



# FIRST AND SUMMERFIELD CHURCH NEWS

DECEMBER 2010/  
JANUARY 2011

## First and Summerfield United Methodist Church

425 College Street New Haven, CT 06511

Phone: 203-624-2521

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Editor: Mary Ann Fuentes

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### Message from Pastor Sara

*“The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all the people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” Isaiah 40:5*

This is the time of year when we hear powerful words of prophecy every Sunday morning in worship. Then, after we’ve offered our prayers, given our offerings, and sung our favorite carols, we head out into the world around us. It is a world with high unemployment, political turmoil, compulsive consumerism, hungry and homeless men, women, and children, so many people in need, including ourselves, that we find little hope and power in the words of Isaiah, that oh-so-optimistic of Ancient Israelite prophets.

Isaiah, whoever he was,

must have been one of those glass-half-full kind of guys. Somehow, with remarkable consistency, Isaiah looked around at the many people in need in his universe, and spoke about God’s promises being realized and God’s glory revealed for all to see, and God’s saving power at work in all things. Was there unemployment, political turmoil, and social despair in his time? Absolutely! Isaiah (the prophet and the school of prophecy named for him) was active before, during, and after the Babylonian Exile. Those were not good times for the Ancient Israelites.

In those times of great fear and despair and anxiety about the future, God continued to give Isaiah a word of hope for God’s people.

Isaiah wasn’t sugarcoating those tough times. He saw them for what they were. And he had confidence that no matter what happened to him, to his family, and to his people, God’s steadfast love and healing presence were available, if only the Israelites would turn to God and trust.

As we hear the prophecies of old throughout the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany seasons, let’s practice Isaiah’s hermeneutic of trust. Let’s see these tough times for what they are and turn to God for our sustenance, our hope, and our peace. These things will not be revealed to us by politicians or economic security, but only through Emmanuel, God with us.

Peace be with you,  
~ Pastor Sara

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### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Jan 5: Trustees, 6:30pm
- Jan 12: Finance, 7pm, Parlor
- Jan 19: Church Council, 7pm, Parlor



### Snow Cancellations

Winter is upon us again. The snow cancellation policy for FSUMC is as follows:

If the City of New Haven declares a parking ban at the same time as a scheduled church event, the event will be cancelled. This includes Sunday Worship. Even if the parking ban is up at 10am, services will still be cancelled. Please refer to your local radio or television for more details on area weather closings.

### CHURCH OFFICE CHANGES FOR 2011

Friends,

*On December 2nd, we bid adieu to Mary Ann Fuentes, who has been our Business Manager for the last year and a half, and the church Office Manager for two years before that. She was offered an opportunity at another position and could not keep this job as well. She has served in a difficult job during a key time of transition, and we appreciate everything she has done to help this along. If you have a chance, please show her your appreciation before her last day. She and her family have been invited to join us for the Christmas Dinner on Dec. 19, too, for more goodbyes. Thank you for your service with us, Mary Ann.*

*After much work and talking with many different applicants with background in bookkeeping and organization, we are very excited to announce that we have offered the position to Gina Reed and she has accepted. She came with a sterling personal recommendation from Michael Doheny, our custodian, and she will be starting officially on November 30th. Her schedule will be Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10-3 and Thursday from 3-5. Please give Gina our warmest welcome as she joins our ministry team.*

~ Michael Sullivan, SPPR Chair 2009-2010

### Welcome Gina Reed

Gina Reed, our new business manager, was born in New Haven and grew up in Orange. She’s a single mom of three children; her oldest daughter is 17, her son who is almost 15 and her youngest daughter is 9. Gina says, “My children are my world.” Gina also enjoys gardening, working on her house and music. Gina works part-time at a security firm as bookkeeper, and runs her own business from home, too. Come get to know Gina as she begins working at FSUMC as our part-time business manager.

## Year End Mission Giving

At the November 16th meeting of the Church Council, it was decided to disburse the dividend income from Essie Pitts Fund to the following organizations: \$500 DIMCHEX; \$250 Interfaith Cooperative Ministries; \$250 Bishop's Partners in Mission. Thanks for supporting these ministries!

