



# FIRST AND SUMMERFIELD CHURCH NEWS

DECEMBER 2009/  
JANUARY 2010

## First and Summerfield United Methodist Church

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### Message from Pastor Sara

“Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” Matthew 2:11.



According to the Nativity story in the gospel of Matthew, Magi (astrologers) travel far, following a star, evading the evil King Herod, to worship the Christ Child in Bethlehem. They bring with them gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, gifts fit for a king. These valuable treasures were not easily found in 1<sup>st</sup> century Judea nor were they usually in the possession of humble Jewish peasants from Palestine. These are extravagant gifts.

We’ve become consumed by extravagant gift-giving at Christmas here in the US, as we spend millions of dollars, plunge further in to debt, and still feel empty on December 25th. That’s not the example the Magi were setting for us, though. Perhaps the most faithful way to celebrate Christmas this year is to rethink how we spend our time and our money.

Consider spending your time in worship and medita-

tion this holy season. Take part in some of the worship opportunities planned, not only on Sundays, but our study of Luke’s nativity on Mondays, the Labyrinth retreat day, or the Blue Christmas worship service. From these inspiring faith nurture opportunities, may we all be filled with joy and peace. Then let’s spread that Christmas joy in new ways.

Consider alternative giving. Exchange fairly traded gifts from Ten Thousand Villages ([www.tenthousandvillages.com](http://www.tenthousandvillages.com)) or Equal Exchange ([www.equalexchange.coop](http://www.equalexchange.coop)). Give the gift of life-sustaining livestock through Heifer Project International ([heifer.org](http://heifer.org)) or SERRV International ([www.serrv.org](http://www.serrv.org)). Make a donation to the United Methodist Committee on Relief to aid the people of the Philippines after four typhoons have caused flooding and landslides,

leaving 1000 people dead and many more at serious risk due to related health concerns ([umcappeal.org](http://umcappeal.org)). Give gifts that change people’s lives, gifts such as clean water, access to education and health care, economic stability, affordable housing, or healthy food to eat. Check out [www.adventconspiracy.org](http://www.adventconspiracy.org) for more ideas on spending less and giving more.

This holy season, let’s worship the Christ Child by spending time with God and our loved ones. And let’s share our resources with those who are in need, here in the greater New Haven area or around the globe. However we decide to spend our time and money this Advent-Christmas-Epiphany, let’s put the Christ Child first.

Peace  
Pastor Sara

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

First & Summerfield  
United Methodist Church



### Inside this issue:

Our Church Family	2
Advent Schedule	2
Overflow Shelter Training	3
2010 Leadership Report	5
Calendar	6

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Jan 6: Trustees, 6:30pm, Spies home
- Jan 13: Finance, 7pm, Parlor
- Jan 20: Church Council, 6:30pm, 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.

2010 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.

## Thank You

I would like to say a big thank you to all my friends at First and Summerfield for being so supportive during my recent bout with pneumonia. Your prayers, thoughts, and good wishes have meant so very much. I have especially appreciated the efforts of all who have stepped in and taken care of various church responsibilities that I was unable to handle while I was sick.

May God bless each and every one of you.  
Maggie Carr

## Thanks for Giving

Dear FSUMC friends:

Thank you for volunteering to supply your time and effort to the community Thanksgiving feast put on by Inter-faith 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



*Thanks to all of you who supported the Innisbrook Wrapping Paper Fundraiser this year. If you have any questions, please contact Bob La-Camera.*

## Thank you to Trustees

Just in time for the joyous holiday season! A new piano was delivered to our Sanctuary, courtesy of the Trustees. Thank you for this gift that keeps on giving to our congregation, lifting our spirits in song and worship.



## Finance Committee News

*FSUMC's Finance Committee passed a Finance Committee Policies document, available from the church office, at its last meeting on Nov. 11th. Many thanks to Kristen Dunn for drafting this document and to all the committee members for their careful reflection and input. These guidelines make us compliant with a new recommendation from the 2008 Book of Discipline that all churches establish and publish policy guidelines for financial operations. Well done, FSUMC!*

## ADVENT: SAVE THESE DATES

Mondays, starting Nov 30th, 1pm & 7pm, Luke's Nativity Stories. Pastor Sara will be offering a daytime and an evening spiritual formation opportunity for Advent. Using the spiritual discipline of Lectio Divina, we will be reading the



Nativity stories of the Gospel of Luke for the first 3 weeks of Advent. Gather in the Parlor for prayer, scripture, reflection and fellowship on Mondays this Advent.

