



SPRING 2011
Volume 52, Issue 6

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Ash Wednesday Service is March 9 at 6:00 PM at FPC. Guest preacher and speaker is Rev. John Merz. There will also be a light meal. There is no charge but please call the church to RSVP: 246.2224.

First Presbyterian Church
136 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
U.S.A.

At First...

Praying for Change, Finding Hope in the City

*An ecumenical reflection
on Jesus in Jerusalem and
our lives in Hartford.*

The United Methodist Church of Hartford, Immanuel Congregational Church, Center Church and First Presbyterian Church of Hartford will host a joint Lenten series that will focus prayer and discussion on the city of Hartford.

Adapted from *Praying for Change* by Rebecca Dudley and Janet Morley, these sessions will include: reading scripture about Jesus' interaction with the city of Jerusalem, a discussion about our own challenges and hopes for the city of Hartford, an opportunity to pray for those challenges and hopes, and creating a prayer for the city of Hartford that can be shared.

The sessions will be held on five Thursday evenings during the season of Lent, ending with a special prayer service held at First Presbyterian Church

followed by a light meal. Over the course of the series, the sessions will take place at the different hosting churches.

The sessions will take place on:

March 17
First Presbyterian, 6:00 PM

March 24
Center Church, 6:00 PM

March 31
United Methodist, 6:00 PM

April 7
Immanuel Congregational,
6:00 PM

April 14
First Presbyterian, 6:30 PM
Prayer Service

We invite you to participate in this meditation on the home city that we share.

Though subsequent sessions will build on work done in previous ones, you are welcome to join later in the series, or take part when you can. If you do wish to participate, please sign the sign-up sheet provided at your church.

In the Meantime...

28th WALK AGAINST HUNGER

by FPC Team Captain Adu Tutu Amankwah

Over a million children go hungry each day in the United States according to estimates from the department of agriculture. Hartford, the 6th poorest city in the country, is no stranger to this problem. Homelessness, hunger and poverty afflict our city in large numbers.

God's mandate to us as Christians is to feed and clothe the poor. However, this need has become even more crucial recently due to economic conditions we have at present. First Presbyterian Church and other area churches in conjunction with Hands On Hartford work on the MANNA program, which provides basic needs for the city's most vulnerable. This help comes in the form of providing community meals, feeding hungry children, helping the elderly move around, and replenishing food banks, to mention a few.



All these services are made possible due to donations and fundraisers. One of the major events to help raise funds is the annual Walk Against Hunger. This is a 3 mile/ 5 kilometer walk around the beautiful city of Hartford. Participants raise funds through sponsorship and donations. Those that cannot walk can sponsor any of the walkers. This year, the 28th annual Walk Against Hunger will be held on Sunday, May 1st. Information about the walk will be announced soon so stay tuned. However, please save the date- May 1st. Let us all join together and put an end to hunger by walking or donating.

“If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.” Isaiah 58:10.

FOOD FACTS:

In 2010 the MANNA Food Pantry experienced a **58% increase** in the number of households seeking food assistance for the first time.

And 4,500 more meals were served at the Community Meals soup kitchen.

Together, we can eliminate hunger in Hartford.



File photo.

First Person(al)s...

Prayers and Remembrances:

The Moir family mourning the sudden loss of Robert Moir on February 7, 2011...

Gretchen Fuchs...

R. Sherwood Marchant...

Norman Van Anden...

Lois Maxwell...

Kristin Moir Harvey...

Robin Herrera...

Helen George...

the Murray's grandson Will Devereau...

Keith E. Rhoden (Sr.)...

Catherine Highsmith...

June O'Neil's friend Louise Carlson ...

Family of Kathy Rogan, a co-worker of Rusty's at Travelers whose brother passed away and left a wife and two small children...

Nick and Linda Stilin and family, long time friends of the Spears. Nick's father passed away on Wednesday, March 2...

The future of First Presbyterian Church.



E-news: If you give us your e-mail address, we can send notices of meetings and cancellations that affect you, alerts on births, deaths, hospitalizations and other prayer concerns, and notification of major updates to the church's web site.

