

FirstNOTES



First Church of Christ is an historic congregational church, located in Old Wethersfield since 1635. This issue of *First Notes* serves as a compilation of the many ministries and opportunities available. All visiting guests are warmly invited to consider membership in this family of faith. **The next Inquiry Class will be offered on October 18.** If you are interested, please indicate in the Friendship Register, visit the church website or call **Marilyn Danielson** at 529-1575, ext. 213, for details.

Summer Worship Schedule June 21 — September 6 (Rally Sunday is September 13)

CLASSIC (TRADITIONAL) SERVICES are held each Sunday morning at **8:30 and 10:30 a.m.**, in our air-conditioned Meetinghouse.

A CONTEMPORARY (WIND) SERVICE is held at **10:30 a.m.**, each Sunday in Keith Jones Hall, which is also air-conditioned.

COPIES OF SERMONS — Downloadable MP3s (audio versions) of most of the sermons preached at First Church during 2008-09 are available on our website: **www.firstchurch.org/sermons**.

FIRST CHURCH WORSHIP ON TV — Our traditional worship service is broadcast every Sunday at **1:00 p.m.** Tune in to **WCTV's Channel 14** in Wethersfield or **Cox Cable's Channel 15** in Glastonbury, Manchester, Newington, Rocky Hill, South Windsor and Wethersfield.

FLOWER MEMORIALS & STEEPLE LIGHTING — Would you like to honor a loved one by providing flowers for the traditional or WIND services? For information about flower memorials, which cost \$40, call **Ed Ryszkiewicz** at 571-9192. If you would like to honor a loved one by having the Steeple lit in their name, call **Susan Corrigan** at 563-1621. The cost of Steeple Lighting is \$40 for a solo memorial and \$20 for a shared memorial.

Announcements and Special Events

MOVIE NIGHTS — Two classic **Rodgers and Hammerstein** films will be shown in the Morgan House Drawing Room this summer—and all are invited to attend! On **Tuesday, July 7**, enjoy **South Pacific**, and on **Tuesday, July 21**, join us for a showing of **Carousel**. The movies begin at **7:00 p.m.** and there's no cost to attend.

CHURCH-WIDE PICNIC — All are invited to celebrate the **beginning of a new church year** and **First Church's 375th Anniversary Celebration!** Join your First Church family on **Rally Sunday, September 13, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.** at Standish Park in Old Wethersfield! Bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share, and a picnic blanket or chairs. Cold cut platters and beverages will be provided. Standish Park is located by Mikey's Place, just 1/2 mile from First Church, on the corner of Hartford Avenue/Garden Street.

375th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION — On **June 30**, there will be a *Carillon Concert* performed by **David Spicer**. This concert is open to the entire town and everyone is welcome to gather on the church lawn. For a schedule of other celebratory events planned, please see the church website: www.firstchurch.org.

BUILDING CLOSURES — The church buildings will be closed on Friday, **July 3** and Monday, **September 7**.

SUMMER CHURCH OFFICE HOURS — Beginning **Monday, June 22**, the church office will be open **Monday thru Friday**, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

STEWARDSHIP — Stewardship pledges will be accepted, either through the offering plates or delivered to the Finance Office. We are grateful to all of those who have pledged in faith their support to First Church. Questions? Call **Carol Willard** at 529-1575, ext. 217.

E-GIVING — Would you like to reduce your paperwork? Do you find yourself too busy to write checks and keep track of a yearly pledge? You can contribute through an automatic monthly withdrawal from your bank account. For more information, call **Ann Fuschi** in the Finance Office at 529-1575, ext. 218.

Children's and Family Ministries

Vicki Huffman, Director / 529-1575, ext. 206 / vickih@firstchurch.org

Marcia McCann, Special Events/Preschool Coordinator / ext. 208 / marciam@firstchurch.org

Debbie Hertle, Administrative Assistant / ext. 303 / debrah@firstchurch.org

Summer Intern: Jess Rienow

SUMMER CHURCH SCHOOL - On **Sunday mornings**, the Crib Room and preschool are staffed during both the 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. services. Church School for elementary students through Grade 4 will be held at 10:30 a.m. only; older children attend worship with their families.

A SPECIAL NEEDS CLASS, for children in preschool thru early elementary, is offered at 10:30 a.m. in the Gym Room. "Special Needs" includes Autism, ADHD or other behavioral or emotional-challenges/diagnoses. Pre-registration for this class is required. For more information, call **Debbie** at 529-1575, ext. 303.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT KIDS' CLUBS will resume on **September 16**.

