



# THE CORNERSTONE

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR MINISTER

Then Jesus told this parable: *“A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’* Luke 13

Dear Friends in Christ,

Although it may seem strange, I have heard it said that gardeners sometimes suggest running a lawn mower straight into a fruit tree that is failing to produce fruit. For some reason the shock seems to stimulate the trees into production.

Well, sometimes a hard knock in life does have the power to truly shake us, but, it can also awaken us to possibilities offered by the new path in life... God’s path... the fruitful path that stretches out before us... that diverts our lives from the races we once ran... so that we BECOME the tree that feeds the many... that bears the fruit... that plants the seeds. Rousing us into discoveries of how to truly make something of our lives. Bringing into focus how we may use our gifts for others and for God rather than just for personal satisfaction.

I believe this is one of the lessons found in this passage in Luke - To look closely at our lives of faith and to make an honest assessment.

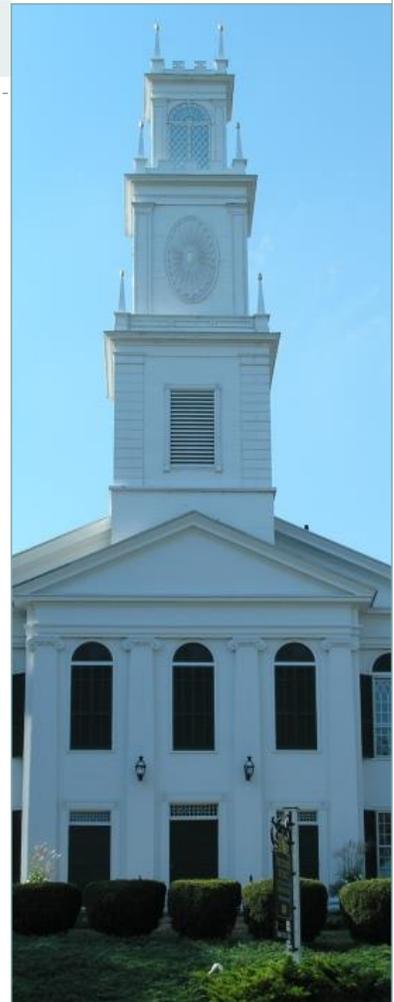
So, as a church community, it is not enough to gather merely for common sentiment; we are brought together in the name of Christ to bear fruit, to engage in the efforts of justice, to do the actions of restoration, renewal and reconciliation in our local communities and in the world. We are called to bring forth the realm of God here on earth. No less.

To do so, we must first ask ourselves -- how have we responded to the call of the Master Gardener? In what ways are we making our collective voices heard as *a voice of justice, a voice of equality; a voice of radical embrace in the name of Christ?*

During these coming days of Eastertide, let us remain open to movements of the Spirit that may offer surprising examples of creativity or bring fresh energy to old initiatives. Let us be mindful of the ways that God’s Spirit is touching our hearts and moving us toward an even deeper understanding of our true call. Let us be Easter people, ready to offer the gift of God’s grace wherever we may serve.

In the joy of Christ’s service,

~ Jonathan



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## APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Services are held every  
Sunday at

**8:30 AM in the Chapel**  
**10:00 AM in the Sanctuary**

*Unless otherwise noted*

### **April 7th COMMUNION & SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Kevin Weikel will be  
preaching both services

Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)  
*"Called to Conversion"*

### **April 14th THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Erica Nierendorf will be  
preaching both services

*"Who Are You?" "Who are  
We?"*

### **April 21st FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Jonathan Morgan will be  
preaching both services

*"Are We There Yet? A Never  
Ending Journey"*

### **April 28th FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Jonathan Morgan will be  
preaching both services

*"Riding the Wave ~ Letting  
the Power of God's Spirit  
Carry You"*

### ***From the First Church Treasurer***

I want to thank the congregation for its support of the 2013 budget, which I proposed at the February 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Financial meeting. The budget is supportive of First Church's Strategic Plan objectives and provides extra funds for Mission and Outreach, Music Ministry, Trustees, and also provides reasonable salary increases for our ministers and staff reflecting their dedication and hard work last year.

We continue to have income challenges, so I encourage all members to commit to supporting our many ministries with their prayerful contributions and pledges. By working together and offering our time and energies to First Church, we can make 2013 a memorable year in the life of the church.