## Thank You

The Sunday school children collected \$51 for UNICEF this year. They are thankful to family, church members and neighbors for their generosity in helping kids around the world...—Lisa Brandes

## With Gratitude

Dear FSUMC friends:

Thank you for volunteering to supply your time and effort to the community Thanksgiving feast put on by Interfaith Cooperative Ministries. D.E.S.K. received overwhelming voluntary support. Please remember that D.E.S.K. serves YEAR ROUND, and as surprising as it seems, their busiest times are spring and summer, when the overflow shelters close & they double the numbers that are served.

Please know that your voluntary efforts and donations are welcome all year long. Your continued support is appreciated.

~ Submitted by Scott McLean and Ed Dobihal



*Thanks to all of you who supported the Innisbrook Wrapping Paper Fundraiser this year. The orders are in! Pick up your order from Bob on Sundays. If you have any questions, please contact Bob La-*

*Camera.*

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to Laurel and Frank Callens on the birth of their daughter, Janae. Janae was born on October 28th, and although she was a little early, she and Laurel are doing very well.

## Our Sympathies

*We extend our sympathies to Kate and Tom Tinghitella on the death of Tom's mother, Elena Tinghitella, on Sunday, November 21, 2010. A funeral mass was held on Wednesday, November 24th. Elena had been dealing with a long illness. She was surrounded by family when she died. Please keep Tom and Kate and their family in your prayers as they mourn their loss.*

## ADVENT: SAVE THESE DATES

Tuesdays, starting Dec. 7, 7pm, prayer and music meditation in the Sanctuary. A simple service of music, scripture, and prayer to give our spirits a rest and to make room for the coming of the Christ Child.



Sat. Dec 4th: Journey to Bethlehem: Walking the Labyrinth, a workshop. 10am-2pm, Sanctuary and Trinity Hall, with Labyrinth facilitator Dr. J. Elizabeth Clark. Lunch will be provided. A freewill offering will be received.



Sun. Dec. 5th, 11:30am "Healthy: Holisitic Approaches to well-being in body, mind, and spirit," a special event for seniors, sponsored by Whitney Center community outreach. Refreshments will be provided in the Parlor.



Sat. Dec. 11th, 3pm Blue Christmas worship service, to provide comfort and solace for those of us who are feeling blue at the holiday season. Special music will accompany this healing service.

Sun. Dec. 19th, "A Jesse Tree" Christmas Pageant & the Annual UMM Christmas Dinner, after worship in Trinity Hall. 1pm Christmas Caroling, Sister Grimes Nursing Home, 1354 Chapel Street.



Fri. Dec. 24th Christmas Eve midday prayer service, 12pm.

Sat. Dec. 25th Church office is closed.

Sun. Dec. 26th Center Church UCC joins us for 10am worship.

Sun. Jan. 2, 2011 Epiphany Sunday, 10am, with Holy Communion

Sun. Jan. 9, 2011 Second Sunday of Epiphany, 10am. 11:30am, join the members of Church Council for a Congregational Conversation about marriage equality in the United Methodist Church. We've been invited to sign the Methodists In New Directions Covenant of Conscience on marriage equality. Is FSUMC ready to take the next step in this work for justice? Come be a part of the conversation.

Sun. Jan. 16, 2011 Third Sunday of Epiphany and Dr. King Sunday, 10am. We'll celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King in our worship together.

## Spiritual Gifts Inventory

In 2011, a new spiritual growth opportunity is going to be offered, thanks to our certified lay speaker, Maggie Carr.

Maggie has offered to lead a 3-week "Spiritual Gifts Inventory" study for January or early February, most likely on a weeknight.



Maggie has found great value in this spiritual gifts inventory and is looking forward to sharing this tool with all of us at FSUMC. Details coming in January.

### PEACE VIGIL ANNUAL LUNCHEON

On Monday, Dec 20<sup>th</sup>, the Peace Vigil participants will meet for their annual end-of-the year thank you lunch at Wall Street Pizza, immediately after Peace Vigil. Please RSVP to Pastor Sara if you are able to attend. Lunch is offered in thanks to our faithful Peace Vigil participants who witness for peace every Monday. Thanks for praying!  
~ Pastor Sara

### Mitten Tree



**Mitten Tree:** If you'd like to donate hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves for those in need, please bring them to hang on the Mitten Tree. Items will be delivered to Christian Community Action during the week of December 20th.