VACATION BIBLE CAMP will be held **July 20–24** for children age 4 through completed Grade 5. Those who have completed Grade 6 through adults are invited to be leaders. This year's theme is *Crocodile Dock – Where Fearless Kids Shine God's Light*. Registration forms are available in the Wells Area and on the church's website.

CAMP HOPE will be held **August 2–8**. This week-long overnight experience is open to all young people entering grades 6 through 12, and provides an opportunity for FUN and growth in faith! Registration brochures are available in the Wells Area and on the Church's website. A payment plan is available to help accommodate tightening budgets. If you have any questions, contact **Vicki Huffman** at 529-1575, ext. 206.

NURSERY SCHOOL — We offer classes for children who are 2¾–5½ years old. Our curriculum includes chapel, music and movement sessions and classroom chemistry. We offer themed extended sessions before or after class, plus Lunch Bunch sessions four days a week. To tour the school or request registration materials, call 529-1575. Open House is **Thursday, September 11 at 6:30 p.m.** Our first day of school is **Monday, September 15**. There are limited spaces still available for the 2009–2010 school year.

Youth Ministries

Todd Willard, Director of Youth Ministries / 529-1575, ext. 205 / toddw@firstchurch.org
Marcia McCann, Special Events Coordinator / ext. 208 / marciam@firstchurch.org
Debbie Hertle, Administrative Assistant / ext. 303 / debrah@firstchurch.org
Summer Youth Intern: Logan Singerman

HIGH SCHOOL P.F. — **June 21 is our final P.F. until September.** Our theme will be **Water Night**—so make sure you wear clothes you don't mind getting wet and bring along your favorite water gun. Meet in the Youth Room from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. P.F. will resume again in early September. For more info, check out www.firstyouth.net.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ONLY!! — **This summer, all students entering grades six through eight** are invited to join us for fun on **Wednesday nights, from June 24 to July 29.** We'll be gathering in the Youth Room from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. There may also be some special outings planned, so stay tuned. For more information contact the Youth Ministries office: 529-1575, ext. 205.

PANCAKES AND JESUS — On **Mondays, from June 22 to July 27,** all students **entering ninth grade through college students** are invited to join us for a gathering that includes an awesome breakfast followed by some great time digging into God's Word together. We'll be meeting at **Todd and Tegan Willard's** house, 163 Wolcott Hill Road in Wethersfield, CT. Bring your Bible and if you can, a couple of dollars to contribute to the food costs. This summer we'll be looking at **Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.** *The first gathering will be 12:30–2:30 p.m. and the remaining gatherings are scheduled for 9:00–11:00 a.m.* If you have any questions contact **Todd** in the Youth Ministries office.

HARTFORD CITY MISSION — All students **entering ninth grade through College-age** are invited to join us on **Tuesdays, from June 23 to July 28,** as we partner with Hartford City Mission in their summer camp program for elementary-age children. We'll leave from the First Church parking lot at 12:15 p.m. and return to the church by 5:00 p.m. This is a great way to serve God by loving our own neighbors. There are a limited number of spaces for each week so you will need to sign up through the Youth Ministries office if you are interested in joining us.

CAMP HOPE will be held **August 2–8.** This week-long overnight experience is open to **all young people entering grades 6 through 12,** and provides an opportunity for FUN and growth in faith! Registration brochures are available in the Wells Area and on the Church's website. A payment plan is available to help accommodate tightening budgets. If you have any questions, contact **Vicki Huffman** at 529-1575, ext. 206.

Adult Learning and Discipleship

Michael McDowell, Pastor / 529-1575, ext. 201 / michaelm@firstchurch.org

Arlene Eriksen, Administrative Assistant / 529-1575, ext. 211 / arlenee@firstchurch.org

ADULT CLASSES will resume in the fall.

BROWN BAGGERS BOOK CLUB, a.k.a. **Benevolent Reading of Worldly Notable Books Addressing God's Grace, Essence, Reliability & Simplicity** — This summer, get a jump on your fall reading! In **September,** we will gather for a lively discussion of **G. K. Chesterton's *The Everlasting Man*.** So brown bag your dinner and plan to join us on **Monday, September 14,** in the Morgan House's Birch Room, 6:00–8:00 p.m., as we discuss this inspiring book. For more info, call **Ron or Leslie Vliet** at 229-8331. **Note:** *This group usually meets on the first Monday of each month. However, due to the Labor Day holiday, it will meet on the second Monday in September.*

COUPLES CLASS — This weekly Sunday morning class will resume on **Rally Sunday, September 13**. For more information, call **Steve and Lisa Perry** at 757-3853.