Sat. Dec 5th: 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.



Sat. Dec. 12th, 3pm Blue Christmas worship service, to provide comfort and solace for those of us who are feeling blue at the holiday season.



Sun. Dec. 13th, Christmas Caroling at Sister Grimes nursing home; Meet in the nursing home lobby at 1pm.

Sun. Dec. 20th, "A Jesse Tree" Christmas Pageant & the Annual UMM Christmas Dinner, after worship in Trinity Hall.

Thurs. Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols, with Holy Communion, 5pm.



Fri. Dec. 25th Church office is closed.

Sun. Dec. 27th Carol Sing Celebration of Christmas, 10am.

Thurs. Dec. 31st Watch Night. See Maggie's article for more information.

## Trustees Meeting January 6th

The Trustees will meet on Wednesday, Jan 6th at 6:30pm at the Spies' home, 127 Santa Fe Ave, Hamden. All members - new, current, and outgoing, are invited to attend. Food will be served. For more information, contact Wayne or Nancy Spies.

## Peace Vigil Annual Luncheon

On Monday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, the Peace Vigil participants will meet for lunch at Wall Street Pizza, immediately after Peace Vigil. Please RSVP to Pastor Sara. Thanks for praying! ~ Pastor Sara



## BOOK CLUB



The Book Club will meet on Tuesday, January 26, at 6:30pm at Wall Street Pizza to discuss Marilynne Robinson's *Gilead*. Come join the conversation and bring a friend!

## WATCH NIGHT AT FSUMC



Everyone is invited and welcome to participate in our Watch Night festivities and worship on New Year's Eve.

Our evening will begin at 9pm with games and refreshments in Trinity Hall. You are welcome to bring a game and/or some snack food to share during this time of fellowship and fun.

At 11pm we will move to the sanctuary for a service of worship which combines some of the traditions of an African-American watch night service with John Wesley's tradition of a covenant service and communion. Come prepared to sing, pray, share your gratitude for God's grace in 2009, and recommit yourself to serving God in 2010.

We think you will find Watch Night to be an enjoyable and meaningful way to see out the old year and welcome the new. ~ Maggie Carr

## 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 21<sup>st</sup>.

## 4 week Social Principles Study ~ Sadie Stone

The UMC has a long history of concern for social justice and starting January 24<sup>th</sup> we will begin exploring the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church. The social principles are found in the UMC Book of Discipline and, "while not considered church law, are a prayerful and thoughtful effort on the part of the General Conference to speak to the human issues in the world" (Book of Discipline). The issues are expansive and diverse in nature and cover topics such as immigration, abortion, sexuality, environmental issues, and technology just to name a few. Please join me Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, February 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 as we explore and engage just a few of our church's social statements from both biblical and personal perspectives. For more information or questions please feel free to contact me [sadie.stone@yale.edu](mailto:sadie.stone@yale.edu).

## Sengbe Pieh Nominations

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Sengbe Pieh Community Service Awards are being planned for this coming spring 2010. Nominations forms are now available from the church office and from the back table in the sanctuary. Nominations are due January 15, 2010.

## Church Council Members

Church Council Members: Leader training day, Saturday, January 23rd, 10am to 1pm. Snow date is January 30th. Trinity Hall. A light breakfast will be provided at 9:30am. Please be ready for our opening worship at 10am. All chairpersons of committees and team ministry coordinators are expected to attend. If you are unable, please make sure you send a representative from your committee/team to the training. Remember: as a leader, it's your responsibility to find out what happened when you miss a meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend this training day. The Leader Training day will start with FSUMC trivia and continue by covering some basic operating procedures for FSUMC: Safe Sanctuaries, Finance Committee Policy Guidelines, Duties of Committee Chairpersons and Team Ministry Coordinators, what committees/teams we have and what they do, and communication practices.

## CHRISTMAS DINNER



(please tear off and put in offering plate)

Following worship on **December 20th**, 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 \$7.50 for adults; \$4 for children ages 10-14; \$2.50 for children under 10.

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

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

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

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

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

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



An overflow homeless shelter training offered by Columbus House will be held Jan. 7, 2010. More details about "Abraham's Tent" will be coming in December announcements and weekly email reminders. Thanks for your support and your efforts to help those with no place to live. Another training will be provided by Columbus House the week before hosting the overflow shelter at FSUMC. Remember to save the week, March 22-29, 2010, when we host our homeless brothers each night with a meal and a safe place to sleep.