### Homeless Shelter Training - "ABRAHAM'S TENT"

A kick-off meeting for Abraham's Tent is planned for Monday, Dec. 6, 2010. Talk to Ad Tucker if you'd like to go, or if you'd like more info about this project. A training will be provided by Columbus House the week before we host the overflow shelter at FSUMC. Remember to save the week, February 14-20, 2011, when we host our homeless brothers each night with a meal and a safe place to sleep. Nancy Davis is coordinating the overnight volunteers; Ad Tucker is coordinating the nightly meals, lunches, and clean-up crews. We'll need to set up Trinity Hall on Sunday, Feb. 13, after worship, so if you can do some heavy lifting, please save that date. Last year went very well. We look forward to another great week helping our neighbors.

## THIS OLD HOUSE OF WORSHIP

Interfaith Cooperative Ministries, Inc., has invited area congregations to be a part of a program called "This Old House of Worship," a program of the Interfaith Eco-Justice Network of CT. The program includes 15 hours of training, held in 5 three-hour sessions. Each session is held at the participating congregations. Up to 3 people can represent each congregation. I will be attending. Would two more people like to join me? We will learn how to perform an energy audit of our building, learn from the site reviews of the other congregations as well, and receive practical and affordable recommendations to improve energy efficiency and reduce utility costs. This program usually costs about \$2500, but it is being presented for a limited time FOR FREE!!! What a great deal! And a great way for FSUMC to be energy-conscious and live out our commitment to good environmental stewardship. Please talk to Pastor Sara if you'd like to be a part of this. The meeting schedule is below. All sessions are 6pm -9pm.

**Session 1, Dec. 13:** All energy, Church of the Holy Spirit 28 Church Street, West Haven 203 934 3437

**Session 2, Dec. 20:** Space & water heating - Here at FSUMC

**Session 3, Jan 1, 2011:** Lighting & Appliances, Mt. Avery Baptist Church 73 Frank Street, Bridgeport 203 334 2757

**Session 4, Jan. 10:** Building envelope, Church of the Redeemer 185 Cold Spring Street, New Haven 203 787 5711

**Session 5, Jan 17:** All energy, TBA

## CHRISTMAS DINNER



(please tear off and put in offering plate)

Following worship on **December 19th**, the men of the church are preparing their special Christmas dinner (turkey, ham and all the trimmings are planned).

If you plan to attend, reservations are needed in the church office by noon on **December 13<sup>th</sup>**.

The cost is \$8 for adults; \$4 for children ages 10-14; \$2 for children under 10.

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

# of adults: \_\_\_\_\_ # children 10-14: \_\_\_\_\_

# children under 10: \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount due \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amount paid: \_\_\_\_\_

The **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Sengbe Pieh Community Service Awards** are being planned for March 27, 2011. Nominations forms are now available from the church office and from the back table in the sanctuary. Nominations are due January 15, 2011. Next meetings Dec. 9th and Jan. 6th, 6:30pm, Parlor.

# Year End Giving to FSUMC

**Alternate Gifts to the Church: Make a donation in honor/memory of loved ones.** Your name will be listed appropriately along with the persons you are honoring/remembering in the 4th Sunday in Advent bulletin. Orders may be placed in the offering plate or sent to the church office. You can make donations to the Larry Anderson Camp & Conference Scholarship Fund or give an Annual Christmas Gift to FSUMC, see below.

You can make a donation to the Larry Anderson Camp & Conference Scholarship Fund, to help send FSUMC youth to conferences and retreats. Please address your check to FSUMC with "Anderson Fund" in the memo.

## DONATION TO ANDERSON FUND

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amt Paid: \_\_\_\_\_  
 In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
 In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GIFT TO FSUMC:** Donations in honor of the Christ Child will be directed to the current expenses of the Church. Please address your check to FSUMC and you can use the Christmas giving envelope, when provided.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amt Paid: \_\_\_\_\_  
 In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
 In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

## CHRISTMAS DINNER



(please tear off and return to church office)


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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 # of adults: \_\_\_\_\_ # children 10-14: \_\_\_\_\_  
 # children under 10: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total amount due \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amount paid: \_\_\_\_\_

**Human Relations Day-January 16th, 2011** This January, participate in the Human Relations Day special Sunday offering. This offering, begun in 1972, supports Community Developers Program, related to the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM); United Methodist Voluntary Services Program, GBGM; and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program, General Board of Church and Society. Human Relations Day calls the Church to recognize the right of all God's children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with each other. Contributions strengthen United Methodist outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico and encourage social justice and work with at-risk youth.



