



FIRST AND SUMMERFIELD CHURCH NEWS

FEBRUARY 2010

First and Summerfield United Methodist Church

425 College Street New Haven, CT 06511

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Three Simple Rules for Lent - Maggie Carr

Surely it is more than coincidence that the last week of 2009 found me reading a little book by Bishop Rubeen Job. The book is called "Three Simple Rules that will Change the World" and it highlights the three rules of our founder, John Wesley: Do no harm. Do good. Stay in love with God.

Bishop Job's book was the basis of my sermon on January 3, when Pastor Sara was leading a mission trip to Dulac. I shared my intention to try to follow John Wesley's three rules as my new year's resolution, and I invited everyone to join me. Now, we are approaching Lent, and Pastor Sara suggested that trying to follow the three rules would be as appropriate a Lenten discipline as it was a new year's resolution. She asked if I would summarize my sermon for this February newsletter.

The first rule is, "do no harm." It is a rule that applies to all our relationships, but Bishop Job paid particular attention to how it applies to members of groups in long-standing conflicts with one another.

He said, "Each of us knows of groups that are locked in conflict.... the conflict is real, the divisions,

deep, and the consequences can often be devastating. If, however, all who are involved can agree to do no harm, the *climate* in which the conflict is going on is immediately changed... If I am to do no harm,

I can no longer *gossip* about the conflict.

I can no longer *speak disparagingly* about those involved in the conflict.

I can no longer *manipulate the facts* of the conflict.

I can no longer *diminish* those who do not agree with me and must honor each as a child of God."

Bishop Job said that by thinking of this rule, he has often been prevented from "uttering a wrong word." He wrote that doing no harm "means I will be on guard so that all my actions and even my silence will not add injury to another of God's children or to any part of God's creation."

The second rule is to do good. Our friend Joe, who prays at the peace vigil on our steps every Monday at noon, told a story about one of his grandsons. I don't think he'd mind me sharing it here. The children in Joe's grandsons' school were at

an assembly where they were asked, "Does anyone know the golden rule?" One of his grandsons said, "I do," and he was called to the front of the room. As soon as he got there he had that experience all of us dread; his mind went blank and he stood there in total silence for an interminably long minute while his brother in the audience began to die a slow death of embarrassment. Finally a light went off in the mind of the brother on the stage and he redeemed himself beautifully by saying, "Treat others the way you want them to treat you." He understood the meaning of the Golden Rule, and this is the essence of the first two of the three Wesleyan Rules. "Do no harm. Do good."

Bishop Job wrote that doing good is a proactive way of living in which we are seeking good for everyone in our life and everyone in God's world. The tens of thousands of people who were affected by the earthquake in Haiti are at the forefront of our thoughts and prayers as this newsletter is being prepared. There will be a tremendous and ongoing need for people to do good as the people of Haiti grieve their losses, seek healing for their

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Feb 8 Interns Committee, 6pm, Parlor
- Feb 25th Sengbe Pich Meeting, 6:30pm, Parlor

A NEW FACE FOR FSUMC!

Watch up our update website at www.fsunc.org!



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.

Welcome New Members

New Members will be received into membership on Sunday, March 7th. If you'd like to become a member of FSUMC, please attend the New Members class on Sunday, February 28th at 11:30am in the Parlor, led by Pastor Sara and the Membership & Evangelism committee. Come find out what membership means in the UMC, learn more about FSUMC, and get to know some new folks, too. Please RSVP to Pastor Sara at revsara@sbcglobal.net.

Black History Month

Planning is underway for the Black History Month celebration at FSUMC. During the month of February special music, Voices and Children's Moments will center on Black History and the contributions of people of African descent. Please, plan to participate in the annual Heritage Luncheon on February 28th, 2010 (details to be announced) and other activities. Note that in celebration of Black History Month, the Women's Forum is attending, as a group, the Heritage Chorale concert in February.

If you have questions please contact the church office. ~
Submitted by Wanda Harris



Women's Forum

Women's Forum is hosting Game night on Saturday, February 6, 2010 from 5:30 - 8:30 in Trinity Hall. Participants are asked to bring games they would like to play and contribute towards the purchase of pizza and soda.

