garrett and Kirsti, and older siblings are Emily and Riley.

**DEATHS**



● **William J. Weitzke Sr.** passed away on April 8, 2011.

*If you have an announcement to share with your church family, please call the church office: 860-233-9605.*



**CHURCH VAN**

*On Sunday mornings the van is available to bring you back and forth from your home and church. Mary Miller is the driver. Reservations for van rides can be made by calling the church office by Friday at noon. 860-233-9605*



**Thank you**

to all who filled Easter baskets for the children at Klingberg Family Centers and Middletown DCF.



**Thank you to all who helped deliver Easter Lillies!**

- Parish Care

# Benefit Concert

**MAY 21<sup>ST</sup>, 4 P.M. IN THE CHAPEL**



**Matthew Worth**



**Margaret Izard**

**M**atthew Worth and Margaret Izard will be presenting a recital on Saturday, May 21st at 4:00 p.m. to raise money for First Church. Both lifelong members of First Church, the baritone and mezzo-soprano will be singing works of Brahms, Mahler and others, including the premiere of "Daniel Boone Sings to the Night Sky," a piece written for Matthew by composer Alan Louis Smith.

*The recital will be held in the Chapel with a \$20 suggested donation taken at the door.*

## Summer Vacation Bible School PandaMania is Here!

First Church will host a super fun Vacation Bible School Program this summer called PandaMania. At PandaMania VBS, kids will explore a bamboo forest full of fun-loving pandas! And Psalm 139 comes to life as kids learn that they are God's most precious creation. In return, kids will learn to give thanks to God for all he does. We will have crafts, games, music and more. Don't miss this opportunity - register now to be a part of this PandaMania VBS!



**Details:**

**When:** July 18th-July 22nd from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

**Where:** First Church of Christ Congregational

**Who:** Children entering K through 5th grade in the 2011-2012 school year  
Children in 6th-8th grade are invited to register and experience the week as helpers!

**How:** Register online by clicking the PandaManiaVBS link on our website:  
[www.whfirstchurch.org](http://www.whfirstchurch.org)

**Cost:** \$45 for the first child, \$35 each additional child, \$20 for 6-8th grade.

Volunteers are also needed for that week or any portion of the week. There are many ways to help: decorating/set-up, leading a station, creating a prop. Visit the website to find out more.

**Questions:** Contact Dawne Quinn, VBS Director @ 860-233-9605 ext. 206

# PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

**R**ob and Katy Braiewa recently moved to town from Simsbury - and love West Hartford! They have two children, Allie and Teddy, both of whom attend First Church Nursery School. Rob is a Senior Chemist at Scapa in Windsor and Katy is a full time mom, formerly an instructor at CCSU. In his spare time Rob enjoys golf, hiking and playing the guitar; and Katy enjoys reading, yoga and hiking. They look forward to being a part of First Church as their family grows. Their mentor is Wendy Wigglesworth.

**Glen McLeod and Harold Steever**, neighbors of the Quinns, have attended First Church for several months and look forward to meeting more new friends. Glen was raised in the Congregational tradition in Berea, Ohio, and attended an Episcopal prep school. The Wesleyan grad was at Princeton working on his doctorate in English when he met New Jersey-raised Harold. Trained in the culinary arts, Harold



*Back row: Moses Wang, Jay Sarzen, Harold Steever, Glen McLeod, Rob Braiewa. Middle row: Amy Sarzen and Katy Braiewa. Front row: Andrew Sarzen with Allie and Teddy Braiewa. (Joining in absentia: Rob Secker and Lou Reale.)*

was Head Chef of a corporate facility. They have been together for thirty-three years, moving to Connecticut and marrying in 2008. Harold is retired on disability, while Glen is a Professor of English at UConn-Waterbury. They both enjoy swimming and the theatre. Their mentor is Rayda Bouma.

**Lou Reale** comes to us by letter of transfer from First Church in Wethersfield. He is married to **Grace** who is an active member here and he wants to have the same church address and home! They live in the School House in Elmwood, a former school converted to condos. One of Lou's great passions is photography. Years ago he was a portrait photographer in New York, photographing many of the big names who played on Broadway and other notable "greats." His scrap-books of those days are fascinating! Grace is his mentor.