## Christmas Poinsettias



We're still waiting on information about Christmas plants, so as soon as we have the information, we'll provide it in the Sunday announcements. Thanks for your patience.

— Altar Guild

Bob Hancock invites you to:

The Heritage Chorale  
 Of New Haven, Inc.


## Christmas Concert

December 12, 2010 5:00pm  
 Bethel A.M.E. Church  
 255 Goffe Street New Haven, CT

Tickets are \$15.00 for adults  
 Children 12 and under \$6.00



*For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6*



Greater New Haven Celiac Group presents  
**"AN AFTER HOURS WARDROBE PARTY"**  
 At Coldwater Creek, Milford Marketplace, 1660 Boston Post Rd. Milford, CT ~ December 5th \* 6-830pm.

Fashion show, Gluten-free refreshments, substantial discounts.  
 Reservations required-Limited Seating  
 \$10 Donation for Reservations. Send your name, address, number of reservations and payment to: GHHCG, att: Susan Walker, 145 Winslow Dr., West Haven, CT 06516 by Dec. 2nd, 2010.

**UM STUDENT DAY OFFERING**  
 \$223.10 as of November 29th  
*Thanks for your generosity!*

## FSUMC 2011 Lay Leadership Report

### CHURCH COUNCIL

Chair	Edwin Selden
Vice Chair	Wanda Harris
Secretary	Kate Tinghitella
Membership Secretary	Business Manager
Lay Leader	Robert Hancock
Member of the Annual Conference	Wanda Harris
Alternate	Marion Sachdeva
SPPR Chair	Crew Smith
Finance Committee Chair	TBA
Intern's Committee Chair	Adeline Tucker
Membership & Evangelism Chair	Gabrielle Pianka
Treasurer (Current Expense/In&Out)	Business Manager
Financial Secretary	Melissa Bryan
Altar Guild	Lisa Brandes
Head Usher	Dru Cherry
Women's Forum	Elected by Women's Forum
United Methodist Men	Elected by UMM
Youth Leader	Gabrielle Pianka
Sunday School Team Representative	Katie Salisbury
Lay Leadership Committee	Pastor Sara
Trustees President	Elected by Trustees
Trustees Treasurer	Elected by Trustees
Pastor	Sara Lamar-Sterling
<b>Ex-Officio:</b>	
Director of Music	Bob Girard

Sunday Hospitality teams, Church Website, and Ushers are under the guidance of the Membership & Evangelism committee. The work of Communications is carried out by committee chairperson, Membership & Evangelism and by Church Staff, depending on the nature of the communication.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE: Chair, TBA

Treasurer – Business Manager	
Financial Secretary – Melissa Bryan	Lay Leader – Bob Hancock
Council Chair – Edwin Selden	Council Vice-Chair – Wanda Harris
Member of the Annual Conference – Wanda Harris	SPPR Chair – Crew Smith
President of Trustees – Elected by Trustees	

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Officers elected by Board

<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
Lynford Russell	Eloise Rentz	Denyse Burke
Chris Lamar-Sterling	Wanda Harris	Kirk Baird
Kate Tinghitella	Bob Hancock	

### MEMBERSHIP & EVANGELISM: Chair, Gabrielle Pianka

<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
Eloise Rentz	<b>Gabby Pianka</b>	<b>Gerry Rowley</b>
Deb Selden	<b>Betty Anderson</b>	<b>Tamba Ensah</b>
Scott McLean		

### STAFF PASTOR-PARISH RELATIONS: Chair, Crew Smith

<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
Bob Hancock	Marion Sachdeva	Ken Borst
George Rose	Crew Smith	Sandra Baird
Bob LaCamera		

### LAY LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE: Chair, Pastor

<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
Bob Hancock	John Carr	Bob LaCamera
Betty Anderson	Gabby Pianka	Deb Selden

