



January/February 2012
Volume 53, Issue 3

At First...

THE NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HARTFORD

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Presbyterian Promise Annual Meeting, 2:30 PM, Jan. 22, 2012, First Presbyterian Church, Hartford.

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

New Year Plans



All-Church Gathering

Following worship on Sunday, January 8, 2012, there will be opportunity for everyone to talk about those parts of our life together as First Presbyterian that are essential to who we are. There will also be a light lunch.

We will also do some reflection on our finances, and identify resources and gifts we have beyond just our money. The Session will listen carefully to the conversations we share and will use them to help shape the financial plan for 2012.



Labyrinth in Johnstone Hall

The labyrinth will be available on January 8, 15, and 22, as well as during the week when the church office is staffed. The act of walking the labyrinth becomes a prayer itself, and for many, it creates a time of holy focus. Read more about it on page two.



Call to Congregational Meeting

A Congregational Meeting will be held after worship on January 29 for the presentation of the 2012 Budget and election of financial officers for the coming year.

First Thoughts...

Dear Friends at First,

As we prepare to enter a new year, it is a good time to reflect on our intentions for that new year: What is God calling us to do? How are we to live as the people of God, in Hartford and all the other places we come from and go to? How shall we use the resources God is giving us in the most faithful way possible?



We invite you to participate in beginning to answer those questions in several ways. First, we will have an **All-Church gathering on January 8, 2012, immediately following worship**. This will be an opportunity for everyone to talk about those parts of our life together as First Presbyterian that are essential to who we are. We will also do some reflection on our finances, and identify resources and gifts we have beyond just our money. The Session will listen carefully to the conversations we share and will use them to help shape the financial plan for 2012. That plan will be presented to the congregation at a **congregational meeting following worship on January 29, 2012**.

This is important work for all of us, and it will require prayer and discernment. As one way of entering into this prayer and discernment, we will have a labyrinth set up in Johnstone Hall during January. A labyrinth is not the same thing as a maze. A labyrinth has only one path and so there are no tricks to it and no dead ends. The path winds throughout and can become a mirror for where we are in our lives or in our church. It can touch sorrow and release joy. Labyrinths have been used in churches for over 1000 years, with some built into the floors of European cathedrals that survive to this day. The act of walking the labyrinth becomes a prayer itself, and for many, it creates a time of holy focus. We will provide some suggestions for reflection and prayer for those who walk. In addition, if there are any of you who would like to be present in prayer or serve as guides while others are walking, please let us know. The labyrinth will be available on January 8, 15, and 22, as well as during the week when the church office is staffed. While this may be a new experience for many of us, we hope that you will take a quiet pause to walk the labyrinth, reflect on your own spiritual journey, and pray for the path that is opening for our church and its ministry and mission. We invite you will engage in this form of prayer, and walk the labyrinth with an open mind and an open heart!

If you have any questions or suggestions about our reflections as we discern our intentions for the coming year, please let one of us know.

Pastor's Office Hours... for Rev. Jinny Smanik are at FPC on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM.



First Person(al)s...

Prayers and Remembrances for:

- † **Kissi/Osei family** for the loss of Esther Osei's father...
- † **Aboagye family** for the loss of Julius' father...
- † **Vida & Michael Adzenyah** and family on the death of Vida's father...
- † **Grace Brodeur and family** for the loss of Ernie...
- † **Jane Carroll...**
- † **The Cort family** on the loss of Mrs. Gertrude Cort's brother Charles Jonas...
- † **Felecia Fleeting and family** for the loss of Felecia's mother...
- † **Helen George...**
- † **Kristin Moir Harvey...**
- † **Lois Maxwell...**
- † **Cris Watson...**
- † Melinda Boyar, the Murray's daughter...
- † Dottie Brash...
- † Jerry, Rachel Butler's husband...
- † Roland Carty, Ed's brother...
- † Will Devereaux, grandson of Alan and Jane Murray...
- † Bob Evans...
- † Collin Robertson, Pauline Robertson's brother-in-law...
- † the City of Hartford...
- † and the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church.