On February 14th, the Women's Forum is planning on attending the Heritage Chorale's Performance of "The Black Church Sings". Please contact Wanda Harris ASAP if you plan to attend so that we may purchase the tickets.

Submitted by Jean Link.

Thank you for the warmth - from CCA

Dear friends of CCA:

Thank you for your donation of three bags of hats, mittens, and scarves to Christian Community Action. By your tax-free donation, you have joined a large group of caring people who have chosen to share a little of their abundance with families that need the emergency services that CCA provides in New Haven.

Your support also helps us continue our mission of providing 'Help, Housing, and Hope' to families that are homeless in New Haven. This includes support for our Hillside Family Shelter, our Stepping Stone Transitional Housing Program, our food pantry and our Advocacy and Education Project located in our Life-works Center. We are very appreciative and grateful for your generosity. Thank you again.

Sincerely, Albert May (Director of Development, CCA)

REDEFINING REMARKABLE

The Saga of Mary and William Scranton

The New Haven Historical Society and the First and Summerfield UMC present:

Redefining Remarkable

The Saga of

Mary and William Scranton

Thursday, Feb 4th at 6:00pm

Presented by Ellen Svea Swanson



Mary and William Scranton were not husband and wife but mother and son – Methodist missionaries – who went to Korea in 1885, and built schools, hospitals, and churches. Today, they are renowned in Korea but unknown back home. Connecticut native Ellen Swanson has been exploring their lives and accomplishments and will take you on a journey that redefines remarkable – a journey from New Haven and New England to Korea and Japan.

TRICK OR TREAT FOR UNICEF

The Sunday School at FSUMC collected for UNICEF this year. Here is a note of thanks sent for their efforts:

"Thank you for making Halloween count by participating in the 2009 Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF campaign. Your gift of \$12.33 to the U.S. Fund for UNICEF that was received ensures that UNICEF will be able to do whatever it takes to save children's lives"

~ Caryl Stern, Pres. & CFO,
US Fund for UNICEF



Men's Sunday - February 7th

It has been along time since the men of First and Summerfield held a Sunday service. That wait comes to an end on February 7th. The men of the church are in the process of developing the service, including a men's choir. If you have not been contacted and are interested in taking part in the service, please contact Bob Hancock at church or at (203) 624-4235.

BOWLING FUN!

Duckpin Bowling Night for Young Adults (ages 18-35) and Youth (13-18), Sunday, February 21, at 6pm.

More details coming soon. Talk to Sadie.stone@yale.edu for more info!



wounds, and look for ways to rebuild their homes and their lives.

Doing good does not necessarily mean that we will be showered with accolades and expressions of gratitude. In fact, he says our “gift of goodness may be rejected, ridiculed, and misused. My desire to do good is in response to God’s invitation to follow Jesus.”

John Wesley’s third rule is to stay in love with God. Without this, it is not really possible to follow the first two rules for very long. Bishop Job says, “Staying in love with God is the foundation to all life. It is in a vital relationship with God that we are enlivened, sustained, guided, called, sent, formed, and transformed.” When we live our lives in love with God, Bishop Job says, our lives will be “transformed by the relationship, and such a transformed life will be a natural channel of God’s goodness, power, and presence in the world.”

How do we stay in love with God? Bishop Job advises us to practice spiritual disciplines like praying, reading scripture, participating in worship with our church community, and sharing in the sacrament of communion. I know people whose relationship with God has been strengthened by weekly fasting and others who keep journals reflecting on their spiritual lives. The spiritual disciplines we follow are highly individual – I imagine that no two of us have exactly the same practices, and I imagine that most, if not all of us, change our practices from time to time.

As we make our plans for Lent, I invite you to join me in renewing my effort to follow the three Wesleyan rules: do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God. Following these rules can be difficult at times, but can open us up to a way of life that will change our world. Like the first disciples, we will sometimes slip up and fall prey to temptation, but Bishop Job reminds us, “The good news is we can rise above our denials of the way of Jesus, receive forgiveness, and begin again our lives of fidelity and faithfulness.”