### YALE DIVINITY SCHOOL INTERNS COMMITTEE: Chair, Ad Tucker

<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
Shirley Dobihal	John Carr	<b>Margery Dodge</b>
Deb Selden	Denny Burke	
Sandra Baird		

### Altar Guild, Chair: Lisa Brandes (2011)

<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	
Bob LaCamera	Rosalie Abouo	United Methodist Men
	Maggie Carr	Scott McLean—President
	Sandra Baird	Bob Hancock—Vice President
		Secretary—Chris Lamar-Sterling
		Treasurer—TBA

Social Justice Team Coordinator: Ad Tucker  
 Stitch & Pray Coordinator: Marion Sachdeva

2011 FSUMC Church Directory is available to church members electronically. If you haven't received your copy or need to request a printed version, please contact the church office. If you find that there are any changes necessary, please let us know.

## Leadership Transitions, 2010-2011: from the Lay Leadership Committee

At Charge Conference on November 30, 2010, our congregation gave thanks for our laity who have served in various ways and elected new leadership to carry our mission forward. Please see the Lay Leadership Committee Nominations report reprinted in this newsletter so you know who serves in what role, including the membership of standing committees.

We want to offer a word of thanks to some of our key leaders who have just finished their terms of service (as of December 31, 2010). Michael Sullivan has finished a term with Staff Parish Relations Committee as the Chair. We are thankful for his insight and guidance in the personnel needs of our congregation, thank you Michael. Maggie Carr has finished a term as Finance Committee Chair, a role that she found very inspiring and meaningful. Why? Just ask her and find out! Thank you, Maggie, for your dedication and patience in the work of our financial ministries. Rev. Kristen Dunn has finished a term as our financial secretary. We are so thankful to Kristen for establishing our volunteer counting teams (who do great work every Sunday!) and for drafting our financial policy document. Thank you for your hard work on FSUMC's behalf., Kristen Lastly, Mike Clarke, who has served faithfully for many, many years on the Board of Trustees, has finished his term this year. It will be a big adjustment for the Trustees to work without his knowledge and guidance, especially as the Treasurer of the Trustees. Thank you, Mike, for all that you have done for FSUMC through the ministry of the Trustees. We are filled with gratitude!

As these folks transition out of their roles, new folks step into leadership, starting January 1, 2011. Crew Smith will be chairing the Staff Parish Relations Committee. Melissa Bryan will be our new financial secretary. And Finance? Well, we're still praying for our next chairperson to come forward, but we know you're out there somewhere! The Board of Trustees elects its own officers in January, as required by the Book of Discipline, so we'll announce that information soon after the January 5<sup>th</sup> Trustee meeting. Please see the Lay Leadership Nominations Report for a full listing of all the committees, team ministries, chairpersons, and coordinators. And thank you, all, for taking on this important work of making disciples of Jesus Christ!

For new committee members, please come to Mary Taylor UMC, Milford, on January 23, 3-5pm for a District Resourcing day. Find out about great resources to help with the mission and ministry of our church. ~ Pastor Sara and the Lay Leadership Committee

### Faith Nurture Opportunities This Winter 2010-2011

Come feed your soul this Advent through Epiphany with these faith nurture opportunities at FSUMC.



In Advent, we'll hold our second annual Labyrinth Retreat: Journey to Bethlehem on Dec. 4, from 10am to 2pm, with lunch provided. We'll walk a Chartres-patterned labyrinth, loaned to us from Yale Chaplain's Office and explore other ways to reflect on what the Spirit is saying to us this Advent. A freewill offering will be received. Dr. Liz Clark will lead our retreat day. Invite your friends, this event is open to

the broader community, students, faculty, seniors and youth.

On Tuesday evenings in Advent, starting Dec. 7th, at 7pm, we'll have a simple prayer service, incorporating some of traditional seasonal music, scripture readings, and focused prayer time. Gather in the Sanctuary (wear warm layers) and prepare for the coming of the Christ Child by candlelight. All are welcome. The prayer service will last 45 minutes to an hour.