Thanks,  
*Ron Patterson, Treasurer*

### ***A message from your Associate Minister of Parish Life***

Gentle People:

As I write this, a group of nineteen women have just returned from the Women's Retreat at Silver Lake Conference Center, a wonderful weekend of respite, connecting with new friends and old, and shared faith journeys. Our theme was "Fruits of the Spirit," based on Paul's words in his letter to the Galatians. In this letter, Paul urges the Galatians to be open to God's Spirit working in their lives, and promises this will lead to attributes of "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." A tall order? Yes! But Paul reassures us that if we open ourselves to God's love, these qualities, which, as we talked about this weekend, reside within us and are waiting to be activated, will grow, just as healthy vines produce healthy fruit. And life can be delicious...

I witnessed this happening this past weekend and I was reminded of the many stories of the Early Church, when women, nourished in their new faith, worked together, leading worship in their homes and offering other ministries. We can think of many metaphors, of course, but the main point is that we need each other. Throughout the weekend, every person stepped forward to contribute in her own way, so that we experienced a community that was more caring and joyful than any of us could possibly have planned. Our community grew, guided by God's love, and, by the end of the weekend, our conversation turned to how we might invite others in to future retreats and experiences with the women of First Church. *So, I urge all the women of First Church to stay tuned, that we are looking to offer other ways, beyond retreats, to join together and get to know each other, support each other, serve others and have fun!*

Yours in the joy of shared community in Christ,

*Erica*

# YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS

## REV. KEVIN WEIKEL—YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

PLAY, DISCUSS, WORSHIP, GROW, SERVE, LOVE...

### JUNIOR FELLOWSHIP (Grades 7-8)

- April 12**      **2:15-4:00 pm** Regular JF gathering at the church with icebreakers, games, and a topic TBA.
- April 26**      **2:15-4:00 pm** Regular JF gathering at the church with icebreakers, games, and a topic TBA.

### PRE-CONFIRMATION (Grades 6 and 7)

- April 7**            Elijah: The get-r-done prophet
- April 14**          Mission and Movie (school vacation week)
- April 21**          Daniel: The invincible visionary
- April 28**          Jonah: The passive-aggressive coot

### CONFIRMATION GROUP (Grade 8)

- April 3**            **2:30-8:30 p.m.** South Park Inn Soup Kitchen Meal—Sarah's Small Group. Meal prep at FCC Kitchen and serving the meal in Hartford
- April 7**            **5:00-7:00 p.m.** Large Group Meeting (Christian Living) in Palmer Hall for students followed by Worship in the Sanctuary for students and parents.
- April 11**          **2:30-8:30 p.m.** South Park Inn Soup Kitchen Meal—Erica's Small Group. Meal prep at FCC Kitchen and serving the meal in Hartford
- April 18**          **2:30-8:30 p.m.** South Park Inn Soup Kitchen Meal—Mark's Small Group. Meal prep at FCC Kitchen and serving the meal in Hartford
- April 21**          **5:00-7:00 p.m.** Small Group Meeting (The Faith Journey Continues) at host homes for students.
- April 22**          **2:30-8:30 p.m.** South Park Inn Soup Kitchen Meal—Patti's Small Group. Meal prep at FCC Kitchen and serving the meal in Hartford
- April 27**            Retreat to Boston
- April 29**          **2:30-8:30 p.m.** South Park Inn Soup Kitchen Meal—Betty's Small Group. Meal prep at FCC Kitchen and serving the meal in Hartford

### PF YOUTH GROUP (Grades 9-12)

- April 7**            **7:00-9:00 p.m.** We'll be doing an activity called Love Letters
- April 14**          **7:00-9:00 p.m.** Special Guest: Peter from Uganda!
- April 21**          **7:00-9:00 p.m.** Paper Bag Princess
- April 28**          **7:00-9:00 p.m.** Fun night!



## Care Bags Volunteer Needed

The Care Bags Committee will be losing a valuable member who assembled the bags for six month old girls.

Our committee assembles & donates emergency removal tote bags for children coming into the DCF system under duress. We provide them with clothing, toiletries, toys, etc. as they arrive, usually with nothing. The supplies are kept at church & you could assemble the bags at your discretion.

