



FIRST AND SUMMERFIELD CHURCH NEWS

JULY/AUG 2010

First and Summerfield United Methodist Church

425 College Street New Haven, CT 06511

Phone: 203-624-2521

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Summer is Here

It's officially summertime now. Our congregational life slows down a bit for these two months. We gather for worship on Sundays, but we take a hiatus from Fellowship Hour in order to conserve resources of time and energy. Our Sunday school takes a break until the fall school year kicks into high gear. Our Sunday worship includes all of the usual elements, but the choir has two months to rest from weekly rehearsals. We even reduce our paper consumption by using a generic worship bulletin that we can reuse each week. Our office closes on Fridays to cut back on electricity usage and staffing hours. In the peak of the summer, FSUMC reduces, reuses, and recycles our resources, our energy, our volunteer hours, and

our expenses.

It's a slower pace, yet ministry never really slows down. There are still people to pray for, programs to plan, songs to sing, and work to do at the building where we worship. I've said numerous times to some of our church's leaders that it takes a considerable commitment of lay volunteer effort to make a church a church. Being the body of Christ in the world is not as easy as vegging out in front of the TV. Being the hands and feet of Christ is not a once a day or one hour a week task. Being God's people is an every day of the week, every week of the year, 24/7 commitment. It's a commitment that we live out in our spiritual disciplines, in our personal and professional lives, in

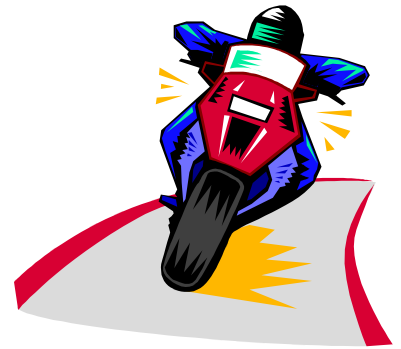
our interactions with one another and with folks who aren't a part of our faith community. Our Christian lives aren't lived vicariously through the pastor, but in the real, embodied life of a community of faith that prays together, works side by side, negotiates conflict, and dreams of the future, as one people.

Summer is a great time to contemplate our future, to pray with open hearts for the powerful guidance of God's Holy Spirit among us, and to follow courageously wherever that Spirit leads. I look forward to seeing you on Sundays at 10am and walking that Spirit-led path together.

Love and peace to you,
Pastor Sara

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Fifth Annual RIDE TO END HUNGER

To benefit D.E.S.K. September 12th See page 5 for details.

Save the dates!

United Methodist Camp Meeting Revival, September 17, 18, 19, 7pm at Branford UMC. Volunteer ushers and greeters and refreshments will be needed. Come check it out and feel the spirit!

2010 FSUMC Church Directory

The 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.



WORSHIP LEADER TRAINING



Worship Leader/Usher training: Sunday, September 12th, 11:30am. A training for all new and returning worship leaders (Sunday morning scripture readers) and Ushers will be held after worship. We'll review the responsibilities of both of these important Sunday morning tasks, and we'll do it together so that Ushers understand what worship leaders do and vice versa. We will meet for an hour and our time together will include practice runs for everyone. Please meet in the Sanctuary. If you can't attend but you are interested, please contact Bob Hancock about being a worship leader and Laurel Callens about being an usher.

Abraham's Tent

August 16th, 6:30-7:30pm. FSUMC will start making some plans for this winter's Abraham's Tent program. We'll line up coordinators, define specific tasks, and come up with a list of the needs we'll have to provide warm, welcoming and responsible hospitality to our guests, as participants in the Interfaith Cooperative Ministries "Abraham's Tent" initiative. Please talk to Ad Tucker for more information.

Can You Lend A Hand in Prayer?

Would you like to help with a weekday worship service at Bishop Wicke Health Center? Pastor Sara will be leading worship Tuesday, July 20th, 10:30am, with the residents of the Wicke Health Center. The service is about 30 minutes long, and includes 3 hymns, prayer, scripture reading, and a short sermon. Please speak with Pastor Sara if you'd like to assist.