Just e-mail the office at fpchartfordct@sbcglobal.net and ask to be added to our mailings. Or sign up online by visiting the church website: www.firstpreshartford.org. Let us know if you'd prefer we not print your e-mail address in the member directory.

New Address:

Rusty and Tonya Spears and their daughter Karen Spears live at 120 Matthew Lane, Gilbertsville, PA 19525.

A Note of Thanks:

Ruth and **Norman Van Anden** wish to thank everyone for their prayers and support during his hospitalization.

Easter Lily Orders:

If you would like to give a lily for the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 24, please see Pauline Robertson on Sunday or **contact the church by April 10, 2011** to ensure delivery of your plant.

In Memoriam

James Robert Moir

February 9, 1949 - February 7, 2011

United with this church 1962

Call to Annual Congregational Meeting on April 10, 2011 for the election of Elders and Deacons and the Nominating Committee.

If you have access to the Internet: Our web site at www.firstpreshartford.org is your gateway to helpful resources: color pictures of new members and recent church events and activities; church calendar, and much more. While there, you may also want to click on the "Helpful Links" or paste into your browser this address: <http://www.firstpreshartford.org/Links.htm> to the Presbytery of Southern New England and the General Assembly to find out what's happening in the larger church to which we're connected.

Mission Matters...

Global Mission

by Shirley Dudley

Believe it or not the Parish Outreach Committee, with particular help from Julius Aboagye and other members, has finally succeeded in sending \$630 to the Village of Adawukwa in the Central Region of Ghana to purchase twenty-one Family Size LifeStraws at \$30 apiece. It is a start but we know that we would need to send another 139 to cover the 160 village families who depend heavily on a stream as their main source of drinking water.

A LifeStraw is an instant microbiological water purifier with a high flow rate, efficacy as per US EPA standards and longevity of more than 18,000 litres. The family will be instructed on its use and supervised and, through Julius Aboagye's contact, will send us pictures and reports from the village. Julius himself may be able to visit the village sometime during the spring. At that time we will decide if we want to continue this project so that more families can be involved.

Lack of access to safe drinking water contributes to the staggering burden of diarrheal diseases worldwide, particularly affecting the young and the poor. Nearly one in five child deaths – about 1.5 million each year – is due to diarrhea, more than AIDS, malaria, and measles combined, according to statistics from UNICEF and WHO, 2009.

Approximately 43% of the global population, especially the lower-income populace in the remote and rural parts of the developing world, is deprived of household safe piped water. LifeStraws are one alternative approach to empower people to control the quality of their drinking water, also reducing the risk of waterborne disease arising from recontamination during collection, transport, and use in the home.

LifeStraw[®]
Family

Instant microbiological water purifier with a high flow rate, efficacy as per US EPA standards and longevity of more than 18,000 litres.



First Presbyterian Church can be proud that it has contributed in a small way to this source of quality of life for our neighbors in Ghana. We will keep you posted and will carry on our efforts to continue this mission. Questions or comments can be directed to Julius Aboagye or Shirley Dudley.

Photo below is from <http://www.vestergaard-frandsen.com/lifestraw>

Youth Group...

by Carolyn Blick

The FPC Youth Group has been keeping busy in the new year. We still go to Peter's Retreat and play Bingo with the residents once a month. A big thank you to those who donated money to be used as prizes for the winners. We had a work day at Peter's Retreat as well, cleaning the kitchen and living space walls and baseboards. We also went to see a Connecticut Whale hockey game when Hands on Hartford was selling tickets as a fundraiser. Unfortunately we didn't get to see a home team win. And of course, we tallied, moved and delivered the Souper Bowl of Caring collected food which was so generously donated by the congregation to the MANNA Food Pantry (with help from several adult members of FPC). *Photos from the Souper Bowl of Caring are on page six.*

Youth Mission Trip

We will be having a Soup and Bread Fundraiser for our summer trip to Chicago. It will be after church on March 27. \$5 per person, \$20 per family. Please join us for good food and fellowship.