For more information on possibly helping out, please call Becky Goss at 860-658-7016.

## COMMUNITY FARM YEAR II



Yes, Maggie, our favorite Garden Manager, wants us back!

We will be gathering people from last year and hopefully recruit some new people this year for our mission at the farm planting and harvesting vegetables.

Our early planting schedule is shown below with our **start time at 9:00 a.m.**

**April, 2013: 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29** (onions and potatoes)

**May, 2013: 1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 29** (beets, carrots, swiss chard, beans, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, cukes, squash, peas, lettuce, spinach and more)

Please join us! Maggie will be there to guide us. Also, we will be adding a special schedule tailored to families with small children.

Please let Dave Wadhams know by email ([wadhams.nd@comcast.net](mailto:wadhams.nd@comcast.net)) which dates work best for you, or phone Dave at 860-836-7368 with any questions.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the farm!

## MUSIC NOTES

For the Holy Week and Easter, I would be very happy to work with anyone who is interested in singing with the choir. All are very welcome! It won't take long to help you catch up on the anthems we'll be singing. We will be singing into the month of June and would love to have some new voices - even for a short amount of time. It would truly be a wonderful thing.

### Our Concert!

We have a terrific concert coming up on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 in a candlelit Palmer Hall - **Bridget Davis and the Viking Kings**, featuring one of First Church's musical celebrities - Sam Petitti - on guitar. Bridget is an up-and-coming singer/guitarist in New York City, with an enthralling alternative folk/jazz style that will immediately draw you in. Sam's playing is better than ever, and we all know how incredible he was the last time he was playing for us. Here are excerpts of some of the band write-ups:

*"The human voice comes in many iterations. There are haunted voices and haunting voices, voices dripped in wax and voices soaked in bourbon, voices that persuade lawn pinwheels to haltingly spin and voices that rip the shingles off Tornado Alley roofs. Bridget Davis' voice is one of subtler devastation. It renders you defenseless without thunder or pyrotechnics. Married to stories of romantic longing, vengeful whalers, and idealized domesticity, it eases itself into your consciousness and remains there long after the concert has ended, the iPod has gone to sleep, the CD has ceased to spin."*



*"Since 2011, Bridget and her band, the Viking Kings, have brought their potent blend of jazz, folk and pop to music venues throughout Manhattan and Brooklyn. Featuring fellow University of Miami graduates Sam Petitti on guitar and Dag Markhus on drums, as well as the classically-trained Kells Nollenberger on upright bass, the Viking Kings expertly supply each song with its own unique cinematic atmosphere-romance, western, period drama, film noir."*

*"If you're a fan of the sweet, lilting voices and simple honest lyrics of the likes of Aoife O'Donovan and Alison Krauss, Davis will grab you by the heartstring" -*

*Grassclippings Blog*

Don't miss this concert. If you want to read more or hear excerpts, go to [bridgetdavismusic.com](http://bridgetdavismusic.com). Tickets are on sale through the First Church office in advance of the show, and will also be sold at the door, if available (capacity is only 100) \$10.00 adults, \$7.00 students/seniors, \$25.00 families. Goodies, munchies and beverages will be served, too. You're always welcome to call or email for more information: [Mark.mercier@1stchurchsimsbury.org](mailto:Mark.mercier@1stchurchsimsbury.org).

Have a happy spring!  
Mark

## Kids Investigating Divine Stories at First Church

Visit [www.firstchurchsimsbury.com](http://www.firstchurchsimsbury.com) to see the church school schedule, videos, and information about what the kids are doing @ First Church.



### Church School

Up coming events for your Calendar

**April 14:** Movie & Mission Project, Youth room, 10:15

#### Church School Tag Sale:

Collecting items on **April 25-26**, Sale on **April 27**.

#### Tag Sale Volunteers needed:

**Noon-8:00 pm Thurs., April 25**

**9:00 am-3:00 pm, Fri., April 26**

**8:00 am-3:00 pm, Sat., April 27**

Volunteer shopping: 4:30-6:30 on Friday, April 26th

Sign up to volunteer with:

[cindy.cole@1stchurchsimsbury.org](mailto:cindy.cole@1stchurchsimsbury.org)

Kim Tawney:

[ktawney@westminster-school.org](mailto:ktawney@westminster-school.org)

Or on the sign up sheets on the 3rd floor on Sunday mornings

#### Vacation Bible School:

June 25-28 (Tues-Friday)

#### **Vacation Bible School:**

June 25-28 (Tues-Friday)



Sign up on the 3rd floor bulletin board. We need 1 adult volunteer for every 5 kids who sign up.

