

June 20, 2010

# The Church on the Green

From The First Church of Christ in Longmeadow, United Church of Christ



*“Embraced by the love of God in Christ, our mission is to love and serve our world. We seek to grow in Christ’s family through our journey—inward toward faith and knowledge, outward toward love and justice—always rooted and nurtured in worship.”*

## A Pastoral Reminder

I believe that it is helpful, from time to time, for pastors to remind their church members that the pastors stand ready and willing to support them in special times of need. Beth and I are here, and we want to be helpful to you when you need us.

However, we could both use your help. It is incredibly helpful when people let us know that they are going to the hospital, or would like to talk, or would like to have a time for personal prayer. So, in the spirit of openness, here are a few “tips” about how to help us provide excellent pastoral care:

- In the event of an emergency, any time of the day or night, you can call the church and press “8” to leave an urgent pastoral message. One of us is always on call and will respond as quickly as possible.
- When you have an upcoming planned visit to the hospital or a rehab facility, call us and let us know. Some people will task a friend or family member with the job of keeping us informed by e-mail or phone. That is great!
- If you are feeling neglected or forgotten, please call and tell us. We want to know and since we are both human, we might miss the signs that should have alerted us.
- We very much want to have significant conversations with people. But Sunday mornings is not a good time for such conversations, as we are often juggling a lot of

details and responsibilities. It is hard for us to remember information when there is so much happening. Please call or e-mail and make an appointment to talk. That works much better.

- We love coffee! We’d be happy to meet you at Starbucks if that is more comfortable than coming to the church office.
- Please communicate directly. Don’t complain to a friend that you haven’t seen us and expect that friend to talk to us. Such “triangulated” communication isn’t healthy for a church.
- By the same token, let us know if you have a concern about someone else. Better yet, talk to that person and encourage him or her to give us a call.
- And, finally, you don’t need to be sick or in crisis to talk to the pastors. Have an idea? Wonder about a Bible passage? Just want to share your story? Give us a call!

Good pastoral care in a congregation our size is a team effort. Together we can do it better.

See you in church!



Michael S. Bennett  
Senior Pastor

## Congratulations Maura!

Over 200 First Church members and friends came out on May 19 to surprise Maura Stevens, our church administrator, with an “Italian Night” party to celebrate her 30 years of service to our church. The most surprising part that she discovered later was that she helped plan and cook for her own party! (That was the one



way we could be sure to keep it as secret as possible.) The Mazzarino family (left) graciously cooked the pasta with delicious homemade sauce. Don“atello” Wesson (below) served as the host for the roast. Maura was “roasted” with memories read by Charles Hamlin, Rhoda Zhettl, Bruce Keator and Dwight Shepard (on behalf of Harris Adriance) and Don Wesson (on behalf of Gary DeLong). It was a night of First Church fellowship at its finest!



## A Note from Maura



*How is this for our new church slogan: The First Church of Christ in Longmeadow - a big bunch of sneaky, lying, conniving people! What do you think? Catchy?! And I know Dwight Shepard threatened you all, but someone might have just told me to wash my hair or wear nicer clothes or said, “Hey Maura, you might want to chew some gum or something.” Bruce Keator said you should all join the CIA if you pulled off the surprise - well join up!*

*Before May 19<sup>th</sup> I would have described myself as un-surprise-able - especially by my church and my family - always thought I had my radar on. But I was surprised - shocked - and totally humbled by the wonderful dinner (not that I ate because I was working it) and program and gift, and I have to tell you it was unnecessary (but glad you did it). I love First Church! Its members and staff have*

*been my friends and family for over 30 years. Even without fanfare and presents, (and if I had known of the fanfare I would have called in sick) I am and will always be grateful for the life this church has given me and my children.*

*Like many people, I came upon my job here at First Church "just because." Just because the economy was slow when I arrived from Colorado at Christmas time in 1979...just because no teaching jobs were available...just because I decided to get to know the area before finding a "real job"...just because I decided to find a nice secretarial position to hold me over until I got the lay of the land... just because I sent my resume to First Church.*