## DISCIPLE

INTO THE WORD  
INTO THE WORLD

Are you looking for a long-term Bible Study opportunity with others who are interested in a disciplined approach to scripture? Then "Disciple II: Into the Word, Into the World" is the Bible study for you. The program, developed by Bishop Richard Wilke, includes video presentations by biblical scholars to supplement and inform the weekly group conversations. The study is 32 weeks long, although we may abbreviate it a bit more. We'd start in February and continue through the spring, with a summer break, and resume in August with a completion time of November 2011. The group would most likely meet on Tuesdays from 7pm to 9pm. Disciple II covers a detailed reading of Genesis and Exodus, and Luke and Acts of the Apostles--great books for a meaningful study. Each participant purchases a study guide, approximately \$35, from Cokesbury publishing.

If this long-term Bible study won't work for your schedule, fear not! Short-term studies are also being planned for Sundays after worship. These will be 4- to 8-week studies on a variety of topics and themes.

Do you have ideas or suggestions? Would you like to lead or co-lead a study? Talk to Pastor Sara. Let's all consider ways to feed our spirits beyond Sunday morning worship and get involved in one of these faith nurture programs.

~ Pastor Sara

**May you and your loved ones be blessed  
this holiday season.**

First & Summerfield United Methodist Church

## A letter from Bishop Park

November 18, 2010

Dear United Methodists of the New York Annual Conference:

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Redeemer, the Prince of shalom, Healer of our brokenness, and Hope of the world!

In response to the escalation of acts of violence around the world and in the United States, the Council of Bishops, at its most recent meeting in early November in Panama City, Panama, has adopted a statement, which contains these words: "We as people of faith are charged to build the beloved community because Christ has broken down the dividing walls and ended the hostilities between us. Yet we continue to build walls in the church and in the world, which separate us and cause our hearts to grieve... In the United States, there has been an escalation of violence, related to race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and religious preference. This escalation included personal attacks, bullying and vicious and criminal acts of violence to the mind, body and spirit of persons. These actions diminish life for the victims, the perpetrators, and the total community. They are ultimately insidious and irreverent attacks on the sacredness of God given life."

Sadly, there is a trickle down of hate in our land. Our sharply divided political, cultural, and religious landscape, where hate-filled diatribes often substitute for civil and intelligent discussion of our differences, only encourages intolerance and contributes to the spread of hate-driven acts that we are witnessing. The reports in the news about the bullying of gay persons leading to their suicide and the torturing of three gay men in the Bronx are only but a few recent examples of the countless tragic consequences of hate and intolerance.

Nothing done out of hate and intolerance has any place in our society, let alone in our church. The gospel of Jesus Christ cannot accept or condone either the thought or the deed. Long before hateful thoughts become the hateful words that become hateful deeds, the church must shout from the mountain tops: "Our God says 'no!'" With no uncertain terms, let the world know that hate crime is a crime against our God who created all people in God's own image.

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you to offer prayers for all who have been victimized by hateful actions. I urge you to do whatever you can to stop the evils of bullying and hate crimes. Do whatever you can to give witness to the vision of the beloved community of hope, where all people are embraced as persons of sacred worth, affirmed for who they are and treated with respect and dignity.

The statement by the Council of Bishops starts with these words: "We the bishops of The United Methodist Church are compelled to pledge ourselves and to issue a call to the whole church for a renewed commitment to truly be the beloved community of Christ... We commit to speak the truth in love in public and private discourse, to act with compassion, and to work for peace and justice in the world." And it ends with these words: "It is incumbent upon the bearers of this vision of a beloved community to do whatever we can today to hasten the day of a just world with peace. This is our hope, our prayer and our commitment."

Affirming it as my personal hope, my personal prayer, and my personal commitment, I repeat the famous words attributed to the reformer, Martin Luther: "Here I stand, I can do no other. God help me." Will you?

With you in Christ's Ministry, *Jeremiah J. Park*

## 30th Annual NYAC Men's Retreat

~ Bob Hancock

The NYAC representatives to the 2005 quadrennial meeting of United State's Methodist at Perdue University was decidedly small. The work of individual men of the churches in the NYAC is well known. However, as a formal group the numbers seem always to be small. FSUMC has tried over the last two years to increase the number of organized men. As a part of that effort, FSUMC decided to send one or more men to the NYAC annual retreat at Stony Point, NY.