Registration forms: 3rd floor bulletin board.



## **TAG SALE To Benefit First Church School Programs**

**Saturday, April 27**

**9:00 am - 2:00 pm,**

**8:30-9:00 am—early bird entrance fee \$10**

**Drop off of all tag sale goods will be from 12:00 Noon-8:00 p.m. Thursday April 25th and 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Friday April 26th.**

An all church tag sale will once again be coming your way April 27, 2013. As spring arrives and we think about cleaning out our closets, garages, attics, and basements, we can also plan to select our "best" stuff for the tag sale. The tag sale proceeds help us run the babysitting events, and workshops, and purchase supplies and new equipment.

#### **We do very well with:**

Costume jewelry and accessories; furniture pieces; holiday decorations; china, cutlery, pottery and glassware; children's games, books and toys; small appliances that are clean and working; radios and cd players that work; garden and workshop tools, adult books published 2006 or after and nice baskets.

#### **There are, however, a few categories of items we do not need:**

Computers/keyboards/monitors and computer tables, air conditioners, televisions, clothes, linens, broken items (all appliances must be in working condition for us to accept them), exercise equipment, old skis, drapery rods, old suitcases, bikes over 5 years old, light fixtures/fluorescent ceiling fixtures.

Please clean up furniture (especially children's) and make sure everything you bring in is ready for sale. Imagine us trying to clean and make presentable for sale thousands of items brought in by many people.

Sign up for **Silver Lake overnight UCC camp** is ongoing.

Week long programs are available for students in 4th-12th grade.

See the **2013 Summer Calendar for Camp Topics** posted on the 3rd floor bulletin board.

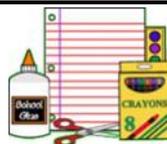
Registration online is at [www.silverlakecc.org](http://www.silverlakecc.org).



#### **April Mission Project: School Supplies for Smith Elementary School, New Britain.**

As the school year comes to an end the teachers run out of supplies for their students and money to purchase them. Our mission is to help these teachers get the supplies the kids need.

Here are the items that would be most helpful to the teachers: copy paper, classroom pumps of hand sanitizer, dry erase markers, pencils, tissues, skinny crayons, Clorox wipes, glue sticks . The students will be assembling the items into classroom packages for the teachers on April 14, 2012



## OPEN & AFFIRMING: LIVING INTO THE EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME



Last fall, First Church joined many churches across Connecticut and across the nation by declaring itself to be an Open and Affirming congregation—one that welcomes all children of God regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, physical disability or any other characteristic that does not limit one's love for God and neighbor. But our vote and declaration was not the end; it was just the beginning! Now, it's time to begin to live out the commitment we have made to being a radically inclusive community of Jesus Christ, and each of us has a part in fulfilling that commitment.

The ONA Ministry Team invites any of you who wish to participate in these efforts to please extend your hand and come on board! Your time commitment can be small but your voice is important! Below are some opportunities our team has identified that can help advance this important ministry of First Church:

- Prepare a Cornerstone article two to three times a year on ONA issues
- Create a banner that announces our ONA commitment, for periodic display within the church building
- Assist in creating and maintaining an ONA bulletin board in the church hallway
- Attend the annual ONA conference sponsored by the Connecticut Conference (usually in October) and report back to team members
- Maintain ONA materials at the ONA tab on the church's website (check it out!)
- Plan and present one program a year dedicated to an ONA topic
- Brainstorm with other team members on: how to incorporate our ONA message into our church's theme for the year, our Simsbury Celebrates involvement, or other events and opportunities
- Identify ONA literature to add to the church library, website, or other resource locations for use by church membership
- Agree to act as a resource, support or mentor to a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender church member or friend, or start a support or discussion group.