Note of Appreciation...

"Thank you to my church family for all the visits, rides, flowers, many cards and gifts. I love you all." - **Grace Brodeur.**

Let us know...

If you've had a recent special event or other cause for celebration in your life that you would like to share, or a loss or other circumstance for which you'd appreciate prayers—your church family is interested and concerned. Just e-mail **Keith Rhoden, Jr.** at keithr118@yahoo.com.

You may also mail or drop off a note to the church office or send an e-mail (addresses are on the last page of newsletter).



Ernest W. Brodeur, Jr. worked closely with the Stewardship and Building Committees at FPC. He served as ordained deacon and elder, stated clerk and director of The Presbyterian Foundation.

In Memoriam

Ernest W. Brodeur, Jr.
Dec. 17, 1923 – Nov. 7, 2011
United with this Church 1949

Pastoral Contact Liaison...

Shirley Garren (pictured at right) is our liaison to our on-call pastors. For pastoral care concerns when the church office is closed please call her at home.



Welcome New Members...

Pam Nesbitt (pictured at left), and **Rosalyn Parkes with son Butch and daughter Alex** (pictured below).



Thank You... Thank you, thank you, thank you, from **Judy Moir Harvey** and family, to my Church Family and Friends for your prayers, cards, and support especially from this January, 2011 to the present. Thank you also for the wonderful and meaningful Receptions for my brother, Robert Moir, in February, and my Mom, Ruth Moir, in August. I continue to keep our Church and all of you in my prayers.

Scholarship Recipients...



Monroe Scholarship recipients this year are:

Solana Gadson is beginning studies toward a Mathematics degree at Manchester Community College. Her ultimate goal is to teach mathematics at the university level. Solana is the daughter of Deborah and Antonio Gadson, sister to Keenan Gadson and granddaughter of Betty Gadson.



Fiona Tamburini is continuing studies toward a degree in Biochemistry at Boston College to conduct independent research. She is the daughter of Corinna and Paul Tamburini and sister to Ian Tamburini.

Mission Matters....

Community Meal:

A Thanksgiving feast was served to almost 80 people on Tuesday, November 22 at Christ Church Cathedral for our Community Meal with Hands on Hartford MANNA Program. The menu included turkey, real mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, green beans, cranberry sauce, bread & butter, pies and soda. Many hands were needed to make the meal successful and we included more of Holly's co-workers at Travelers to help. A big thank you to all those who helped prepare and/or serve the meal:

Carolyn Perkins, Keith Rhoden, Jr., Susan Labins, Sherry & Anita Marchant, Pauline Robertson, Holly Billings and Mimi Nelson, the Parkes Family, Shirley Dudley, Ray & Flora Perleoni, Jenilee & Adu Admankuah, Gladys Wiafe, Jinny Smanik, Brian Brouillard, Christine Frederick, Kyle Bedini and the additional



crew from Travelers –Melinda Miller, Juliet Asafo, Melissa Carr, Amy Devoe, Jason Manganello, and Ann Fulse.

In fact, the Travelers folks enjoyed it so much they are going to come back again.

If you'd like to join them please sign-up in Hodge Hall at church or contact Holly Billings or Keith Rhoden, Jr.



Souper Bowl Sunday is Feb. 5, 2012!

First Pres members and friends donated **151 pounds** of food to the MANNA Food Pantry in Hartford November and December.

Meet Our Confirmation Class of 2012...

- ✠ Keenan Gadson is the son of Deborah and Antonio Gadson Gadson of East Hartford and grandson of Betty Gadson.
- ✠ Kwame Adzenyah, son of Francisca Amoah of Glastonbury and Michael Adzenyah.
- ✠ Nellie Speers, daughter of Tom & Bessie Speers of Simsbury.
- ✠ Kobe Darko, son of Margo & Enoch Darko of Windsor.
- ✠ Joseph Awuah, son of Janet & Emmanuel Peprah of Manchester.

Confirmation will be during the worship service on May 27, 2012. Please plan to attend worship and show your support for the Confirmands.