**Jay and Amy Sarzen** were introduced to First Church through our nursery school, where son **Andrew** has been attending for three years. Jay was baptized in the Catholic Church, while Amy, a New Jersey transplant, has Presbyterian roots. They hope to establish a stronger faith as members of the church. She is a volunteer for Gifts of Love, the Avon-based organiza-

tion working to meet basic needs of Greater Hartford residents with financial difficulties. Jay coaches Little League; both enjoy skiing and tennis. The Sarzens' mentor is Diane Bohman.

**Robert Secker** is a licensed massage therapist practicing Thai Massage in Bloomfield Center. Raised in Fair Lawn, New Jersey, Rob loves to kayak the Farmington River and tinker with computers. He has an interest in men's spirituality that has led him to join the Journeymen group at First Church, and take part in the JP Webster Monday Book Group as well as Lectio Divina. Rob spends the month of March at the Tucson-based Desert House of Prayer in silence and centering prayer. His mentor is his wife, Maureen Martin.

**Moses Wang** grew up in China. He came to the United States in 2001 seeking a new life of freedom, and traveled around America, settling first in Hawaii. Last year he moved to West Hartford. He works at the Butterfly Restaurant. He has a grown son who lives in Sydney, Australia. Moses has a deep passion to learn as much as he can about the Bible and is delighted to have found a church to call home. He participates in our study groups and sings in the choir. His mentor is Linda Bronstein. ❖



## AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

Rev. Dr. C. Geordie Campbell, Senior Pastor

Rev. Barbara Frey, Associate Pastor

12 SOUTH MAIN STREET

WEST HARTFORD, CT 06107

P: (860) 233-9605 F: (860) 232-8183

www.whfirstchurch.org

**JPWEBSTER LIBRARY** (860) 232-3893

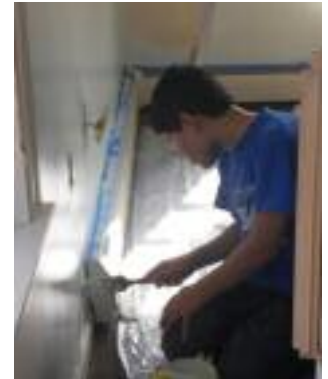
**NURSERY SCHOOL** (860) 232-2106

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.**



# Confirmands Experience Hartford!



*The Confirmation class participated in a Hartford mission project that involved painting apartments for elderly and persons with AIDS in Hartford. (see photo album online at [www.whfirstchurch.org](http://www.whfirstchurch.org)).*

This year's Confirmation class did a mission project with their mentors that made a big impression on all of them. On Saturday March 12, 21 of us traveled to Vine Street to the Christian Activities Council where we met our guide Rev. Ed Ayala and boarded a bus. We traveled into Hartford's diverse ethnic neighborhoods. Rev. Ayala provided a meaningful cultural immersion experience that included an interesting commentary about signs of hope, some poignant stops along the way, and a sampling of food. We ate lunch in the Spanish Market area and spent the afternoon painting apartments in a housing unit for the elderly and for persons with AIDS.

**Rev. Ayala writes:** "I want to thank First Church, and Saturday Immersion participants. The spirit of the group was fantastic and the residents of both housing units are so grateful and pleased with your work. Once again...THANK YOU!"

### Our Confirmands Share!

**Molly Bugos:** "I was surprised by the poverty in Hartford. It is shocking that we live such privileged lives so close to people who live just the opposite. My favorite part of the trip was eating lunch. I liked tasting food from another culture. It was something new for me. I saw hope in the children playing in the poorest parts of the city. The experience was inspiring."

**Molly Bohman:** "The tour surprised me because I didn't realize there was so much to Hartford. A highlight was painting the house; it felt good to help someone

and was a real sign of hope."

**Michael Terranova:** "I think service is important because you get to be a lot less selfish when you help others in need. A highlight for me is that in learning more about Hartford, my perspective of Hartford changed completely."

**Stephen Espinal:** "I was most surprised by how many people died from

being in a gang or being bullied."

**Anna Lumbruno:** "I was surprised by how diverse Hartford is. You can go from a Spanish culture to Italian culture in less than 10 minutes."