Let the ONA ministry team know what you would like to see and hear from us now that First Church has declared itself an Open and Affirming church

If any of these opportunities is one in which you would like to participate, please contact the church office with your name and contact information (phone number and email address), or see Sara Batchelder (or 860-658-4557, email: [s.batchelder10@comcast.net](mailto:s.batchelder10@comcast.net)) or see Paul Bryant (or 860-658-2174, email: [PECB24@comcast.net](mailto:PECB24@comcast.net)) to express your interest.

We look forward to hearing from you, and thank you for your continued commitment to making First Church a church of extravagant welcome to all!

## **GOOD NEWS: GRANT APPROVED!**

First Church has recently learned that its application for a **Historic Preservation Technical Assistance Grant (HPTAG)** has been approved!

This grant is focused on the services and expense of architectural services in support of a subsequent Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grant, which will be submitted by October 2013, and seek financial assistance with First Church roof repair/replacement. These grants are administered by the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation and Department of Economic and Community Development, respectively, and if approved, result in a fifty percent return on expended expenses. For additional information concerning these grants, please be in touch with either Rick Wilde or Dane Woodberry.



**YOU ARE INVITED** to enrich your faith journey at First Church of Christ - Simsbury while at the same time supporting the church's purpose and mission.

While First Church continues to study its governance and ministry structure in an effort to reorganize its governing organization and place in today's culture, and to be in harmony with its Strategic Plan, many opportunities exist on current boards and committees for the expression of your faith, interests, and talents.



First Church has some eight boards and 10 committees that exist to help the church accomplish its purpose locally, nationally, and globally. Boards/committees are organized around such matters as the worship life of the church (Elders), the physical structure (Trustees), community outreach (Mission & Outreach), finances (Finance), music (Music), personnel matters (Personnel), youth/young adult/adult Christian education (Christian Education), visitation (First Friends), memorial garden, pastoral relations, assistance to local needy individuals (Deacons), to name a few. Your contribution of your time and talent can be a most rewarding experience.

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## FIRST CHURCH FRIENDS

Presents

### ***“THE THRESHOLD CHOIR”***

**FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2013**

**10:00 a.m.**

**in the Parsons' Study**

The Threshold Choir is a small group of 14 members who sing at the bedsides of seriously ill and terminally ill patients. It is a National Organization with 100 groups; however, this is the only group in Connecticut. Much of the music is written by the members.

First Church Friends is a lay group who visit members of our church community who may have suffered loss, or are recovering from health concerns. Some live in life care facilities, nursing homes and some in their own homes. The group meets about every six weeks, but on occasion, they invite others in the church to join one of their special programs, such as this one, to share their ministry.



There are lots of ways to get involved at First Church! You can teach Church School, serve at the soup kitchen, participate in card making or prayer shawl ministries, sing in a choir, help with youth groups.... there are endless possibilities! Contact one of our ministers for more information!



You are invited to

## **SUPPER CLUB**

**Friday, April 19th**

Social Time at 6:00 P.M. At 6:30 p.m., enjoy a Sumptuous Dinner catered by Harvest Bakery; Cost: \$16.

At 7:45, Dr. Brigitte Schulz will speak on "Contemplating the Future of Human Civilization."

Dr. Brigitte Schulz is the professor of Political Science at Trinity College, where she specializes in the International Political Economy and Development Studies. Dr. Schulz received her Doctorate from the African Studies Center at Boston University, and has taught in Greece, Spain, Italy, France, The Netherlands, Germany and the USA. She has published two books and numerous articles that have been translated into seven different languages!

Dr. Schulz also has extensive experience in the corporate sector, most recently as Vice President for Political Research for NOMURA Securities in Frankfurt, Germany.

To make your reservation, Call Shirley Meyer (693-1944) or Cynthia Yoczik (658-7460) **by April 14th!** Hope to see YOU there!

# MARCH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



## **CLOSURE OR POSTPONMENT DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER**

If we have to cancel or change any Sunday services and/or related Sunday church activities because of inclement weather, it will be posted as follows:

~On our website  
[http://  
www.1stchurchsimsbury.org](http://www.1stchurchsimsbury.org).

~The automated message on our main phone number will be changed to reflect what is happening

~WFSB (Channel 3) and WVIT (Channel 30) will scroll our announcement on air under First Church of Christ, Simsbury. An announcement will also appear on their websites:

[www.http://  
www.wfsb.com](http://www.wfsb.com)

and

[www.http://  
www.nbccconnecticut.com](http://www.nbccconnecticut.com).