GOD'S COMFORT — This support group, for those with **chronic illnesses**, is offered on the **2nd & 4th Thursdays** of each month. Facilitated by **Roger Willard**, the group meets from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the Morgan House.

Men's Ministries

Bob Papertsian, Men's Ministries Coordinator / bobbapertsian@cox.net
Arlene Eriksen, Administrative Assistant / 529-1575, ext. 211 / arlenee@firstchurch.org

MEN'S MORNING BIBLE STUDY — Our current study, **ACTS—Seeing God's Power in Action**, meets every **Tuesday**, 6:45–8:00 a.m., in the Fireside Room. Please join us for study, discussion and fellowship. Cost of the workbook is \$6. For more information, please call 529-1575, ext. 211.

2009 MEN'S ADVANCE will be held **October 2–4** at **Pilgrim Pines Conference Center** in **West Swanzey, N.H.** The topic for the seventeenth annual Men's Advance is **The Challenge**. Detailed registration brochures are available in the Wells Area and on our website. You can register (with your payment) with **Arlene** in the church office, leave it at the receptionist desk or bring it to the Men's Ministry table in the Wells Area on certain Sundays beginning in July. Lodging requests are honored on a first-come, first-served basis (after registration and payment have been turned in). Early registration benefits you because you not only save money, but it guarantees you a slot. For more info, please contact **Bob Papertsian** at bobbapertsian@cox.net.

SATURDAY MORNING MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST — All men are invited to gather in the Fireside Room every **Saturday**, from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m., for prayer, discussion of Scripture, fellowship and a hearty breakfast. For more information, please call **Sam Rodriguez** at 316-5305.

THE MEN'S MONTHLY PRAYER WALL — New "members" are welcome at any time — all we ask is that you pick a day of the month as your day to pray for Men's Ministries, First Church and other requests for prayer. **This is intended to be in addition to your regular, daily prayers.** You are only active on the Prayer Wall during the day of the month you select. Before the beginning of each month, every brother on the Prayer Wall will receive the prayers for that particular month via e-mail. For more info, please contact **Bob Papertsian** at bobbapertsian@cox.net.

Women's Ministries

M&Ms (Mary & Martha's)

Tessa Afshar, Pastor / 529-1575, ext. 202 / tessa@firstchurch.org
Arlene Eriksen, Administrative Assistant / 529-1575, ext. 211 / arlenee@firstchurch.org

BRUNCH — Women's Ministries will kick-off their **Wednesday morning** fall programs with a **brunch** on **September 2**. Wednesday morning classes will commence on **September 9**. Childcare will be provided.

IRON SHARPENS IRON (FOR WOMEN!) — Ladies: Mark your calendars for **Saturday, October 17**, when New England women are invited to First Cathedral in Bloomfield for a day-long conference featuring worship, nationally-renowned speakers, seminars and resources. Watch for more information in September.

Caring Ministries

Wayne Luman, Director / 529-1575, ext. 203 / waynel@firstchurch.org

Michelle Adams, Administrative Assistant / 529-1575, ext. 210 / Care@firstchurch.org

EMERGENCIES — Members of our Servant Leadership Team are on call 24 hours a day. Call **529-1575, ext. 210**, and leave a detailed message, the time of your call and a number where you can be reached. We're here to pray for and support you in your time of need.

CARING CONCERNS CORNER — Visit the Caring Concerns Corner in the Wells Area on **Sundays** to share your special needs or the concerns of another. This is also a great place to find resources! Fill out a yellow Caring Concerns form or a blue Prayer Request slip.

THE CARE BOARD in the Wells Area connects those in need of service with a willing provider. To add an item of your own, please fill out a yellow form (located in the Caring Concerns Corner) and place it in the prayer box provided.