*I answered an ad in the Republican. I hitch-hiked from South Hadley, because the truck I drove from Denver was broken. I wore the only skirt I owned. Gary DeLong interviewed me. And I remember taking a typing test. Dotty Murphy, fellow Catholic, was the part time clerk in the office, and she was sitting behind me while I typed. After typing a few paragraphs, I stopped. Then Dotty whispered, "Maundy is a real word, keep typing." So thank goodness First Church hired a Catholic before me because I never heard of Maundy Thursday before that day.*

*Thank God I was hired. My joys have been celebrated at First Church; and you have helped me get through every sorrow. I thank you - couldn't have done it without you.*

*Not gonna name names - you know who you are - but just letting you know - payback is a.....*

*Seriously - I love you all.*

*Maura*

## **An Update from the Board of Trustees**

**P**ardon our dust and scaffolding and paint this summer. The Board of Trustees has contracted with Shanley Associates, LTD. of Southington, CT, to paint the exterior of our beautiful church. Missing slate roof tiles will also be replaced while the scaffolding is in place. The outside work is scheduled to begin early July and will take about a month to complete. The funds from this project will come from the Permanent Building Fund.

As of May 31, \$191,972 has been collected in pledge income – some of that prepaid pledges. Our budget year-to-date should be \$202,350 – so we are approximately \$10,378 behind where we should be at this time of year. It is especially important during the summer months that pledges be maintained. If you are going to be away this summer, please make sure your pledge is paid ahead. All the expenses of keeping First Church going continue through the summer – salaries, utilities, mission giving.

# Tanglewood Trips Planned

## July 11 and August 1

The beautiful grounds of Tanglewood and glorious music from the summer home of the Boston Symphony are once again beckoning the First Church family. Our first outing will be on Sunday, July 11, and the second on Sunday, August 1. To some these afternoons are the highlight of their summer.

Classical music not your cup of tea? Come and try a sip and enjoy the fellowship and share the wonderful goodies prepared by First Church's gourmet cooks. Just being there makes the trip worthwhile.

The program for July 11 begins with two pieces by Mozart, the Serenade No. 6 and the Violin Concerto No. 5 with Pinchas Zukerman as soloist. Strauss's Ein Heldenleben will complete the program. Yo-Yo Ma will be the soloist on August 1 for the Elgar Violin Concerto. Also on the program are the Sibelius Karelia Suite and Pictures at an Exhibition by Mussorgsky.

The grounds open at 12 noon and the concert begins at 2:30 p.m. No reservation is needed. Cost of a lawn ticket is \$19. Just bring a dish to share, your own place setting, beverages, and a lawn chair. We will assemble under the big tree behind the posts marked 14 and 16. For more information or to arrange for a ride call Ardie McEathron (596-6662).

## Open Pantry Concert a Huge Success

Three accapella groups, including the group the Quintissentials which features First Church soloist John Thomas, performed in concert at First Church on Saturday, May 22. The concert was to benefit Open Pantry, the Springfield food bank. As of this printing, the concert raised over \$5,700, thanks to the matching gift from the Gap that First Church member Janet Pohli helped arrange. Thank you to everyone who donated.

## Ruth Perry Award

Each year the music committee accepts applications for the Ruth Perry Award. The applicants need to show that they have been involved in the musical life of First Church. This year's recipients are Everett Torpey, Laura Yesu and Brooke Brindle. They were presented their awards during the worship service on May 23.



## First Church Member Featured in Art Show

**H**arriet Atwood is having a solo art show of paintings at the Kent Memorial Library's Pinney Gallery, Suffield, **CT!** The reception was held on Thursday, June 3, and was well attended by First Church members and friends. Harriet's paintings will hang in the gallery until June 28, and can also be seen during library hours. The Kent Memorial Library is at the corner of Main Street and Bridge Street in Suffield (Routes 75 and 513). Parking is behind the library, off Bridge Street.



## Youth Mission Trip

**T**hank you to everyone who baked for and visited the Heavenly Bake Shop during Longmeddowe Days. The Senior YES! youth group raised over \$600 selling cookies, cupcakes, brownies and other baked goods. These funds will all go towards their mission trip which will take place during the second week of July.