## **March Executive Council Highlights**

Following an introduction by M. Boslaugh of the Board of Finance, the recently completed review of the Church's 2011 financial statements was presented by Edward Jason, CPA, of the firm Whittlesey & Hadley. Following discussion of the recommendations presented in the report it was agreed that the Board of Finance will discuss and evaluate the recommendations with a resultant report back to the Executive Council in the future.

Mark Scully, Chair of the Board of Stewardship, informed the meeting that letters including pledge cards were distributed following the annual Financial Meeting to those who had not yet pledged. Ron Patterson reported that approximately \$700,000 in pledges has been received to date. Further action to increase pledge income will be undertaken by the Board of Stewardship.

President Westbrook informed the meeting that the Executive Officers had met recently to discuss various issues related to the proposed long term lease with Covenant to Care for the West Street House, including the concern that the lease commitment would preclude the Church from using the property for other worthwhile initiatives over an extended period. She noted that there was consensus among the Officers to reevaluate the proposed use of the house, such as dedicating it to new/creative mission and/or ministry-related initiatives of the Church. She expressed her hope that some of the "rehab" and furnishing of the property could be done through the collective effort/support of the congregation. Ron Patterson commented that there will be a modest impact on the 2013 budget planned income as a result of not going forward with a lease arrangement. After discussion, the Council agreed that a team consisting of representatives from the Board of Trustees, Staff, Clergy and the Board of Mission and Outreach will explore creative mission and/or ministry opportunities for the use of the property and report back to the Executive Council with their recommendations.

Steve Paine, Chair of the Board of Trustees, reported that a physical security review of the Church property had recently been done by the Simsbury Police and a security consultant. Some suggestions were offered for improvement, which in Steve's view could be implemented in phases, with priority placed on the Hopmeadow Nursery School; he noted also that Cindy Cole had already implemented several improvements to enhance security for the church school. The Board of Trustees will refine the suggestions and present their final recommendations at the April meeting of the Executive Council.

Steve Paine reported that a detailed plot plan is not yet available for the proposed Veterans Memorial that a group of local veterans would like to erect on a small corner of Church property along Hopmeadow Street. He stated that it is the opinion of the Trustees that a congregational vote would be required on the decision to deed any land to the Town for the memorial. Trustees will continue to pursue obtaining the plot plan, which is a necessary precursor to any consideration of a congregational vote.

Dane Woodberry reported that verbal approval has been received for the technical assistance grant portion of the Historic Restoration Grant, and that written confirmation is expected shortly.

President Westbrook informed the meeting that Bill Ketchabaw had advised her of his decision to step down as the Clerk of the Congregation, effective June 1<sup>st</sup>. She thanked Bill for his many years of service to First Church and the Council, and for his assistance to her personally during her first year as President.

Bill Ketchabaw  
Clerk of the Congregation

# WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE?

## We Remember Them Every Day

How many of us in our weekly or daily rounds through the church know who the people were that we name various rooms, additions and locations after? How many of you readers know who these people were: **A. Barlow Cross; Henry Ellsworth; Kenneth L. Palmer; Lyman G. Potter; The Memorial Garden and its occupants; Robert H. Naylor; The Parsons' Study's namesakes.** Read on and see if you were right, and to refresh your memory.

**The Church Library and Media Center** was named after *Mr. A. Barlow Cross* who lived from 1931 to 1977. He was an active member of the church and worked to develop the Christian Education program. After his passing, many friends wanted to dedicate the library to him as a valued teacher, student and friend. Many people contributed to the library in his name and many members still contribute to the library in memory of loved ones.

**The Ellsworth Chapel**, located behind the sanctuary, is named after *Mr. Henry Ellsworth*, who lived from 1878 to 1950. He was active in the church and worked for Ensign Bickford company from 1900 to 1946, ending his career there as president of the company. We had another chapel dedicated to his memory. In 1955, the church had purchased the Ensign House across the street to add much-needed space for church activities and the church school. In 1960 his wife, Abigail Eno Ellsworth, gave the money for the chapel that was built on to the Ensign Parish House. His four children paid for the furnishings. Among the donors was Lyman Beecher Stowe, son of Charles E. Stowe. In 1985, the church sold the Ensign Parish House but kept the name for the new chapel built in 1985 as part of a new addition.