Thanks be to God. ~ Maggie Carr

Homeless Shelter Training “ABRAHAM’S TENT”

FSUMC is a part of a coalition of New Haven area congregations addressing wintertime homelessness through Columbus House, Inc. Our week to provide a ministry of hospitality is March 22-29. Volunteers are asked to attend a training session on Thursday, March 18th, at 6pm in Trinity Hall, led by Columbus House staff. Ad Tucker, chair of our social justice team, has been coordinating teams to prepare and serve meals each night, provide some clean-up, and overnight hosts. If you would like to be involved, please speak with Ad Tucker, admtucker@yahoo.com; 203-281-4482. Many thanks to Ad for getting us organized! ~ Sara

LENT, LUKE & LECTIO DIVINA

As we walk through the season of Lent together, please consider joining our Tuesday night spiritual nurture program “Lent, Luke, and Lectio Divina” at 7pm starting February 2nd. What is Lent, Luke, and Lectio Divina? It’s a weekly, hour-long, reflection on selected readings from the gospel of Luke during the season of Lent. No prior experience is necessary. It’s a welcoming and insightful time of reflection. Give yourself the gift of an hour every Tuesday night for quiet, reflection, and fellowship. Dates are February 2, 9, 16, 23 and March 2, 9, 16, 23, from 7-8pm, in the Parlor.

ASH WEDNESDAY



February brings the season of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday worship on February 17th, at 7pm. We’ll share the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion as part of the service. Lent is a 40-day period for reflection to revitalize spiritual disciplines such as prayer, fasting, and daily scripture study. Join us for a meaningful worship service to begin our Lenten journeys together.

HOLY WEEK

HOLY WEEK, the week leading from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, begins March 28th.



Our District Superintendent, Rev. Ken Kiefer, will preach at our 10am worship.

Holy Thursday worship will be April 1st, at 7pm.

Good Friday worship will be April 2nd, at 12pm.

Easter Sunday is April 4th. We look forward to the ecumenical Easter sunrise service at East Rock Park, followed by the United Methodist Men’s Easter breakfast, and culminating in our joyful Easter worship at 10am.

Believe Out Loud

February 20, 2010 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Memorial United Methodist Church
250 Bryant Ave. White Plains, NY 10605

Methodists in New Directions (MIND) is teaming up with the national **Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN)** to provide in-depth organizing training to congregations working to live more fully into God’s radical Welcome. The program, part of RMN’s Believe Out Loud campaign, will be tailored to support and strengthen the work **MIND** is doing this year in NYAC and, most importantly, to give **MIND** members and supporters the tools they need to take their local reconciling work to the next level. Believe Out Loud is part of the three-year national Called to Witness campaign. *For more information or to register*, e-mail **Jayson Dobney at southdakotajay@yahoo.com**

ECUMENICAL BED FUNDS

Did you know that FSUMC is part of the Yale New Haven Hospital Ecumenical Bed Funds? More than a century ago, local congregations endowed beds at the hospital for those who were ill. At the time, this was a kind of health insurance, since all medical expenses were out-of-pocket back then! These congregations then decided to move their funds into an endowed fund, managed by Yale New Haven Hospital. First Methodist Episcopal Church was one of these congregations. So, today, FSUMC can nominate a congregation member who is unable to pay their hospital bill to the Ecumenical Bed Fund for financial assistance. Please talk to the pastor about receiving Bed Fund assistance. All applications are confidential.

Rev. Sara Lamar-Sterling
First & Summerfield United Methodist Church
425 College Street New Haven, CT 06511
203-624-2521; www.fsunc.org

METHODIST WORSHIP AT YALE DIVINITY SCHOOL

The Methodists at YDS, a small but vibrant group, are leading a Methodist worship service on February 5 at 10:30am in Marquand Chapel, 409 Prospect Street. Our very own John Helmiere will be preaching on the Wesleyan three-dimensional understanding of grace, with a special focus on sanctifying grace. The service includes communion and is 45 minutes long. All are welcome!

The Greater New Haven
African-American Historical Society, Inc.