MEMBERSHIP & EVANGELISM

August 1st, 11:15am Membership & Evangelism, Church Picnic planning meeting. We'll make plans for the big picnic on August 22nd, and set a meeting date for our September meeting as well. Please speak with Gabby Pianka if you have any questions.

Baptism Meeting



A few folks have expressed interest in baptism and so Pastor Sara will be offering a Baptism class this summer. The date hasn't been set yet, but if you're interested, please let Pastor Sara know. Joining the class doesn't mean you're getting baptized, so please feel free to come for some conversation and prayer to learn about our initiating sacrament, baptism!

In case you didn't know, or want to tell your friends...

You can also



See link on website www.fsumc.org or look up First and Summerfield UMC at www.facebook.com.

Please Pay Your Pledge this Summer

First and Summerfield is a wonderfully generous congregation, and, on behalf of the Finance Committee, I would like to offer the deepest of thanks to everyone who has been giving so faithfully this year. We need to ask you all to please keep up your pledge throughout the summer months. Even when we are on vacation, God's work continues on our corner in New Haven, and we are relying on your continued to keep up with our financial responsibilities.

Thank you so very much,
Maggie Carr, Finance Chair



FROM THE TRUSTEES:

Thanks to everyone who attended the Church-wide meeting on space use in our church on June 6. We had 41 members and some guests, too. We made some difficult, but necessary decisions. If you would like to see minutes from that meeting, or the summary of the decisions made, please talk to Chris, the Trustee President. The next steps will be to meet with the unions and get drawings from them regarding their proposed reconfiguring of the space we have included in our negotiations. Also, we will be retaining a lawyer for the draft of a lease. We hope to have these stages completed by summer's end. If we can achieve extra income for the church with some temporary space use for the summer, we are always open to that, of course! The whole theme of this process has been responsible stewardship of our building. We should be proud of our ability to come together democratically and inclusively as we have done so far in undertaking some big and scary changes for our building.

Save the dates for the cleanup and maintenance projects coming up July 16-18 and July 23-25...we need help painting and cleaning. Let Chris know if you can help.

Thanks for all your efforts!
Chris Lamar-Sterling
Trustee President

CHURCH PICNIC AUGUST 22



Save the date!

Church Picnic, August 22, Fort Nathan Hale Park. Bring salads, desserts, and drinks. Membership & Evangelism will supply the burgers, hot dogs and all the fixings! Dress casually for worship at 10am, then proceed to the picnic afterwards!

Disability Convention Planned for August

John Carr was recently elected as President of the Connecticut Disability Advocacy Collaborative, which is planning Connecticut's third statewide disability convention and expo at the Expo Center in Hartford, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 28. The convention, which is once again expected to attract more than 800 visitors and some 80 vendors, will also feature a forum for political candidates for state offices and a display of artwork by people with disabilities.

Members of First and Summerfield have attended or volunteered for the convention in the past, and we are once again inviting church members to visit the convention or to volunteer for two hours or more between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Anyone who is interested in volunteering or would like more information is asked to please call John at (203) 284-8278. See ad on page 4.



The church office will move to summer hours in an effort to economize on utilities and other expenses. Summer hours are Monday to Thursday, 2pm to 5pm. The office is closed on Fridays from July 2nd to September 3rd. Friday office hours resume September 10th.

Also, Pastor Sara will be in Haiti on a VIM team from July 1 to 9, 2010. The church office will be closed June 30 - July 5th. Rev. John Carr will officiate communion on Sunday, July 4th. Maggie Carr will lead a hymn sing that Sunday.

SAVE THE DATE



Independence Through Empowerment Saturday, August 28, 2010 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Connecticut Expo Center, 265 Reverend Moody Overpass Hartford, CT (off I-91, Exit 33)

Sponsored by

- Here from candidates from state and national offices in attendance.
- Visit exhibitors carrying the latest in adaptive equipment and technology.
- Get information from public and private agencies that provide services and supports to children and adults with disabilities.
- Meet a wide variety of advocacy organizations.