CHRISTIAN CAREGIVING: A WAY OF LIFE — Have you ever wanted to come along side a friend or a neighbor who is hurting spiritually or emotionally? Have you ever wanted to share the love of Christ with another person? Do you know someone consumed by guilt and needing the freedom of God's forgiveness? This new course will begin on **Saturday, September 19, 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.**, followed by **sixteen Sunday mornings, 9:15–10:30 a.m.** Led by **Wayne Luman, Betty Metcalf** and other members of the **Care Team**, this course was created by **Kenneth C. Haugk**, Founder of the **Stephen Ministries**. Bring a pad, a pen and an open heart! For more information, please contact **Wayne** or **Michelle** at 529-1575, ext. 210, or care@firstchurch.org.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY, a Christ-centered recovery ministry, meets on **Thursday nights** in the Fireside Room. Attendees are invited to join us for supper (5:30 p.m.—\$3 donation is appreciated), Large Group (6:30 p.m.) and Small Groups (7:30 p.m.). **Women's recovery groups:** Sexual/Physical/Emotional Abuse (EPSA) and Open Issues Group (all other hurts, hang-ups and habits). **Men's recovery groups:** Sexual/Pornographic Addiction, Alcohol/Chemical Dependency, and Open Issues Group (all other hurts, hang-ups and habits). For more info, or to request childcare, contact **Michelle Adams** at 529-1575, ext. 210, or **Wayne Luman** at ext. 203.

LICENSED COUNSELORS — **Jacqueline Tedesco Whitehead**, Clinical Social Worker, at 559-3904; and **Kristen Lathrop**, licensed Psychologist, at 299-6992. Call Caring Ministries for names of other counselors.

FREE BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS, are held on the **second Sunday** of each month. Our Parish Nurses offer the screenings in the Caring Concerns Room, following each worship service.

LOVED ONES IN ARMED FORCES? The Care Board now lists names and addresses of members of the Armed Forces overseas who are related to our First Church members. Please pray for them. To have your family members posted, send their names and addresses (and a small photo, if you wish) to Caring Ministries.

IS A FIRST CHURCH MEMBER IN THE HOSPITAL? First Church staff and Pastoral Care Team members try to visit and pray for them. However, privacy laws often prevent hospitals from notifying us when our members are hospitalized. Please ask a family member to notify us—any time, day or night—at **529-1575, ext. 210**.

Ministry of Music and the Arts

David Spicer, Minister of Music & the Arts / 529-1575, ext. 204

Dave Gilbert, Assistant / 529-1575, ext. 209 / music@firstchurch.org

Brian Shea, Contemporary Music / 529-1575, ext. 274 / brians@firstchurch.org

SUMMER ENSEMBLE — Want to sing in the choir this summer? Some past experience in choral singing is necessary, mostly because we only have 45 minutes before the 10:30 a.m. worship service to rehearse. We gather at **9:30 a.m.** in the Choir Room. We would like to wear robes, but if past summers are any indication, the heat may necessitate that we do not. Therefore, we encourage cool, appropriate dressing in case robes are not worn. The Summer Ensemble will take part in the worship services on **July–26** and **Aug. 2–16**.

JOIN THE ASOF TEAM — Help is needed in many ways for September's **Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival**. This nationally recognized event promotes both spiritual awareness and artistic achievement in the lives and work of gifted young organ students across the country. **Needs include drivers and housing** (for contestants and judges), on-site help, advance work, etc. Whether you are an organizer or simply want to find a specific need you can fill, your efforts will be enormously appreciated. Please call **Dave Gilbert**, Assistant in Music and the Arts, at 529-1575, ext. 209.

THE ALBERT SCHWEITZER ORGAN FESTIVAL WEEKEND will be **September 11–13**. Each year, the Festival features a national competition for young organ students, with winners receiving awards to further their music education. On **Friday, September 11, a Festival Concert** will be presented at 7:30 p.m., featuring the weekend's world-renowned judges: **John Weaver, Wilma Jensen and Frederick Hohman**. On **Saturday**, the six finalists will compete, and on **Sunday afternoon**, the judges will offer a rare, combined masterclass. Please watch for full details and be sure to visit www.firstchurch.org/ASOF.

Singles Ministries

Herbert Symmes, Ministry Leader / 529-5250 / herbsymmes@juno.com

Betty Trani, Administrative Assistant / 529-1575, ext. 212 / bettyt@firstchurch.org

AFFIRM SINGLES provides opportunities for single adults to meet together in a welcoming and accepting environment for fun, fellowship, spiritual growth, learning and service. A variety of programs are planned including worship, talks followed by small-group discussion, and evenings featuring music and fun. Details can be found in the **AFFIRM Singles** newsletter, or visit www.firstchurch.org/singles. Meetings are held on **Friday nights** at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. **Refreshments** (including free pizza) are served. **If you need childcare, call Betty by the Wednesday before the meeting.** Unless otherwise noted, all talks are given by Singles Ministry Leader **Herbert Symmes**.