## Safe Sanctuaries

Safe Sanctuaries, a policy for United Methodist Churches to reduce the risk of abuse to children and youth in our church, is in full effect here at FSUMC, thanks to the good work of Trustees and Church Council. Many thanks to our staff and Sunday school volunteers who participated in a training session on November 8th. Background checks have been completed on all volunteers and staff including our Pastor. A list of the basic Safe Sanctuary policies is posted outside Sunday school rooms, and included here for your reference. We hope everyone will be a part of reducing the risk of abuse to children and youth here at FSUMC. As we said in our training meeting, our vision for FSUMC is to be a safe, friendly, welcoming place for children and youth. It's our hope, it's our responsibility, and together we can do it!

### FSUMC's SAFE SANCTUARIES POLICY



- Six month rule: Volunteers must be involved with FSUMC for six months before becoming a church worker with children and youth. An interview with the Pastor is required.
- No leaders under age 18
- Five years older rule: Volunteers must be at least 5 years older than the older child/youth being supervised.
- Two unrelated adults at all times with each group of children or youth
- Windows in all classroom doors or open doors
- Advanced notice to parents will be provided for special trips, events, etc.
- Appropriate equipment and supervision for children and youth activities
- Application forms, participant covenant, background checks, etc., on file by all volunteers and staff, including the Pastor
- Annual orientation/training on the Safe Sanctuaries policy

Our only remaining task is working to fulfill this requirement:

- First aid/CPR training for workers with children/youth.

Have questions? Ask one of the folks who've been trained: all staff and our Sunday school volunteers: Nancy Spies, Modestine Vaughn, Scott McLean, Lisa Branders, Katie Salisbury, Sadie Stone, Daisy Hull. If you'd like a copy of the full text of the Safe Sanctuaries policy, please contact the church office.

~ Pastor Sara


Christmas Poinsettias


Poinsettias will decorate our sanctuary for Christmas week-end through Christmas day. The cost of a 6 inch plant will be **\$11. Orders will be accepted through 1pm on MONDAY, DEC. 14th. Orders MUST be accompanied by payment.** Please fill out the form, below, and write as clearly as possible. As an alternate gift to the church for the holiday season you can contribute to the Larry Anderson Camp Scholarship Fund. Whether you choose the plants or the Anderson Fund, your name will be listed appropriately along with the persons you are honoring/remembering. Orders may be placed in the offering plate or sent to church office. Please address your check to FSUMC with "poinsettias" in the memo.

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# of poinsettias: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to Anderson Fund: \_\_\_\_\_ Amt Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Will pick up after Christmas Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Donate to homebound members: \_\_\_\_\_

## Yale Presbyluthodists' BAYOU SERVICE TRIP JANUARY 2-9, 2010 - Dulac, LA

A Yale Campus Ministry Service Trip to Dulac, LA, is being planned for Jan 2-9, 2009. We will be working on home repairs, staying at the Dulac Community Center of the General Board of Global Ministries, learning about the Houma tribe, and making friends with other Yale Protestants in the process. Pastor Sara will be leading this Yale Campus Ministry team to Dulac.

**Human Relations Day-January 24th, 2010** 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.

## FSUMC 2010 Lay Leadership Report

### CHURCH COUNCIL

Chair	<b>John Carr, Interim</b>
Vice Chair	Wanda Harris
Secretary	<b>Kate Tinghitella</b>
Membership Secretary	Mary Ann Fuentes, Business Manager
Lay Leader	Robert Hancock
Member of the Annual Conference	<b>Wanda Harris</b>
Member of the Annual Conference	Bob Hancock
Alternate	Hazel Pappas
SPPR Chair	Michael Sullivan
Finance Committee Chair	Maggie Carr
Intern's Committee Chair	Adeline Tucker
Membership & Evangelism Chair	<b>TBA</b>
Treasurer (Current Expense/In&Out)	Mary Ann Fuentes, Business Manager
Financial Secretary	Kristen Dunn
Altar Guild	Lisa Brandes
Head Usher	<b>Laurel Lynch</b>
Women's Forum	Elected by Women's Forum
United Methodist Men	Elected by UMM
Youth Leader	Gabby Pianka
Young Adult Representative	Crew Smith
Sunday School Team Representative	Nancy Spies
Lay Leadership Committee	Sara Lamar-Sterling
Trustees President	Elected by Trustees
Trustees Treasurer	Elected by Trustees
Pastor	Sara Lamar-Sterling
<b>Ex-Officio:</b>	
Director of Music	Bob Girard
Seminary Intern	Sadie Stone

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.