The well-used and well-known **social hall** that we use is named after *Kenneth L. Palmer*. Mr. Palmer was minister here from 1953 to 1962. It too is the second social hall named Palmer Hall. There was another in the Ensign Parish House across the street. He served this church with outstanding leadership and strength during a time of rapid growth in population in town and in members of the church and church school. This situation lasted until 1971. He resigned from this church in 1962 and took a parish in Agawam, MA. He had a serious heart attack while serving here and died of one in 1963. When the 1985 addition was completed in January 1985, it was felt appropriate to once again dedicate the social hall to him.

**Lyman G. Potter Wing**—Another great leader in this church during a time of dynamic change and dramatic events was *Lyman G. Potter*. He followed Mr. Palmer in 1963 and then served during the strife of the civil rights in the 1960s, the Viet Nam War and held the church together after the devastating fire of 1965. He then directed the rebuilding of the church. Demographics had changed since the 1950s and now families were smaller and fewer children came to the church school. Space was still an issue though, and the church members had put up with crossing busy Hopmeadow Street for 25 years. So in 1984, the membership decided to build a new addition attached to the meetinghouse and consolidate the church buildings on the west side of Hopmeadow Street. It was felt proper to dedicate this new addition to the Rev. Mr. Lyman Potter at his retirement reception in June 1986. He served a long and very fruitful pastorate of 23 years.

*Donna M. Hopkins*, Church Historian



HISTORICALLY  
SPEAKING





## A Special Visit

Ugandan Peter Ssegembe, a friend of First Church, will be visiting us over the weekend of April 12-14. Peter became good friends with those members of First Church who traveled to Uganda in 2007 and 2008 to check in on the medical clinic our church supports there.

Peter is a special young man. He grew up in the "Cornerstone Youth Corps Homes," homes for Ugandan street children. Cornerstone gave Peter clothing, shelter, food, and the love of Jesus. Peter now works for the Youth Corps Homes himself and is visiting the states to take a course in youth ministry. You may remember Peter from a visit 3 years ago.

Peter will be present at First Church throughout the weekend of April 12-14. He will share his story, his faith, and his friendship. Here is Peter's schedule; we hope you can be present for some of these events...

- **Friday, April 12:** Peter will attend Junior Fellowship and share his story with our 7th and 8th graders (as long as his flight has no delays!)
- **Saturday, April 13, 7pm: Kevin and Kelley will host a meet and greet with snacks at their home.** Please RSVP by emailing Cathie Behrens at [cathie.behrens@1stchurchsimsbury.org](mailto:cathie.behrens@1stchurchsimsbury.org) or calling the church office. When you RSVP, we'll give you directions to their home should you need them.
- **Sunday Morning, April 14:** Peter will co-lead the children's message with Kevin and visit Sunday school.
- **Sunday Evening, April 14:** Peter will attend PF Youth Group
- **RSVP by Thursday, April 10th** to Kevin Weikel at [kevin.weikel@1stchurchsimsbury.org](mailto:kevin.weikel@1stchurchsimsbury.org).

## Simply Smiles

dedicated to building bright futures while improving the daily lives of impoverished peoples



## Simply Smiles Mission Trip Fundraiser

Tuesday, April 9th  
from 11:00 a.m.—10:00 p.m.

At Bertucci's Restaurant  
380 West Main St. (Rt. 44), Avon

Enjoy a delicious meal out and help support the **Simply Smiles Mission trip!**

On **Tuesday, April 9th at Bertucci's Restaurant, 380 W. Main Street in Avon**, will sponsor a special "**Simply Smiles Mission Trip Fundraiser.**" All you need to do is have a meal or order a Pizza at **Bertucci's** that day, any time between 11:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., and **present a special coupon available at the First Church office**, and a portion of that evening's profit will be donated toward Simply Smiles, Inc.!

Tell your neighbors and friends and help us raise some money for this important trip. We hope to see you there!