SUMMER THEMES AND TOPICS FOR FRIDAY NIGHTS

June's Theme: *Being a Winner*

June 5..... *What Makes a Person Beautiful?*
June 12..... *The Most Beautiful Person I Know*
June 19..... *The Beauty and the Beast Within*
June 26..... *"Beginning of Summer" Dance*

July's Theme: *Taking Care of Yourself*

July 3 *Building Closed; No Singles*
July 10 *Being a Friend to Myself*
July 17 ... *Commitment to Self Improvement*
July 24. *Giving Up the Self Destructive Stuff*
July 31 *Fun Night!*

Aug.: *Taking Time for Encouragement*

August 7 *A Second Chance*
August 14 *Humor - It's Not Just for Fun*
August 21 *Compassionate Connections to Self*
August 28 *Fun Night!*

Sept.: *Improving Relationships*

Sept. 4 *Investment in Creative Energy*
Sept. 11... *Balance of Closeness & Distance*
Sept. 18 *A Relationship Tune-Up*
Sept. 25 *Fun Night!*

DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP meets on **Friday nights** at 6:30 p.m in Conference Room 1. Newcomers are always welcome. You will find a helpful and supportive environment here. For more information, call **Betty** at 529-1575, ext. 212.

DIVORCE RECOVERY SEMINAR — **NEW HOPE/NEW BEGINNINGS** will be the theme of our seminar weekend scheduled for **September 25-26** at our church. Detailed registration brochures are available in the Wells Area and on our website. If you have questions, call **Betty** at 529-1575, ext. 212.

Church Library

The Mildred Edwards Jones Library and Resource Center
Linda Papertsian, Coordinator / 257-7566

THE CHURCH LIBRARY features a wide selection of books, magazines, videos, audio tapes and CDs, including Christian music and books-on-tape. The library also includes an inviting children's room with a large collection of books and videos. Located in the Marsh Building (last room on the right, heading toward the Parlor), the library is open and staffed on **Sunday mornings** following each service.

Missions & Christian Outreach

Dana Crompton, Outreach & Missions Chair / 635-1530 / dcrompton@sbcglobal.net
Betty Trani, Administrative Assistant / 529-1575, ext. 212 / bettyt@firstchurch.org

OUTREACH GIFT SHOP is open in between services on **Sundays during the summer, from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.**. Stop by and visit the shop located in the Marsh Building, first door on the left as you walk from the Meetinghouse.

SUMMER MISSION TRIPS — Two groups of First Church members are going on mission trips this summer. Please pray for them. The group going to the **Dominican Republic** will be there **July 3–11**. Daily updates and pictures will be posted at www.firstchurch.org. And the youth workcamp is in **Groton, Connecticut, July 19–25**. If you would like to send an e-mail to someone going on this trip, go to www.groupworkcamps.com and select "E-mail a Camper" from the "Quick Links" section on the right-hand side.

WETHERSFIELD FOOD BANK is always in need of donations! You may place monetary donations in the Offering plate on **Sundays** (check made payable to First Church with the memo, "Food Bank"), or leave any donations of non-perishable food items with the church receptionist. For more info, call **Howard Page**, 563-3275.

SOUTH PARK INN — Volunteers are always needed to help cook and serve a meal at this homeless shelter in Hartford. If you (and possibly your family, friends or growth group) would like to help out on occasion, please contact **Amy Yawin** at 747-2101 or mebeany@sbcglobal.net, or **Paul McCann** at 523-8797 or pcann@sbcglobal.net.

Opportunities to Serve

SUMMER CHURCH SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS are needed. Our wonderful teachers and assistants have done a terrific job this year teaching and caring for our children on Sundays. They are taking a much deserved break this summer! As you make your summer plans, won't you consider helping out on one or more Sundays this summer? Church School can't happen without you! Please call Children's Ministries at 529-1575, ext 208, or sign up on the board located in the Wells Fellowship Area.