**For further information contact
Stan Kosloski
Email: stankosloski@att.net
Phone: 860-614-8351**

CAMPUS MINISTRY

A gathering with folks from FSUMC and Yale Chaplains office will be held later this summer to learn about the student, staff, and faculty community that surrounds our church building in an effort to better focus our outreach and hospitality to this community that is at our fingertips. If you would like to be a part of casting a vision for FSUMC's long-range, sustainable ministry with our immediate neighbors, please talk to Pastor Sara.

MIND

Methodists In New Directions

A Reconciling ministry in the New York Annual Conference

SAVE THE DATES

MIND PICNIC

Sat. July 24th 1-5pm

Park Slope UMC

410 Sixth Ave. (corner of 6th Ave. & 8th St.), Brooklyn, NY 11215

No meeting, no agenda. Just fellowship, fun and let's not forget food!
See www.parkslopeumc.org for directions. RSVP to DrBenz3@verizon.net so we're sure to bring enough food.

Haiti Trip July 1-9, 2010

Pastor Sara will be part of an Early Response Team to Haiti, July 1 to 9, led by Revs. Tom and Wendy Vencuss of the Wethersfield UMC. Please keep her in your prayers for a safe and productive trip. Rev. Craig Fitzsimmons will provide pastoral coverage while Pastor Sara is in Haiti, July 1-9. He can be reached at Clinton UMC, 860-699-8396. Rev John Carr will officiate communion July 4th, and Lay Speaker Maggie Carr will lead a hymn sing.



It's not too early to plan to participate in the

14th Annual Cook & Care Walk-A-Thon Sunday October 17, 2010

For more information or to find out how YOU can help
www.cookandcare.org or call 203-776-9526
A program of Interfaith Cooperative Ministries

New York Annual Conference Review ~ by Bob Hancock

From the Lay Leader and FSUMC's delegate to New York Annual Conference:

Once again, I took the wrong exit onto Long Island, discovering my mistake only when I approached the Delta Terminal at Kennedy.

Returning to the Arena, I fought off the Cokesbury's temptation. Last year I walked into buy a \$2 key chain and left with \$100 in books many of which I have yet to read.

Bishop Park opened the 211th New York Annual Conference and celebrated the life of service of Ernest Swiggett. Bishop Park said change is brewing. We are not here to produce change since "change is now."

During the Memorial Service Wednesday morning, Rev. Ken Kieffer, our District Superintendent, talked of the need to deal with grief when "Love

Stinks." We looked at the long lists of "spouses of clergy," "widows and widowers of clergy," "children of clergy" and Robert Standish Hamilton with "clergy."

Four years ago, when previous pastor Taka Ishii told (!) me I would attend the New York Annual Conference, I was also told (!) I would be in legislative session 1. Now known for verbal fireworks, we looked at and accepted four reports. We then expect we were free to go. Then a blind, older, African-American woman asked why there was no report from the conference level United Methodist Men. District Superintendent Yi said no reports would result in the UMM not receiving more funds. It seems organizing men is just as difficult for the conference as it is for the local church.

Bishop Park was chal-

lenged by Methodists in New Directions (MIND) during their luncheon Friday afternoon and during the vote on LGBT issues later that day. There are a surprising number of outspoken people in our conference! Among them a certain pastor treated us, once again, to a convoluted argument against homosexuality in that "they" are trying to bring about the end of the human race. The reason being there can be no offspring in the mating of men with men and women with women. It is the sort of thing that makes you want to respond but you cannot seem to put your hands on something that would let you respond in some rational fashion.

I approached the Friday evening commissioning and ordination service with only an interest to see the pomp of the ceremony. Then Bishop James Swanson, a

bear of a black man, began to speak. He talked of the "fire of the word." He told those to be commissioned and ordained that they have a call to heal broken hearts. Bishop Swanson said he had no doubt that the newly ordained/commissioned pastors "will set New York on fire!!!"