At left FPC and Providence youth pose with Mayor Segarra. The youth worked with other volunteers from Hands On Hartford and the Knox Greater Hartford Green Team to plant 51 new trees on Main, Park, John and Hudson Streets in Hartford. Pictured at right are Elder Jasen Lambright, Deacon Michael Asare, Elder Keith Rhoden, Jr., and Deacon Susan Labins. The youth photo is courtesy of Pastor Jinny Smanik and the photo at right is thanks to June O'Neil.

First Presbyterian Church **e-newsletter** is an e-mail sent out weekly with notices of meetings and cancellations that affect you, alerts on births, deaths, hospitalizations and other prayer concerns. You may sign up for it by calling the church office or sending an e-mail to the church office: fpchartfordct@sbcglobal.net.

Around the Presbytery...

The mission of the **Friendship Center of New Britain** is to provide friendship and direct service to the poor and needy of Central Connecticut, including the ownership and operation of housing for the poor.

The Friendship Center was originally a drop-in center begun in the nineteen-sixties by Monsignor Joseph Farrell to provide food, a place to stay during the day, and fellowship to street people:

“Today I’m opening a storefront Friendship Center. We’re going to show the needy that nobody is a nobody in the eyes of God. I hope this work will grow and grow and be of as much help to as many people as possible.”

Currently, the center provides a Continuum of Care philosophy by offering services that include families and homelessness prevention in three areas:

The Community Kitchen provides lunch Monday through Friday to anyone in need; and three meals per day, seven days per week, to shelter residents and former residents. Staff and volunteers ensure that guests are served in a welcoming, friendly atmosphere.

There is a 37-bed emergency shelter for men, women and children. They receive three meals per day and have use of laundry facilities. Each resident works with a service coordinator to develop a case action plan that may include: counseling, crisis intervention, goal setting, housing assistance and referrals services; e.g., substance abuse treatment, education, job training, child care or a combination thereof.

Transitional Housing is a six- to 24-month program for 15 single, homeless adults. Each participant is provided a room, case

management and an individualized case action plan. The program serves people with mental health and substance abuse issues as well as education and employment challenges. The focus is the learning of life skills – the structure and support essential for independent living. Five rooms are for veterans.

Of particular interest to our FPC members and friends is that the Communications and Development Director of the Friendship Center is long-time friend and colleague of FPC friend Kathy Cooley. Folks should remember her from Hands On Hartford.

Above article was written using excerpts from <http://friendshipservicecenter.org/>



Ed. note: We will, on occasion, feature a non-profit within the Presbytery of Southern New England (to which we belong) as a way of highlighting what is going on “Around the Presbytery.”



Session Highlights...

by Jane Murray

At the Session meeting on December 11:



- ✦ Tom McNeill presented an update from the Alternatives Committee on site development by University of Hartford architecture students. Presentation to the congregation will be on January 8th and 29th.
- ✦ In preparation for our planning meeting on January 8th, Session members discussed the use of a labyrinth. The labyrinth is to be placed in Johnstone Hall for three weeks beginning January 8th. The purpose is to provide an opportunity for prayer and reflection for our congregation as we approach the new year and to help us discern our intentions with regard to the use of our resources.
- ✦ Session voted to approve a suggestion by Joan Grant to have a “penny drive” for a specific mission project. Project could be called “Change for Change.” Details later.
- ✦ Treasurer Holly Billings reported that pledged giving was UP for the month of November, but we are still behind for year-to-date income.
 - Checks will be mailed to Monroe Scholarship recipients Solana Gadson and Fiona Tamburini.
- ✦ Elder Enoch Darko reported that Stewardship Campaign is progressing very well. Follow-up letters were sent to those unable to attend the Consecration Sunday. Worship Service and Lunch. The campaign closed on December 18th.