VISITORS NEEDED — Would you like to be a regular visitor to a homebound member or to members in nursing homes? Caring Ministries can match you up with someone to visit at least once a month. Please call 529-1575, ext. 210.

USHERS NEEDED FOR SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES — Members are needed to replenish usher teams. Join a team to usher **once a month** at the morning service you normally attend. Indicate your interest to serve in the ***Friendship Register*** or contact **Nancy Ryszkiewicz** (nancy.ryszkiewicz@cox.net) to join an usher team and provide this important service to our church family.

CAMP NOAH! Hartford City Mission offers this fun, Bible-based, half-day camp for elementary-aged children in the North End of Hartford, and meets from **June 15–August 6, Monday–Friday, 1:00–4:30 p.m.** There are three volunteer opportunities for adults or teens: pick a day a week or one full week to come and help with a small group of kids; volunteer one afternoon to share your special talent (gardening, sign language, music, art, dance, fitness, etc.); or be a driver for our Friday field trips. For more info, contact **Amy Jarvis** at 246-1032 or amyj@hartfordcitymission.org.

SHARE THE GIFT OF HOSPITALITY — Help First Church continue to be a welcoming, hospitable community. There are many areas in which you can serve, including Greeters, Coffee Hour, Receptions and Special Events. We also need volunteers to mentor and welcome our new members. If you'd like to volunteer, contact **Joyce Senn** at JSSSSSS@aol.com or 721-0341.

MERCY MEALS — Like to cook? Willing to purchase a meal once a year? There is always a need for providers of meals for members coming home from the hospital or rehab facilities or just going through difficult times. Monthly callers to coordinate meals are also needed. Please call **Caring Ministries** at 529-1575, ext. 210.

MEALS ON WHEELS needs drivers in the Wethersfield area. If you could give a couple hours of your time, just one day a month, call **Tom Wraight**, 529-8146.

PRISON MINISTRIES — Alpha Prison Ministry meets on **Mondays and/or Thursdays**, to minister to inmates at Cheshire and Webster Correctional Institutions in Cheshire, Osborn Correctional Institution and Willard-Cybulski Institution in Somers, Robinson Correctional Institution in Enfield and Manson Youth Institution in Cheshire. Good News Prison Ministry also meets every other Sunday at the Manson Youth Institution in Cheshire. Group leaders and helpers are needed. For more information, please call **Larry Mayer**, 529-7454.

Prayer Ministries

PRAYER REQUESTS: **Caring Ministries, 529-1575, ext. 210 • Betty Metcalf, 632-2024**
We believe God sustains and grows us through prayer. For this reason, our church and its ministries are bathed in prayer every day of the week. Here are a few other prayer opportunities:

PRAYER AFTER SERVICES — Prayer teams are available in the Chapel after the 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. services on **Sundays**. If you have any prayer needs, please go to the Chapel where trained ministry teams will be happy to pray for you in private. If the prayer ministers are delayed arriving in the Chapel, or if there is a long line, feel free to ask one of the Pastors for help. **Note:** No program after services on **July 5**.

ELEOS is a Greek word which means mercy and compassion. Jesus was often moved by compassion to pray for others. **Eleos** is a time where you will receive one-on-one prayer for thirty minutes. Led by **Kristen Lathrop**, PsyD and members of the Prayer Team, this group will meet **7/21, 8/4, and 8/18 at 7:00 p.m.**—by appointment only—**to schedule an appointment**, please call **Betty Trani** at 529-1575, ext. 212.

DIAL-A-MESSAGE (529-1785) is our telephone ministry of daily devotional messages. If you know of someone who needs encouragement, suggest this number.

HEALING PRAYER — Call **Betty Trani**, 529-1575, ext. 212, to make an appointment with the Healing Prayer Team, for in-depth, loving prayer.

TELEPHONE / E-MAIL PRAYER CHAIN — To request a confidential or church-wide prayer or offer a praise report call Caring Ministries at 529-1575, ext. 210; send an e-mail to care@firstchurch.org; or call **Betty Metcalf** at 632-2024. Every day many faithful pray-ers will be interceding for your request. To join the group of pray-ers, call Caring Ministries.

PRAYER REQUESTS/PRAISE REPORTS — Blue forms are found near each Meetinghouse entrance, along with a box for completed forms. Submissions are compiled into the Prayer List (also blue), allowing you to pray for others throughout the week.