Highlights from Session Meetings...

Highlights of the January 16, 2011 Session Meeting



- In the absence of a Clerk of Session, **Elder Jane Murray was elected Clerk Pro Tem.**
- **Clerk's Report:** Receipt of a thank you letter from Music Director Dianne Ney for the year-end bonus received.
- **Treasurer's Report** for December and Year End is incomplete at this time.
- **Pastor's Report** included how our "no deficit" budget impacts music during worship. The current budget allowance is not enough to cover substitute organists or special music for church holidays. Possible solutions were discussed but issue remains unresolved.
- The Session voted to **APPROVE** and Enoch Darko has accepted the appointment to chair the **Administration Committee** and be **President of the Trustees.** Committee also includes Susan Corrigan, Mildred McNeill, and Edwin Carty. Others may be needed.
- The Session voted to **APPROVE** Elder Shirley Dudley as chair of the **Personnel Committee.** Members of the committee are: Lois Maxwell, Keith Rhoden, Alice Evans, and Gretchen Fuchs.
- No action items noted from **Parish Life Committee** and there was no written report.
- **Parish Outreach Committee** reported receiving an outline for a Youth Mission Trip in 2011. The committee will meet and discuss oversight of planning and finances for the proposed trip. There was no written report.
- **New Business:** Shirley Dudley and Lois Maxwell were elected to be our representatives at the Presbytery Meeting of February 12, 2011. Redeemer Hill Congregation contract amendment for building use of lower level change from two Sundays/month to four Sundays/month beginning March 1, 2011 was APPROVED.
- **Old Business:** Stated Supply Search discussion. Rev. Feroe welcomed Rev. Tom Speers, Committee on Ministry (COM) Liaison, to act as Moderator for the balance of the meeting and excused himself from the room.

Rev. Speers informed the Session that there are different models that can be used for a Stated Supply pastor and that COM and Executive Presbyter Dana Lindsley are available to work with Session. Session reaffirmed the commitment of First Presbyterian Church to this process. Rev. Speers will work with our Stated Supply Search Committee (Chaired by Shirley Dudley) to refine or re-define our job description by the end of February. In the meantime, we should plan to use pulpit supply through March and April.

Highlights of the February 13, 2011 Session Meeting

Session voted to:

- **Approve plans** for a 2011 Youth Mission Trip to Chicago as presented by Parish Outreach Committee.
- **Approve a position description** for Stated Supply Pastor after adjustments in duties and compensation.
- Hold the **Annual Congregational Meeting on April 10, 2011** for the election of Elders and Deacons and the Nominating Committee.

NOTE: Session Highlights are posted in Hodge Hall and can also be found on the church website.

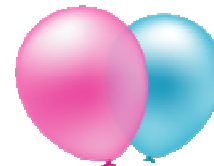
Celebrate and Give Thanks...

April Birthdays

4: Rachel Butler, 6: Christopher Hansen, 7: Esther Darko, 10: Paul Tamburini, 15: Yonette Cort-Park, 15: Ian Tamburini, 16 Yaa Okoampa-Sykes, 17: Esther Osei, 18: Pauline Robertson, 21: Jean Hager, 25: Katherine Harvey, 29: Shirley Garren, 29: Abena Adzenyah.

April Anniversaries

14 Nancy & Richard Sweeney
20 Kathleen & Terry Davis
22 Wes & Rebekah Van Anden

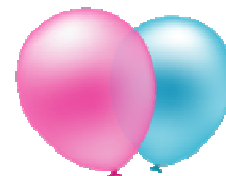


May Birthdays

2: Mae Franklin, 3: Grant Spears, 4: Sue Corrigan, 4: Carlos Lyte, 5: Karen Spears, 6: Nya Dezi, 9: Valrica Riley, 10: Flora Perleoni, 11: Asa Cort, 12: Elijah Riley, 13: Chastity Hamilton, 15: Bob Burns, 15: Yaw Kissi, 15: Jared McNeill, 15: Kia McNeill, 23: Shirley Dudley, 27: Emily Spears, 27: Shirley Aboagye, 28: Maleek Riley, 29: June O'Neil.