<b>At-Large:</b>		
<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
George Rose	Faye Clarke	<b>Ellen Swanson</b>
Margery Dodge		<b>Erik Graham-Smith</b>

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Chair, Maggie Carr  
 Treasurer & Assistant Treasurer – Mary Ann Fuentes, Business Manager  
 Financial Secretary – Kristen Dunn  
 Lay Leader – Bob Hancock  
**Council Chair – John Carr**  
**Member of the Annual Conference – Wanda Harris**  
 SPPR Chair – Michael Sullivan

Council Vice-Chair – Wanda Harris  
 Member of the Annual Conference – Bob Hancock  
 President of Trustees – Elected by Trustees

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES:** Officers elected by Board

<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
Mike Clarke	Lynford Russell	<b>Eloise Rentz</b>
Wayne Spies	Chris Lamar-Sterling	<b>Wanda Harris</b>
Dru Cherry	Kate Tinghitella	<b>Bob Hancock</b>

**MEMBERSHIP & EVANGELISM:** Chair, TBA

<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
Jean Link	Eloise Rentz	<b>Gabby Pianka</b>
George Rose	Deb Selden	<b>Betty Anderson</b>
Kathy Krebsler	Scott McLean	

**STAFF PASTOR-PARISH RELATIONS:** Chair, Michael Sullivan

<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
Michael Sullivan	Bob Hancock, Lay Leader	<b>Marion Sachdeva</b>	<b>George Rose</b>	Bob Hancock,	<b>John Carr</b>
Nancy Davis	<b>George Rose</b>	<b>Crew Smith</b>		Lay Leader	
Ben Yeboah	Bob LaCamera	<b>Marcia Ward</b>	Faye Clarke	Betty Anderson	<b>Gabby Pianka</b>

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

<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
Lisa Brandes	Shirley Dobihal	<b>John Carr</b>
Marion Sachdeva	Deb Selden	<b>Denny Burke</b>
	Sandra Baird	<b>Faye Clarke</b>

## 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 1, 15th; Jan 5 & 19: 5:30pm Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen, 311 Temple St., 1st & 3rd Tuesdays

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

### Dates to Remember

**Mon Nov 30th:** Advent Spiritual Formation, 1pm & 7pm, and following Mondays

**Sat Dec 5th:** Journey to Bethlehem: Walking the Labyrinth 10am-2pm

**Sat Dec 12th:** Blue Christmas Worship Service, 3pm

**Sun Dec 13th:** Christmas Caroling at Sister Grimes Nursing Home, 1pm.

**Sun Dec 20th:** "A Jesse Tree" Christmas Pageant and Annual UMM Christmas Dinner, after worship in Trinity Hall

**Thurs Dec 24th:** Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols, 5pm

**Fri Dec 25th:** MERRY CHRISTMAS!

**Sun Dec 27th:** Carol Sing Celebration of Christmas, 10am

**Mon Dec 28th:** Peace Vigil Annual Lunch, Wall Street Pizza following Peace Vigil

**Thurs Dec 31st:** Watch Night, 9pm Trinity Hall

**Jan 2-9:** Dulac, Louisiana—Yale Campus Ministry service trip, led by Pastor Sara

**Sun Jan 3rd:** Epiphany Sunday

**Wed Jan 6th:** Trustees Meeting, 6:30pm, Spies' Home

**Thurs Jan 7th:** Overflow Homeless Shelter Training. Location and time TBA

**Wed Jan 13th:** Finance Meeting, 7pm, Parlor

**Wed Jan 20th:** Church Council Meeting, 6:30pm, Parlor

**Sat Jan 23rd:** Leadership Training Day for Church Council Members (9:30am light breakfast)10am-1pm, Trinity Hall

**Sun Jan 24th:** Human Relations Day, Worship Service, 10am

**Tues Jan 26th:** Book Club, Wall Street Pizza, 6:30pm, book: "Gilead" - by Marilynne Robinson



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



January  
Special Offering:

**HUMAN  
RELATIONS  
DAY**

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 2010 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.