**FuRen Bemis:** "I liked the stop at the Italian bakery and trying a cannoli



## Monster Cookie Event!

First Church will have a booth at Celebrate! West Hartford on June 11 and 12. We want to tell people what a great church we have, invite them to use our Library, and we want to encourage people to visit our booth by selling wonderful homemade cookies. Please plan now to bake several dozen of your favorite cookies - bars are particularly good because you get a lot on one cookie pan- you can freeze them to save for the big weekend, and there is plenty of space in the church freezer in the kitchen if you don't have enough at home. Just label the package for "Celebrate - June 11 & 12 with your name so we can thank you properly

Let us know you are baking so we can count on lots of goodies - call or tell Betty Leete - [ElizabethLeete@aol.com](mailto:ElizabethLeete@aol.com). 860 233-4908.

# John P. Webster Library

Patricia Malahan, Director

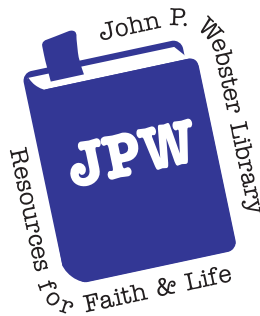
(860) 232-3893 • Look for regular updates online: [www.jpwlibrary.org](http://www.jpwlibrary.org).

## 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 May we will discuss Karen Armstrong's new book, *"Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life"*. Please bring a bag lunch; coffee and tea are provided. On Monday, May 23 we will have our annual potluck luncheon to mark the end of a very interesting programming year.

## 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 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 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, May 5 when we will discuss *"The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks"* by Rebecca Skloot. "This phenomenal New York Times best-seller tells a riveting story of the collision between ethics, race, and medicine; of scientific discovery and faith healing; and of a daughter consumed with questions about the mother she never knew." On June 2 we will have a final book discussion before our summer break on "The Help" by Kathryn Stockett. Copies of the books are available in the library.

## First Church Archives

You are invited to view the display on Charles Boswell and his contributions to First Church during the late 19th century. Mr. Boswell was a prominent businessman in insurance and banking was also the owner of a farm located near what is now the Rockledge Golf Course. He was "eagerly interested" in the construction of the fourth meeting house, known as the Grey Stone Church, that was built in the early 1880's in the Gothic Revival style noted for large stained glass windows and ornate fretwork. In addition to donating generously to the building fund of the Grey Stone Church, Mr. Boswell also purchased and donated a marble communion table that had been used by Rev. Horace Bushnell at the North Congregational Church in Hartford and was responsible for the restoration and reinstallment of the organ. While the Grey Stone Church was

destroyed by fire in 1942, two stained glass panels survive in the archives that are memorials to Charles Boswell and his wife Flora McIntyre Stearns Boswell. Photos and a biography of Mr. Boswell are on display across the hall from the John P. Webster Library.

## John P. Webster Gallery

The Gallery is very pleased to continue the annual tradition of an art exhibit by the creative and gifted artists at the Children's Home of Cromwell. The show, "The Art of Healing, the Healing of Art", will be on display during the month of May and the beginning of June. Please stay tuned to for details on a welcoming reception to meet the talented artists and their teachers. The Gallery is located on the second level, down the stairs from the Meeting House. The JPW Library would like to thank Joanne T. White, SueBoisoneau, Cindy Sarnowski and Nancy Duchardt, Colleen Cyr and the artists of the Children's Home for all their support in bringing this wonderful exhibit to the community. Don't miss out on this very moving display!



## New Resources

### ADULT FICTION AND NON-FICTION

Constructing the Chartres labyrinth by Robert Ferre  
Spirituality and aging by Robert C. Atchley  
Clergy, retirement, and wholeness by Gwen Wagstrom Halaas  
Out of the pulpit, into the pew by Gene Williams  
Naked spirituality: a life with God in 12 simple words by Brian D. McLaren  
Christian mystics: 365 readings and meditations by Matthew Fox  
Jerusalem, Jerusalem: how the ancient city ignited our modern world by James Carroll  
Creative aging by Marjory Zoet Bankson  
The healing journey through retirement by Phil Rich  
Retire smart, retire happy: finding your true path in life by Nancy K. Schlossberg  
Transforming the difficult child: the nurtured heart approach by Howard Glasser  
Winter garden by Kristin Hannah  
Marshmallow math: early math for toddlers, preschoolers, and primary school children by Trevor Schindeler  
Faith in the future: religion, aging, and healthcare by Harold G. Koenig  
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