Saturday's Momentum of Mission and Ministry Festival provided a second dose of Bishop Swanson when we had thought we could not attain any new level of adrenalin flow.

Bishop Park closed the conference, the 5000+ people left, and Hofstra's Arena, still with the echoes of something wonderful having happened, was empty.

Bob Hancock,

Lay leader and lay delegate to NY Annual Conference



Fifth Annual Ride to End Hunger **Sunday September 12, 2010** **A motorcycle charity ride**

To Benefit The Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen, New Haven
REGISTRATION: 9:00 AM

Sunday, Sep 12, at Sports Haven (600 Long Wharf Drive, New Haven)
Music & FREE coffee & donuts!

START: 11:00 AM: Police-escorted 62 mile ride (rain or shine).

**END: 1:00 AM Post-ride BBQ Lunch and Raffle: Lighthouse Point,
Harbor Pavilion, New Haven, CT**

ENTRY FEES: Single Rider: \$25; Double Rider: \$35;
Non-Rider: \$10 BBQ lunch

Entry fees include: BBQ lunch buffet/raffle & Ride Pin!

For more information: www.RideToEndHunger.com

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

1st TUESDAY, 5:30pm Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen, 311 Temple St., 1st Tuesday of month, Aug 3rd.

THURSDAYS: 7:15pm Choir rehearsal. Ring College Street buzzer to enter.
Rehearsals on summer break until August 19th.

Dates to Remember

Mon Jun 28: Summer office hours begin - Monday - Thursday, 2-5pm. Office will be closed on Fridays through Sept 3rd

Wed Jun 30: July 2nd: Office will be closed

Sun Jul 4: Happy Fourth of July

Mon Jul 5: Office will be closed in observance of 4th of July.

Tues Jul 20: Bishop Wicke Health Center Worship Service, 10:30am

Fri-Sun Jul 16-18: Trustees Clean-up & Maintenance Project

Fri-Sun Jul 23-25: Trustees Clean-up & Maintenance Project

Sat Jul 24: MIND Picnic, 1pm, Park Slope UMC, Brooklyn, NY

Sun Aug 1: Membership & Evangelism Church Picnic Planning Meeting, 11:15am, meet in Sanctuary

Mon Aug 16: FSUMC's Abraham's Tent planning meeting, 6:30pm, Trinity Hall

Sun Aug 22: Church Picnic, 11am following worship. Ft. Nathan Hale Park, New Haven

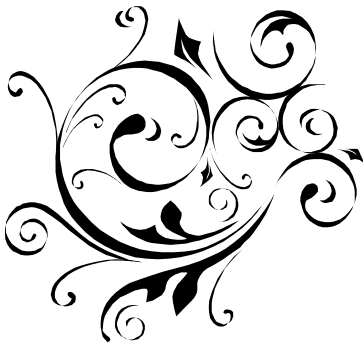
Sat Aug 28: Disability Convention, 10am, Expo Center, Hartford

Mon Sept 6: Labor Day - Church office will be closed.

Sun Sept 12: Worship Leader Training, 11:30am after worship; 5th Annual Ride to End Hunger, 9am registration.

Sun Sept 26: MIND Meeting, 3pm, Location TBA

Are you planning a special day and need a special place?
Consider FIRST & SUMMERFIELD UMC for your event.



FSUMC has been home to many weddings, concerts, and family gatherings. Let us help you coordinate the celebrations & blessings in your life.

Contact Mary Ann Fuentes at
fsmethodist@sbcglobal.net,
call the church office at 203-624-2521, or visit our website
www.fsumc.org.



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

The FSUMC Monthly Newsletter is now delivered via e-mail. The September 2010 Newsletter deadline is Aug. 19th. Send all submissions or requests to be put on our E-letter to fsmethodist@sbcglobal.net, or contact our office at 203-624-2521.