PRAYER WALL — The prayers on the Prayer Wall are routinely prayed for and remain current for four weeks. They will be removed from the prayer list after that period, unless you give us an update.

Communications

Laurie Hart, Coordinator / 529-1575, ext. 225 / laurieh@firstchurch.org

Wendy Powell, Webmaster / ext. 224 / wendyp@firstchurch.org

Arlene Eriksen, Bulletin Editor / 529-1575, ext. 211 / arlenee@firstchurch.org

Fax: (860) 721-7861

THE SPIRE, our church newsletter, is published monthly, except during the summer. The next issue will be mailed on **August 26**. If you have something you'd like to submit for that issue, please send it to Laurie Hart **BY AUGUST 14**. Information should be sent to **Laurie Hart**—via e-mail, fax or phone (see above). Photos and stories of Church events are always welcome. This publication is also available on our website. To receive *The Spire* via e-mail instead of hard copy, contact Laurie at 529-1575, ext. 225 or laurieh@firstchurch.org.

FIRST NOTES (this publication) is published at the beginning of each month (except during July and August). If you have information to submit for the edition of *First Notes* which will be distributed in church on **Rally Sunday, September 13**, please contact **Wendy Powell** by **Monday, August 17**. *First Notes* is also available on our website.

NEW PHONE NUMBER OR ADDRESS? Please help us keep our church records up-to-date. If you have recently changed your phone number (home, work or cell), or address (postal or email), please notify **Marilyn Danielson** at 529-1575, ext. 213, or marilynd@firstchurch.org. We also keep records of divorces, deaths, births and marriages.

THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE MEDIA MINISTRY offers CDs and DVDs of our 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. classic services. In addition, copies of the **WIND** service are available on CD. Please order all CDs and DVDs by filling out a small brown *Order Envelope* found in the Friendship Registers or the Connector (\$2 per CD; \$5 per DVD; \$10 for Special Events). For more info, contact **Laurie Hart** at 529-1575, ext. 225 / laurieh@firstchurch.org.

OUR CHURCH WEBSITE contains details about programs, service opportunities, sermons and the many ministries of First Church. Our address is **www.firstchurch.org**. If you have any suggestions for further enhancement or would like to report any website issues, call **Webmaster Wendy Powell** at 529-1575, ext. 224.

PHOTOGRAPHY — Do you enjoy taking pictures? Do you have a good quality digital camera? Occasional help is needed with photographing Baptisms, New Member groups, committees and special events. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, contact **Laurie Hart** at 529-1575, ext. 225.

**GOD HAS CALLED FIRST CHURCH TO BE THE BEST
CONGREGATION HE WANTS US TO BE**

B—Bring people to a saving faith in Jesus Christ and into His First Church.

E—Equip people to be His disciples.

S—Send people out to care and serve in His Name.

T—Trust God Always.

MISSION STATEMENT OF FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

We are called by the Lord Christ to be a model for our time of the finest and most creative in Church life, worship, nurture and outreach; proclaiming a positive, affirming, need-filling faith message; energizing and transforming human lives by the power of the Holy Spirit; and steadily enlarging the body of believers.

VISION STATEMENT OF FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

To be the serving body of Jesus Christ, reflecting His light and love, so that all may personally know Him: the Way, the Truth and the Life.

The First Church of Christ

250 Main Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109-1893 • (860) 529-1575

Summer Office Hours: Monday thru Friday, 8:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.

www.firstchurch.org
Dial-a-Message: 529-1785



24-Hour Message Center
529-1575, extension 210

Dr. J. Jey Deifell Jr. *Senior Minister*
Linda T. Jackson.....*Church Administrator*
Atessa M. Afshar.....*Associate Minister*
T. Michael McDowell.....*Associate Minister*
Donald W. Morgan..... *Minister Emeritus*
David C. Spicer..... *Minister, Music & the Arts*

Laurie Hart*Communications Coordinator*
Joan Hines *Director, Nursery School*
Vicki A. Huffman .. *Director, Children's & Family*
Wayne E. Luman... *Director, Caring Ministries*
Bob Papertian...*Men's Ministries Coordinator*
Todd E. Willard *Director, Youth Ministries*

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Children's/Family Ministries... Ext. 208
Church Administrator..... Ext. 220
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Finance Office Ext. 218
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Seniors Ministries Ext. 212
Singles Ministries..... Ext. 212
Women's Ministries Ext. 211
Youth Ministries Ext. 205