Blues Tribute

February 14, 2009

A Blues Café
Knickerbocker Club
715 Sherman Parkway, New Haven
4:00pm - 7:00pm
Free Admission
Music by Blues Singer

“Guitar George” Baker

‘MoJo Lady’ ‘Love Gone Bad’
DJ RIC

For more info call (203)469-8482, (203) 562-6238
or (203)288-2036

FUNDRAISERS AT FSUMC

by Maggie Carr

Late in 2009, the Finance Committee and Church Council approved a policy to clarify our procedures for fundraisers at FSUMC. The new policy calls for all fundraisers to be pre-approved by the church council or, when a fundraising opportunity arises with little advance notice, by an ad hoc review team. This will assure that all our fundraisers are in compliance with the United Methodist Book of Discipline and with our status as a 501(c)(3) organization, and will also help prevent conflicts in the church calendar.

The policy includes details about the information needed by the Church Council as well as the handling of funds raised. If your committee or group within the church is considering a fundraiser, please contact the church office or Maggie Carr, Finance Chair, for a complete copy of the fundraising policy.

ABCs of Fundraisers at FSUMC

Every Fundraiser Must be Approved by Church Council:

Church Council has the discretion and obligation to review and approve all purposes for which funds are accepted by the church. This is to ensure compliance with the Discipline, and with our status as a 501(c)(3) organization. For example, any kind of raffle or lottery would be a violation of the Discipline’s prohibition against gambling in United Methodist Churches, or a fundraiser that involved gift baskets with wine in them would violate the UMC’s policy against alcohol, or a fundraiser that involved the church renting space to vendors may have tax consequences. Last but not least, this requirement for Church Council approval ensures orderly processing of the church’s finances by the Financial Secretary and Treasurer.

All fundraising proposals must be made at a Church Council meeting indicating:

- (a) A full description of the activity proposed, including timing, location etc.
- (b) The name(s) of the coordinator(s) of the fundraiser.
- (c) The proposed designation for the net proceeds.
- (d) A draft budget and fundraising target goal.

Ad-hoc Fundraising Review Team: FSUMC’s Church Council meets only every other month, and some fundraising opportunities come up quickly and must be acted upon before the next Church Council meeting. Therefore, FSUMC will have an ad-hoc fundraising review team, comprised of:

- Pastor
- Church Council Chair
- Finance Committee Chair
- Financial Secretary
- Treasurer
- Lay Leader

Health Kits for Haiti

Here's what needs to be in a health kit.

Place these items inside a sealed one-gallon plastic bag and leave in the donation basket at the door to the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings.

- 1 hand towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27", no kitchen towels)
- 1 washcloth
- 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized)
- 1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. and up)
- 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, no child-size brushes)
- 1 tube of toothpaste
- 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages

Haiti - What Can We Do?

Dear All,

NYAC HAITI DISASTER RESPONSE

In the response to the crisis in Haiti many have asked, what can we do? Here are several options:

Support the UMCOR appeal for funds. Already, UMCOR personnel are on the ground in Haiti surveying the situation and beginning to determine our short and long-term response. *Make your check payable to FSUMC with "UMCOR Haiti Advance" in the memo.*



Support the Mountains of Hope "Doctor Initiative." This is the program that George Englehardt established after his visit to Haiti, asking each congregation to set aside \$200 a year to support our medical clinic in Furcy. As you have seen on the news, and the word we have received is that people are leaving Port au Prince for the more rural areas, including Furcy. Through the Clinic, a mobile clinic has been established to meet the growing medical needs of the community. Now, more than ever, this support is essential. *Make your check payable to Wethersfield UMC with "Haiti: Doctor Initiative" in the memo.*

Encourage people to be a part of the Disaster Training offered by the Annual Conference. This will serve us not only in Haiti but in all disaster situations, both international and domestic. Three sites and dates have been set up for this training, including Wethersfield (February 25 & 26) and Newtown (February 27). Please go to the NYAC Website for more information.

Schedule a speaker on Haiti. In addition to Task Force members, Jude Exantus is available to bring a Sunday message, or do a special presentation on Haiti. This can be scheduled through Wendy Vencuss.