May Anniversaries

3 Kevin & Melissa Morin
14 Anita & R. Sherwood Marchant
15 George & Joyce Rawitscher



The following will be prayed for during Sunday worship. Please include them in your devotions as well:

April

6 R. Sherwood & Anita Marchant; Lois Maxwell; Tom & Mildred McNeill, Ian, Shara, Jared, Kia; Cynthia McPherson.
13 Ruth Moir, Maude Morrison, Jane & Alan Murray, Jean Nesbitt.

20 Jon & Dianne Ney, Mindy; Patrick Ney; Rita Nyarko; Yaa & Frank Sykes, Samuel.
27 June O'Neil; David Owusu; Janet & Emmanuel Peprah, Joseph; Carolyn Perkins.

May

1 Ray & Flora Perleoni; George & Joyce Rawitscher; Keith Rhoden, Jr.; Brittany & Nick Rice, Natalie, Nathan.
8 Clifford & Valrica Riley, Robin Roberts, Pauline Robertson, Joan Romeo.

15 Dawn & Andrew Russell; Angela Silvera; Rusty & Tonya Spears, Emily, Grant, Karen; Sandra Spinelli; Richard & Nancy Sweeney.
22 Paul & Corinna Tamburini, Fiona, Ian; Norman & Ruth Van Anden; Wes & Rebekah Van Anden, Willow; Akosua Ware.
29 Clarissa Watson; Gladys Wiafe, Adu Adzenyah; Ālani Willett; Shirley & Julius Aboagye.



Souper Bowl of Caring February 1, 2001

Over 1600 pounds of food was donated by First Presbyterian Church members and friends. Thank you everyone!



Photos are thanks to Carolyn Blick.

Gifts of Time & Talent...

in support of our corporate worship, fellowship, and mission in recent weeks

Communion Stewards –

Mildred & Thomas McNeill, Ruth Bergman, Ben Klein, Francisca Amoah, Carolyn Blick, Cynthia McPherson, David Owusu, Pauline Robertson.

Ushers –

Michael Asare, Ernest & Grace Brodeur, Pauline Robertson, Keith Rhoden, Jr., Clifford Riley, June O’Neil.

Flowers – Gretchen Fuchs, the Moir family, Shirley Garren.

Church Mouse –Gretchen Fuchs.

Coffee Hour – Rosalyn Parks and family, Parish Life, Jean Nesbitt, Pam Nesbitt.

Angels- Ed Carty, Carolyn Blick; and Jane Murray, Jean Nesbitt, Keith Rhoden, Jr., Dianne Ney and June O’Neil who helped fold and stuff bulletins for the Feb. 27 service.

Liturgists –Ed Carty, Ruth Bergman, Tom McNeill.

Newsletter Production – Layout and Graphics: Ruth Van Anden; Assembly and Mailing: Pauline Robertson, Dianne Ney and Ruth Van Anden (they got the last newsletter mailed before that BIG snow storm).

A Final Thought...

You cannot do a kindness too soon because you never know how soon it will be too late.

-God’s Little Devotional Book for Women

First Presbyterian Church... An Inviting Church Drawing Diverse People in Worship and Service

Director of Music
Dianne Ney

Office Manager
Ruth Van Anden

Sexton
John Du Pont

Web Site
www.firstpreshartford.org



Sunday Services 10:30 AM
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of
Month

Church School 10:30 AM
Pre-school-Grade 12

Child Care Available

Office Hours
Monday – Friday
9:00 AM – Noon & 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Call anytime to leave a message:
Telephone: 860.246.2224

E-mail: fpchartfordct@sbcglobal.net

“Christians are not called to sit on the judge’s bench but on the witness stand.”
--Syngman Rhee, Past Moderator of the General Assembly

GOD LOVES YOU – PASS IT ON!

Time Sensitive Material - Do Not Delay

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HARTFORD CT 06106



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