In addition to the plans for an all-church gathering on January 8, the important work of preparing our budget for the coming year is underway. As one way to begin the prayer and discernment process, we will be using a labyrinth which will be set up in Johnstone Hall during January. A labyrinth, unlike a maze, has only one path and so there are no tricks to it and no dead-ends. The path winds throughout and can become a mirror for where we are in our lives or in our church. The pastors will provide some suggestions for reflection and prayer to all who participate in the labyrinth walk. Everyone is encouraged to try this mode of prayer and reflection, not just to reflect on our church and it’s path to the future – but to consider our own spiritual journeys and pray for the path that is opening to us.

Tom McNeill will present an update on our planning venture with the architecture students at University of Hartford and our explorations with the Bushnell. An expanded coffee hour is planned for January 8, so that we will all have some food to sustain us through our discussion. Please be sure to plan to attend and participate.

January 29th will be the date of our Congregational Meeting for presentation of the 2012 Budget and election of financial officers for the coming year. Please mark your calendars so that you will be able to attend.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH!!!

Christmas 2011 Flowers Given to the Glory of God...

by:

Michael Asare.....
Bob & Alice Evans.....
Shirley, Laurie, Katie.....
Sandy & Sam Hamilton.....
The McNeill Family.....
Maude Morrison.....

Alan & Jane Murray.....
Bob & Jinny Smanik.....
Richard & Nancy Sweeney.....
The Tamburini Family.....

and by:

Grace, his children, grandchildren,
and great- grandchildren.....
Edwin Carty and family.....
Shirley Dudley.....

Shirley, Laurie, Katie.....
Sandy & Sam Hamilton.....
Judith Moir Harvey.....
Pam Hauburger.....
The Labins Family.....

Family
Doris Lewis & family.....
Anita & Sherwood Marchant.....
The Marshall Family.....
The McNeill Family.....

Alan & Jane Murray.....
June O'Neil.....

The Perleoni Family.....
Keith Rhoden, Jr.....
Pauline, Maurice and
Michael Robertson.....

The Tamburini Family.....
Richard & Nancy Sweeney.....

in Thanksgiving for:

For a wonderful year.
Family.
God's blessings.
Noah and Chastity Hamilton.
Ian, Shara, Jared, Kia and all family members.
All the friends I have made over the years at First
Presbyterian.
Our loved ones.
First Presbyterian Church.
Our grandchildren.
Mr. & Mrs. Louis E. Boldi, Mrs. Corinna G. Boldi.

in Loving Memory of:

Ernest W. Brodeur, Jr.
Eileen, Leopold & Lila Carty.
Arnold Cohen and Harriet Jones, beloved
parents of my daughters-in-law Jessie and Stephanie.
Bill and Stephen.
Our sons, parents and grandparents.
Ruthie Moir, James Moir, Jr., Robert Moir and Ruth Moir.
My parents, Daniel & Iva Hauburger.
Joyce T. Arnold, Katherine B. Tuthill, David B. Tuthill,
Stephen H. Labins.
John & Beverly McNeish.
Loved ones.
Our parents.
Mr. & Mrs. David Marshall and Dave & Betty Marshall.
Tom Sr., Michael, Virginia, Ronnie, Kathleen and all
family members who have passed.
Our loved ones.
James O'Neil, Jr., Bertha Garbe, Robert Garbe, and Gene
Garbe.
Richard Violette, son-in-law.
Keith E. Rhoden, Sr. and Gretchen M. Fuchs.

Bob Robertson and Patti O'Neal Robertson, Hyacinth
Sharoubim and Ian Cross.
Louis & Helen Boldi, Corinna G. Boldi.
Borden & Sylvia MacLachlan.

Celebrate & Give Thanks...

January Birthdays:

- 3 Anita Marchant
- 3 Clifford Riley
- 4 Joan Brodeur
- 5 George Blick
- 8 Dipombe Wright
- 9 Richard Brodeur
- 10 Marian Cooke
- 12 Janice Grant
- 15 Vanessa Kwarteng
- 18 David Labins
- 20 Jon Ney
- 24 Vashawn Knott
- 30 Leslie Adjei



January Anniversaries:

- 8 Sam & Sandy Hamilton

February Birthdays:

- 2 Rebecca Adjei
- 3 Jim Hansen
- 8 Fiona Tamburini
- 12 Isaac Riley
- 13 Lois Maxwell
- 14 Valerie Phillips
- 18 Ruth Van Anden
- 23 Bill Cooke
- 27 George Rawitscher
- 27 Felecia Fleeting

February Anniversaries:

- 4 Gregory & Marilyn Cort
- 17 Alan & Jane Murray
- 25 Norman & Ruth Van Anden

Holding each other in prayer...