### CHILDREN

Dancing with Degas by Julie Merberg.  
Frida Kahlo by Margaret Frith  
Monet's impressions by Claude Monet  
A picnic with Monet by Julie Merberg.  
Michael Recycle by Ellie Bethel  
The Berenstain Bears forget their manners by Stan Berenstain  
Do unto others: a book about manners by Laurie Keller  
Stuff!: reduce, reuse, recycle by Steven Kroll  
It's Earth Day! By Mercer Mayer  
We're going on a bear hunt by Michael Rosen  
Interrupting chicken by David Ezra Stein  
Paris in the spring with Picasso by Jan Yolleck  
I know a shy fellow who swallowed a cello by Barbara Garriel  
In the garden with Van Gogh by Julie Merberg  
A magical day with Matisse by Julie Merberg.  
Monster manners by Bethany Roberts  
What will the weather be? by Lynda DeWitt  
Don't throw that away! by Lara Bergen

# Reach Out

(A column from Service & Outreach)

This month the Fourth Sunday Special Offering will benefit Silver Lake Conference Center, a year-round outdoor ministry of the Connecticut Conference. At Silver Lake, children of all ages worship, learn, play, serve and work together. Silver Lake is now in the midst of a multi-year fundraising campaign to upgrade a facility that many in our church have enjoyed over the years.

**Through your generous contributions, last month's Special Offering raised \$1,125 for the benefit of the Hands on Hartford.**

Service and Outreach sponsors a Special Offering every fourth Sunday of the month to benefit a service organization that helps those in greater need than ourselves. 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. 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.

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

**Welcome to May Flowers!** This is our last Junior Youth Group Month together before summer. Let's have some fun and make some great memories. Please remember all JYG meetings are on Sunday afternoons, from 4:00 to 5:30 unless announced and you are always welcome to bring a friend.

-Cindy Bemis

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



## Troop 12 News: May 2011

*Troop 12 Boy Scouts with Pack 292 Webelos II Cub Scouts and Pack 292's Cub Master and Webelos II Den Leader at Talcott Mountain State Park.*

On Saturday, April 9, Troop 12 joined Pack 292 Webelos II Cub Scouts on a hike and cookout at Heublein Tower at Talcott Mountain State Park. All of the boys had a terrific time. The highlight of the entire day was discovering a large number of peeper frogs in a vernal pool along the trail.

At least three of the 292 Cubs plan to join our troop at their "Crossing-Over" Ceremony. ❖

*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.*

## Eat Local

Summer is approaching and the farmer's markets should be moving into high gear. In addition to being fresh and healthy, did you know that eating food from the local farmer's market dramatically reduces greenhouse gasses? This is because it takes lots of energy to package and transport even the healthiest organic food from their place to yours. So, try going local.

There are a number of places to buy local food around town, such as Moscarillo's and Whole Foods. At the West Hartford Farmer's Market, every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings, you can get locally produced fruit, vegetables, meat and cheeses. And, it's all organic - no oil based fertilizers or pesticides. We gave up the vegetable garden because they grow better food than we could (and no weeding). I know some of it may cost a little more, but part of our mission to keep God's earth green is to support those who can help us keep it that way. Plus, the Farmer's Market is a great place to run into friends. See you there.

*If you have ideas to help us all become more green, please contact Bob Izard, [izard@izardnobel.com](mailto:izard@izardnobel.com).*



## Christian Meditative YOGA

*Sponsored by the C.E. Ministry of First Church*

Classes now in session. Please call Nancy Murray 860-521-8186 for more information.

### Excerpt of a prayer from Nancy Murray's Yoga at First Church

Praised be you, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth, who sustains us, governs us, and who produces varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs.

Praised be you, my Lord, through Brother Wind, and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather.

Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars in heaven; you formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

## BEING FOOLS FOR CHRIST!

*Come and Learn what this means for us and for our children!*

*For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all...because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to mortals. We are fools for the sake of Christ, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute.*

I Corinthians 4: 8b-10

In May, K-7th grade have been exploring this scripture  
with special lessons  
Walking the Tightrope • The Clown of God • Life's Juggling Act

*in preparation for*

### CHURCH SCHOOL DAY: May 22 at 10:00 A.M.

Worship will be led by our children and youth.  
Mark your calendar! This will be very special!

### A CHURCH FAMILY PICNIC

On the front lawn immediately after worship  
The theme: "Come to the Circus"  
A JUGGLER! A CLOWN! SURPRISES!  
*There will be delicious sandwiches,  
chips and beverages  
Please bring a salad or dessert to share*



## COME and CELEBRATE! COLLEEN MITCHELL!

On May 22, Church School Day, we will have a chance to thank Colleen for all her enthusiastic efforts and devotion to the children and families of First Church. After three years as an Associate in Christian Education here, Colleen has the opportunity to lead and grow a new C.E. program at our sister church, Flagg Road Congregational Church.

For many years before her formal employment, Colleen volunteered to teach church school and helped wherever she could as a faithful and committed member. In 2007-2008 Colleen enrolled in what was the final ACE course sponsored by the CT Conference and Hartford Seminary. This equipped her with not only C.E. skills and tools, but nurtured her spiritually. Colleen has continued to take mini-courses in Christian Education to learn all she could and to be on the cutting edge of C.E. In early May Colleen will attend the NEAUCE annual event on Cape Cod with educators from all the New England conferences.

#### A NOTE FROM BARB FREY

I have had the privilege to be a partner in Colleen's journey as she has discovered and explored the call to ministry as a Christian Educator. On behalf of the members of First Church, I wish Colleen success and fulfillment in this new beginning and this new, exciting challenge. Colleen's warm smile and hospitality will be missed, but these qualities will be a blessing as she begins in her new position.

Colleen, we send you forth with our love, with our thanks and with our blessing!  
Peace, Barb

## Photo Workshop on May 22nd.

Chris Whalley, a professional photographer and church member, will hold a workshop on elementary photography with just about any type of camera, including digital cameras as well as cell phone cameras. Everyone in the church is invited.

The Membership Directory Workgroup will be collecting pictures of church events over the next year. This committee would like to have pictures of a wide number of church events to choose from in the next Directory which will be published in June 2012. The theme will be "First Church in Action". Many activities take place off-campus such as the Youth Mission trip, delivery of flowers and Walk for Hunger. Come make sure your activity will have a presence in the collection.

The workshop will be held in the room next to the choir room on Sunday, May 22nd at 11:30. Grab a sandwich and drink from the church picnic and bring your camera. Questions? e-mail Nan Streeter - streeterar@comcast.net



Back by popular demand... the town's "Pet Event" has new sponsors and a new West Hartford Center location - First Church! (The organizers wanted a W.H.CENTER location.) **Bark For Life® will be on Sunday May 15th!** Register your pet from 1:30 to 1:45 p.m. Judging starts at 1:45. Fun prizes will be distributed! This is not a church sponsored event, but everyone with a willing pet is invited to attend!

## Taizé - May 15

### Worship Services

Taizé services are held monthly at 6:30 p.m. at the First Church of Christ Congregational, in the newly remodeled Chapel. While the services are typically on the second Sunday night of the month, The May Taize Worship service has been rescheduled to May 15th due to a scheduling conflict.



MAY 2011

# *Tidings*

## **First Church of Christ**

*Congregational* UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

12 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
WEST HARTFORD, CT 06107



Dear First Church Friends And  
Mission Trip Supporters,  
YOU are cordially invited to a  
**Stockholder's Brunch**  
to hear about the Mission Trip to  
Puerto Rico.

**Sunday, May 1**  
**11:15 a.m.**  
**In the Auditorium**

Please join the 11 travelers as  
they present the highlights of  
their April journey to Caguas,  
Puerto Rico. They are excited to  
let you know of their immersion  
in a culture that is different from  
ours and to share their  
impressions and  
accomplishments with you!  
Thank you for your support of  
the mission trip.

Please RSVP by calling the  
church office 860-233-9605.