As an aside, it seems as though any UMC event in the vicinity of New York City requires my getting lost. Attending this retreat was no different! I by-passed the George Washington Bridge on a number of occasions while trying to drop my wife off at my daughter's apartment. There were 15 men attending the Friday October 29th evening session of the program. They had dinner, engaged in hymn singing, and, when I joined, enjoyed a DVD of a Christian comic.

The facilities, while Spartan, were very comfortable. A service, before breakfast, conducted in a chapel with working fire place vainly fighting off the cold of that morning, centered on the Psalm 23. The musician for the retreat, Lajjazz Hooker Jr., had no formal training, rather playing "by ear". But, it was amazing the way he could play the electric piano inspiring the 30 plus men (some with little or no singing ability) attending the Saturday October 30th portion of the retreat to sing as John Wesley directed, "...lustily and with a good courage."

Workshops followed breakfast.

Pastor Noel Chin, District Superintendent of the Metropolitan District offered a workshop on spiritual gifts. He used a survey he contended was quite accurate. I found I had, according to the survey, a gift of understanding tongues. This was very surprising to me, having attended services where people talked in tongues but I had no idea what they were saying.

Pastor Joanne Utley, assigned to the Bridgehampton UMC, offered a workshop in communication techniques. We did not have the one workshop I was most looking forward to, "Starting and Sustaining a Men's Ministry." The pastor presenting the workshop could not attend due to illness. A closing prayer brought the 30th annual Men's Retreat to an end.

I drove into New York (oddly enough with very few problems) to meet my daughter and wife. I spent the remainder of the weekend pondering the 30th annual NYAC men's retreat, hoping that more men from FSUMC will be able to attend next year's retreat, and finding my daughter to be quite the cook.

## What's Happening at First and Summerfield UMC

**SUNDAYS:** Join us every Sunday at 10:00 am for our Weekly Worship Service, with Child Care; Food pantry donations are received for DESK

**MONDAYS:** Pray for Peace at our Peace Vigil held at Noon

**TUESDAYS,** Dec 7th; Jan 4th: 5:30pm Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen, 311 Temple St., 1st Tuesdays

**THURSDAYS:** 7:15pm Choir rehearsal. Ring College Street buzzer to enter

### Dates to Remember

- Sun Nov 28:** Greening of the Church in worship, Altar Guild, Advent preparations, 11:15am
- Sat Dec 4th:** Journey to Bethlehem: Walking the Labyrinth 10am-2pm
- Sun Dec. 5th:** Holistic Living: Conversation for Seniors, 11:30am, Parlor. Refreshments provided.
- Tues Dec 7th:** Advent Prayer & Music Meditation, 7pm, and following Tuesdays
- Sat Dec 11th:** Blue Christmas Worship Service, 3pm
- Sun Dec 12th:** Christmas Caroling at Sister Grimes Nursing Home, 1pm.
- Sun Dec 19th:** "A Jesse Tree" Christmas Pageant and Annual UMM Christmas Dinner, after worship in Trinity Hall
- Fri Dec 24th:** Christmas Eve midday prayer service, 12pm
- Sat Dec 25th:** MERRY CHRISTMAS!
- Sun Dec 26th:** Center Church UCC joins us for 10am worship, Rev. Sandra Olsen preaching
- Sun Jan 2nd:** Epiphany Sunday
- Wed Jan 5th:** Trustees Meeting, 6:30pm
- Sun. Jan 9th:** Congregational Conversation: Marriage Equality and FSUMC, 11:30am, Parlor
- Wed Jan 12th:** Finance Meeting, 7pm, Parlor
- Sun Jan 16th:** Human Relations Day, Worship Service, 10am
- Wed Jan 19th:** Church Council Meeting, 7pm, Parlor
- Sun Jan 23rd:** District Resourcing Day, 3-5pm, Mary Taylor UMC, Milfor



*FSUMC: An inclusive,  
diverse, and reconciling  
congregation.*



January  
Special Offering:

**HUMAN  
RELATIONS  
DAY, Jan. 16th**

The FSUMC Monthly Newsletter is now delivered via e-mail. The newsletter is also available at [www.fsumc.org](http://www.fsumc.org) under the NEWS link. The February 2011 newsletter deadline is January 18th. Send all submissions or requests to be put on our E-letter to [fsmethodist@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fsmethodist@sbcglobal.net), or contact our office at 203-624-2521.