The following members will be prayed for in worship in **January and February**. Please remember them in your private devotions as well:

Jan. 1: Rachel & Jerry Butler, Gina; Jane Carroll; Edwin Carty; Bill & Marian Cooke.

Jan. 8: Sue Corrigan; Gertrude Cort; Gregory & Marilyn Cort, Asa; Ulyne Cort.

Jan. 15: Beverly Cort-Lyte & Carlos Lyte, Marissa; Yonette Cort-Park; Enoch & Margo Darko, Esther, Kwabena; Lianne Doherty, Ali.

Jan. 22: Shirley Dudley; Amanda Eldridge; Bob & Alice Evans; Felecia Fleeting & Raymond Riley, Raymond Jr., Maleek, Elijah, Christal, Isaac Riley.

Jan. 29: Tamara Fleeting & Muhammed Giwa, Aurianna Giwa; Antonio & Deborah Gadson, Solana, Keenan; Betty & James Gadson; Shirley Garren.

Feb. 5: Joan Grant, Tamila Bent; Jenn Guerard & Ryan Oliver; Bob & Jean Hager; Sam & Sandy Hamilton.

Feb. 12: Christopher Hansen, James, Heather; Judith Moir Harvey, Kristin, Katherine, Andrew; Pam Hauburger; Robin & Elmer Herrera.

Feb. 19: Yaw Kissi & Esther Osei, Ernest, Jeffrey; Ben Klein & Ruth Bergman; Yaw & Cynthia Kwarteng, Christian, Vanessa, Cassandra; Susan Labins, Sarah, David.

Feb. 26: Jasen & Christine Lambright, Doris Lewis, Juliana Mantey, R. Sherwood & Anita Marchant.

Calendar Dates...

- ✠ Sun. Jan. 1: Rev. Smanik is preaching, Bill Cooke is soloist, Communion by Intinction.
- ✠ Tue. Jan 2: Staff lunch.
- ✠ Wed. Jan. 4: Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM.
- ✠ Fri. Jan. 6: Epiphany.
- ✠ Sun. Jan. 8: Rev. Highsmith is preaching, **all church planning meeting and lunch, labyrinth opens***.
- ✠ Wed. Jan 11: Staff meeting 9:30 AM, Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM.
- ✠ Sun. Jan. 15: Guest Preacher, **Deacons' meeting, Session meets**. Labyrinth is open.
- ✠ Sun. Jan. 22: Rev. Smanik is preaching, last Sunday for labyrinth. **Presbyterian Promise meets in sanctuary 2:30 PM.**
- ✠ Tue. Jan. 24: Community Meal 5:00 PM.
- ✠ Wed. Jan. 25: Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM.
- ✠ Fri. Jan. 27: Hands On Hartford fundraiser at CT Whaler game.
- ✠ Sun. Jan. 29: Rev. Highsmith is preaching, **Congregational Meeting**.
- ✠ Wed. Feb. 1: Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM.
- ✠ Sun. Feb. 5: Rev. Speers preaching. **Souper Bowl Sunday**.
- ✠ Wed. Feb. 8: Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM.
- ✠ Sat. Feb. 11: **Presbytery meeting**.
- ✠ Sun. Feb. 12: Rev. Smanik preaching.
- ✠ Tues. Feb. 14: Valentine's Day.
- ✠ Wed. Feb. 15: Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM.
- ✠ Sun. Feb. 19: Rev. Speers is preaching, Transfiguration Sunday, **Session meeting, Deacons' meeting**.
- ✠ Mon. Feb. 20: Office Closed President's Day
- ✠ Wed. Feb. 22: **Ash Wednesday**. No Choir.
- ✠ Sun. Feb. 26: **1st Sunday in Lent**, Rev. Smanik preaching.
- ✠ Tue. Feb. 28: Community Meal 5:00 PM.
- ✠ Wed. Feb. 29: Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM.