If you would like to help them reach their fundraising goals, please consider buying some Youth Mission Trip Stock. For just \$20 a share you can help our youth get to Ashland, VA for the 2010 Youth Mission Trip where they will participate in the Harvest of Hope program. As a shareholder, you will receive many benefits including a postcard and update from Virginia during the trip, as well as the joy that comes from knowing you have played a part in sending First Church's youth to a new place to have new experiences serving God and neighbor.

Shares can be purchased by filling out the form below and sending it into the church office, or you can contact Associate Pastor Beth Boisvert (567-6287/[beth@firstchurchlongmeadow.org](mailto:beth@firstchurchlongmeadow.org)) for more information.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (for postcard): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone or email: \_\_\_\_\_

# of shares: \_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Confirmation Sunday

Fifteen young people affirmed their baptisms and became members of First Church during a beautiful service on Sunday, June 6. The service was the culmination of a year long journey of faith for the confirmands. Each of them was assigned a mentor early in the process, who helped them along the way (left).



The confirmands participated in several group activities during the year, including a weekend retreat to Craigville, a trip to Sinai temple to participate in a Hebrew service of worship, and a lock-in weekend during which they visited the Western Mass food bank -- where they got temporary wrist "tattoos" (the entry stamp to the food bank) to show their solidarity



with Pastor Beth -- (right), and they also spent some time making the Communion tablecloth that was used on Confirmation Sunday (left) .



Before the service on June 6, Matt Garrity and his mentor Pete MacElhiney rang the church bell (right). Those in attendance at the service then heard some of the confirmation class sing "We Are One in the Spirit", followed by each of the confirmands reading a piece of their own personal statements of faith. We heard in their own words how they feel about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the church. Each of them was then presented with the cross that they designed



and cut out of silver back in January (below, left). The newest members of First Church are (below, right): Karly Burton, Alexa Cambi, Sarah Clough-Segall, Will Comey, Matthew Cuscovitch, Matthew Garrity, Sarah Glick, Kate Heenan, Reid Leveillee, Molly McKeown, Carly Neville, John Overstreet, Nicholas Patel, Jordan Pyers, and John Togba.



## June 20 - July 10

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
20 10 a.m. Outdoor Worship *+ (Weather Permitting)	21	22 7:00 pm. Deacons	23 1:00 p.m. Praying the Scriptures 7:30 p.m. Council	24 8:45 a.m. Men's DCF 4:30 p.m. Praying the Scriptures	25	26
27 10 a.m. Worship *+	28	29	30 1:00 p.m. Praying the Scriptures 3:00 p.m. Personnel Committee	July 1 8:45 a.m. Men's DCF 4:30 p.m. Praying the Scriptures	2	3
4 10 a.m. Worship***	5	6	7 1:00 p.m. Praying the Scriptures 6:30 p.m. Youth Ministries	8 8:45 a.m. Men's DCF 4:30 p.m. Praying the Scriptures 7:30 p.m. Movie "Dogma"	9	10 2nd Saturdays

\* Childcare for Infants & Toddlers + Summer Fun Church School grades 1-6 \*\* Communion Sunday - bring a canned or packaged food for Open Pantry

The First Church of Christ in Longmeadow  
*United Church of Christ*  
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### Contact Us

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

### Staff

*Senior Pastor* The Reverend Michael Bennett  
*Associate Pastor* The Reverend Beth Boisvert  
*Director of Music* John Gerry-Karajanes  
*Director of Children's Ministries* Nancy Yesu  
*Assistant Director of Children's Ministries* Deb Garrity  
*Program Director* Gay Wesson  
*Administrator* Maura Stevens  
*Director of Communication* Deb Garrity

Next deadline: June 17

## Summer Movie Series

A longtime summer tradition at First Church is our Summer Movie Series, hosted by Pastor Mike. Once again we'll be enjoying movies on Thursday evenings in the air conditioned Buxton Room on the first floor. As usual, the fare will be broad and (we hope) deep. Our first film this year will be "A Serious Man"--the Cohen Brothers' very interesting take on the Book of Job and Jewish suburban America in the late 1960's. Watch the bulletin and the next COG for more details.

Movie Nights for the 2010 Summer Movie Series will be Thursdays July 8, 15, 22, and 29 at 7:30 p.m.



## Summer Office Hours

During the months of July and August, the church office will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. from Monday through Thursday and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please feel free to stop in and say hello during those times!