Become a part of the Mountains of Hope Task Force. Information is available through the Wethersfield UMC, 150 Prospect Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109; 860-529-2025.

Remember that the recovery efforts in Haiti will take years. This will be an on-going effort on the part of our Annual Conference and Mountains of Hope.

And to all our churches, thank you for the many offerings of support, prayers and thoughts you have shared already.



In faith,
Tom and Wendy Vencuss
Wethersfield UMC
Mountains of Hope for Haiti, Coordinating Committee

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, Feb 2nd & 16th; 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

Tues Feb 2: Lent, Luke and Lectio Divina, 7-8pm, Parlor
Thurs Feb 4: Ellen Swanson Presents "Redefining Remarkable" New Haven Museum, 6pm
Sat Feb 6th: Women's Forum - Game Night, Trinity Hall, 5:30-8:30pm
Sun Feb 7: Men's Sunday; Social Principles Study, 11:30am
Mon Feb 8: Interns Committee, Parlor, 6-6:30pm
Tues Feb 9: Lent, Luke and Lectio Divina, 7-8pm, Parlor
Sun Feb 14: Social Principles Study, 11:30am
Tues Feb 16: Lent, Luke and Lectio Divina, 7-8pm, Parlor
Wed Feb 17: Ash Wednesday, Worship service, 7pm
Sat Feb 20: Believe Out Loud, Memorial UMC, White Plains, NY, 9am-4pm
Sun Feb 21: Duckpin Bowling for Young Adults & Youth, 6pm, see Sadie Stone for details.
Tues Feb 23: Lent, Luke and Lectio Divina, Parlor, 7-8pm
Thurs Feb 25: Sengbe Pieh Meeting, Parlor, 6:30pm -7:15pm
Sun Feb 28: New Member's Class, Parlor, 11:30am; Annual Heritage Luncheon, see Wanda Harris for details.

Tues Mar 2: Lent, Luke and Lectio Divina, Parlor, 7-8pm
Wed Mar 3: Trustees Meeting, 6 pm
Sun Mar 7: New Member Sunday
Tues Mar 9: Lent, Luke and Lectio Divina, Parlor, 7-8pm
Wed Mar 10: Finance/Church council - 6pm meal; 6:30pm Finance; 7:30pm Church Council.
Ends at 8:30pm. ALL IN TRINITY HALL.
Mon Mar 15: Sengbe Pieh ads due
Tues Mar 16: Lent, Luke and Lectio Divina, Parlor, 7-8pm
Thurs Mar 18: Abe's tent training at FSUMC, Trinity Hall, 6pm
Tues Mar 23: Lent, Luke and Lectio Divina, Parlor, 7-8pm

Thurs Apr 1: Holy Thursday service, 7pm
Fri Apr 2: Good Friday service, 12pm
Sat Apr 3: Prepare sanctuary for Easter, 10am
Sun Apr 4: Easter Breakfast 8am, Worship 10am. Sunrise service at East Rock is at sunrise.
Sat Apr 17: MIND Meeting, Memorial UMC, White Plains, NY, 9am
Sun Apr 18: Sengbe Pieh Awards Ceremony 3pm



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

First & Summerfield United Methodist Church

**425 College Street
New Haven, CT 06511**

**OFFICE HOURS:
Monday through Friday
2:00pm - 5:00pm**

*God has sent me to proclaim
release to the captives....
Today this scripture has been
fulfilled in your hearing.
- Luke 4: 18, 21*

Methodists in New Directions

MIND
Saturday,
April 17, 2010

Memorial UMC
250 Bryant Ave.,
White Plains, NY

Join us!

9am choir rehearsal – all
singers welcome!

10am worship and celebra-
tion

11am general meeting –
planning our annual
conference witness

For directions, see
[http://memorial4all.org/aboutus/
contactus](http://memorial4all.org/aboutus/contactus)

The FSUMC Monthly Newsletter is now delivered via e-mail. The newsletter is also available at www.fsumc.org under the NEWS link. The March 2010 newsletter deadline is February 18th. Send all submissions or requests to be put on our E-letter to fsmethodist@sbcglobal.net, or contact our office at 203-624-2521.