**Labyrinth is open on Sundays while church is open and also during regular office hours during the week.*



If you have access to the Internet... "Construction" on the church website is coming to completion. www.firstpreshartford.org is your church gateway to helpful resources that include print and audio sermons, Sunday bulletins, plus links to the church calendar, schedules and more.

Did You Know? Every Sunday, the Chapel is open for silent prayer and meditation before the service. At the end of the service, one of the pastors or one of our deacons or elders will be present in the Chapel if you have any special prayer needs. The chapel is on the right just as you enter the church.

Gifts of Time and Talent...

Flowers - Holly Billings and Mimi Nelson, Jane Murray, Parish Outreach, Sam & Sandy Hamilton, Andrew McKirdy.

Ushers - Michael Asare, Tom McNeill, June O'Neil, Keith Rhoden, Jr., Clifford Riley, Pauline Robertson, Akosua Ware.

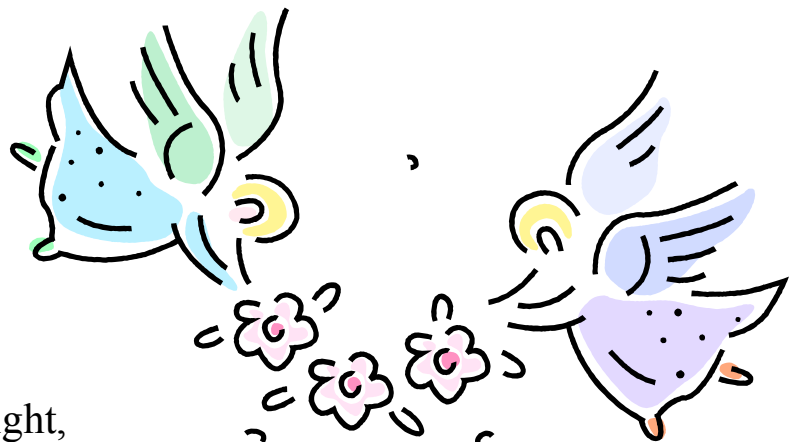
Liturgist - Holly Billings, Carolyn Blick, Bill Cooke, Jane Murray, June O'Neil

Communion Servers - Michael Asare, Holly Billings, Susan Corrigan, Alice Evans, Sam Hamilton, Jane Murray, June O'Neil, Keith Rhoden, Jr.

Thank You - to all of the great voices that inspired us during the Service of Lessons and Carols on Dec. 18, 2011!

Thanks to - Carolyn Perkins for the donation of a Tea Caddy to use in our after-church coffee hour. Thanks to our hosts for coffee hour during November and December – Anita and Sherry Marchant and Susan, Sarah, and David Labins. Thanks also to Jane Carroll for additional baked goodies for the Parish Life committee to use for unsponsored coffee hours.

& more thanks to - Shirley Dudley and Sherry Marchant for delivering the food to the MANNA food pantry. Thank you also to Pastor Jinny Smanik and sexton John Du Pont for assistance delivering food and Gifts of Warmth. Last but not least, thank you to all those who help prepare the newsletter for mailing- whether you are able to help a little or a lot- it can't be done without you!



LORD,
keep us safe this night,
At rest from all our fears;
May angels guard us while we sleep,
'Till morning light appears.

Amen.

(This "Evening Prayer" is from *Prayer for Little Voices* by Elisabeth Robinson Scovil)

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

Co-Pastors
Rev. Martha Highsmith
Rev. Virginia Smanik
Rev. Tom Speers

Director of Music
Dianne Ney

Office Manager
Ruth Van Anden

Sexton
John Du Pont

Web Site
www.firstpreshartford.org



E-mail: fpchartfordct@sbcglobal.net

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

Church School 11:00 AM
Grades K-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

“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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136 CAPITOL AVENUE
HARTFORD CT 06106
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