## REBUILDING TOGETHER

**“A Safe and Healthy Home for Every Person”**

**Saturday, April 27, 2013**

First Church will be sponsoring a house and participating in Rebuilding Together's 'National Rebuilding Day' on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> (formerly known as Christmas in April). Rebuilding Together is a nation wide program that serves low-income, elderly and disabled homeowners by making their homes safe and secure. National Rebuilding Day happens every year on the last Saturday in April.

The house chosen by First Church to work on is a 1920's, Bungalow style, single story home in Hartford - we will be performing various carpentry repairs, installing some cabinetry, doing bathroom renovations, painting, and landscaping, as well as lots of yard and basement clean up.

Volunteers are needed to work together at First Church's house on the day of the event. Youth and Adults are encouraged to sign up (Volunteers must be at least 12 years old.)

For more information or to sign up, please contact Richard or Esther Derr at 860-874-4111 or 860-658-2787 or [rer74@live.com](mailto:rer74@live.com). Any one wishing to make a donation can drop off a check at the church office made out to First Church of Christ, with Rebuilding Together, in the memo line.

Looking forward to a great day of hard work and fellowship while helping to improve the lives of a family in need!

### **What is Rebuilding Together Hartford, Inc?**

Rebuilding Together Hartford, Inc. is the nation's leading non-profit volunteer organization restoring and revitalizing America's low income homes and communities. We particularly focus on the homes of the elderly, people living with disabilities and multigenerational families, so that they may continue to live in warmth, safety and independence.

### **How did Rebuilding Together Hartford, Inc. get started?**

We are part of a national effort that started in Midland, Texas in 1973 when a group of people wanted to help repair homes for their elderly neighbors. In the fall of 1994, a team of Hartford-area volunteers representing many organizations and businesses determined to launch a Rebuilding Together effort in the State's capital city. Throughout the last 12 years, more than 4,000 volunteers have rehabilitated 300 homes, and several homeless shelters and non-profit facilities. Almost all of the work happens in a single day.

### **Who is eligible for Rebuilding Together Hartford, Inc. services? What about the cost?**

Low income, elderly and people living with disabilities who are not able to maintain their homes are eligible for Rebuilding Together services (although able-bodied homeowners are expected to work alongside volunteers). We work with community groups who help to distribute our applications to homeowners. There is no cost to the homeowner at all. In Connecticut, Manchester, New Britain, Litchfield County and Stamford are among the towns that also have Rebuilding Together programs.

### **Who can volunteer for Rebuilding Together Hartford, Inc.?**

Anyone 14 and older can be a volunteer for Rebuilding Together Hartford, Inc. Volunteers represent all professions and come from businesses, schools, community service organizations, associations, churches, synagogues and individuals. Volunteers do not need to be skilled at home repairs, but trades organizations such as the Remodeling Contractors Association and the Carpenters Union (Local 43), as well as other skilled professionals, such as plumbers and electricians, are always welcome.

### **Who sponsors Rebuilding Together Hartford, Inc?**

Funds come from corporations, foundations, civic organizations, religious groups and individuals. Hartford's founding sponsors are Bank of America, The Hartford, and Junior League of Hartford. Other sponsors include the Greater Hartford Jaycees Foundation, Fannie Mae and the Jimmy Buffet Foundation. In addition to house sponsorships, we receive in-kind donations such as windows from Landmark Windows and Harvey's, hardware from Home Depot - West Hartford and lumber from Sanford & Hawley, as well as discounts from many other local businesses.

### **How do I get involved?**

If you would like to volunteer or make a tax deductible financial contribution to Rebuilding Together Hartford, Inc. please call our office at (860)757-9426.

## First Church of Christ

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### \*\*\* NOTICE OF 2013 ANNUAL MEETING \*\*\*

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation is scheduled for **May 5, 2013 and will begin immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service.**

The agenda will focus on the program results of the 2012 Church program year; to receive and approve the 2013/2014 report of the nominating committee, and to address any other proper business brought before the meeting.

Childcare activities will be provided during the meeting. Advance copies of the Annual Report will be available at Worship on April 28th and for pickup at the Church Office beginning April 29th.

William Ketchabaw  
Clerk of the Congregation

### FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE

April 2013

- 4/7/13—First Church Friends
- 4/14/13—Board of Stewardship
- 4/21/13—Annette Lilly & Friends
- 4/28/13—Families



### First Church of Christ

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