



FIRST AND SUMMERFIELD CHURCH NEWS

JUNE 2010

First and Summerfield United Methodist Church

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Discerning our Future

"Trust is the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge God and God will make straight your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6

FSUMC is a generous congregation, seeking to give and share in many ways in our community. Our participation in Abraham's Tent this past March is a shining example of your generosity. Our incredibly successful stewardship campaign, Consecration Sunday, is another one. When we consider what God is calling us to give, whether it's financial resources or our time and energy, FSUMC responds faithfully.

With that in mind, I am confident that our congregational meeting on June 6th will be a productive time of holy conferencing together. That day, after holy communion and worship, the Trustees will host a time to share ideas and vision for the future about this building where we worship, meet, and pray. Others also share

this large building with us: community groups and many Yale a cappella ensembles hold their events in our Sanctuary and Trinity Hall, and our Parish Hall is office space for the Church and for Local Unions 34, 35, and 217. But what other uses could there be for the unused or underused parts of our building?

As we prepare for our meeting, I hope you'll take some time to pray about this important resource. I encourage you to take a walk through the building. Most of our congregation is familiar with the Sanctuary building (built 1905) but few know the Parish Hall building (built 1936). If you're not sure how to get around, please ask Pastor Sara or one of our Trustees for a tour. See where the downstairs bathrooms are. Locate the chair lift. Find the Pastor's office. Consider the most inviting way to welcome families and differently abled people to our worship, fellowship, and children's ministries. Imag-

ine how some of the unused and underused spaces could be put to good use, both missionally and financially.

Keep in mind that last sentence there. Missionally and financially. Something may be a good idea missionally, but if it adds to the heavy burden of our budget it is not a responsible choice financially. Another option may be a good idea financially but if it detracts from our mission as United Methodists and as FSUMC, it's not a responsible choice missionally. We'll share many, many good ideas on June 6th. But we can only move forward on those ideas that are missionally *and* financially *responsible* choices. That's what being good stewards of all God's gifts is about, making Holy Spirit-inspired, responsible decisions as a community.

I know you will give this your careful and gracious consideration. I look forward to hearing our ideas on June 6th.

Peace to you, Pastor Sara



COME ONE, COME ALL

On June 6th, there will be a congregational meeting to discuss responsible stewardship of our church building and improving revenue for unused or underused areas of the building. The meeting will be held in Trinity Hall, 11:30am-12:30pm. All church members will be given an opportunity to share their ideas so that Trustees can plan for the future and move forward. (See page 4)

New York Annual Conference

June 9th—13th
Hofstra University
For details on
Festival of Ministries
June 12th.
(See page 5).

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!

The Pampered Chef Fundraiser on May 8th raised \$56.50 for our youth. Many thanks to Gabby Pianka for coordinating. Please see Gabby to receive your purchases.

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.

Congratulations and Best Wishes...



...to Katie Salisbury and James Hultunen on their wedding, June 5th. They will each keep their last names. A wedding trip to India is planned. We'll see them back in New Haven later this summer.

...to Laurel Lynch and Frank Callens, who were married at FSUMC on May 29th. A reception was held at Leonard and Yvonne Lynch's home. Laurel is taking Frank's last name, so her new name will be Laurel Callens.

Congratulations Graduates!

Lanchelle Davis and Anthony Vaughn are graduating from high school this month. We will honor them on Sunday June 20th during worship. They will each receive a small gift and a Clarke Scholarship from FSUMC as they prepare for college in the fall. Please keep them in your prayers during this important transition in their lives and the lives of their families.



Also graduating: Sadie Stone, John Helmiere, from Yale Divinity School with MDiv degrees, and Katie Salisbury from Yale Divinity School with an MA; and Melissa Bryan from Daemon College with a Master of Science degree. Congratulations to Paul Fleck who was declared a certified candidate for ordained ministry by the CT district Committee on Ordained Ministry. Good work, everyone!

Fellowship Hour Summer Break

Fellowship Hour will be on hiatus from July 4 to August 22nd. Please be ready with food, coffee/tea donations at the end of August! Many thanks to all of our Fellowship Hour team members, and to Eloise Rentz, coordinator, for all their great work ensuring an inviting hospitality time after worship.

THANK YOU ALL

Dear Congregation,

I can't tell you how much your prayers have meant to me during my surgery and convalescence. Truly the Spirit was with us.
Peace, Carl Puleo

Sunday School Recess

Sunday School News: The last day for Sunday school is June 20th. Sunday school will resume in the fall. We'll recognize and give thanks for our Sunday school teachers for their dedication and leadership throughout the year during the worship service this day.

If you'd like to learn more about being a Sunday school teacher, please speak with Katie Salisbury, coordinator, or Gabrielle Pianka, nursery child caregiver.

Congratulations on another successful **Sengbe Pieh Community Service Awards ceremony**. Tamba taught us to sing the Sierra Leone national anthem; the Women's Forum provided a delicious reception. And our honored guests, Al Marder and Maureen Murphy, were engaging and inspiring for us all! Thank you! - Pastor Sara

Methodists

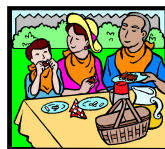
In New Directions

Friday June 11 is MIND (the NYAC branch of the Reconciling Congregations family tree) day. Pastors and congregational conference lay members and any other church members who can attend, wearing MIND t-shirts and reconciling hearts, to support and advocate for TRUE United Methodist open minds, hearts and doors and against the exclusion of LGBT people from full participation in all aspects of the church, including marriage and ministry. Luncheon speaker will be the wonderful **Mark Miller** (he brought his Drew Gospel Choir to our church last year, and is the composer of our new communion music and lots more - there's an article about him on our bulletin board downstairs). A very exciting day.

Event starts at noon & will be held at Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY. Pastor Sara and our lay delegates Bob Hancock and Wanda Harris will be there, and I am also going - by train. See any of us for directions.

~ Marion Sachdeva

Save the date!



Church Picnic, August 22, Fort Nathan Hale Park. Bring salads, desserts, and drinks. Membership & Evangelism will supply the burgers and hot dogs!

Dress casually for worship at 10am, then proceed to the picnic afterwards!

Abraham's Tent, a collaboration between Interfaith Cooperative Ministries, Inc., and Columbus House, Inc., was such a great success that plans are being made for the 2010-2011 winter season. This time, two congregations will host 10-12 men per week, doubling our efforts to keep our neighbors off the streets and in a safe, warm place. Abraham's Tent is scheduled to begin Monday, December 6, 2010, and end the last week of March 2011. If you'd like to help, please talk to Pastor Sara or to Ad Tucker, Social Justice Team chair.

GREETINGS

Greetings from Eva Johnson, a member of FSUMC who lives in TN now. She wrote to let us know that "the 3rd week of June I will be doing mission work in Costa Rica, sponsored by First Centenarian UMC, here in Chattanooga. I know you will be proud of me. They are paying my air fare and I am not a member. I am requested to work in the Vacation Bible School..."

-Your sister, Eva

If you have ideas or suggestions to help her with children's Bible school, know how to make simple musical instruments, or you want to learn more, please contact her at evajo7@yahoo.com.

Recognition Sunday, June 27

We look forward to saying thank you to all of the many wonderful, dedicated volunteers who participate in our Sunday morning ministries. We will be thanking Bob Girard and our Choir; Laurel Lynch Callens and the ushers; Bob Hancock and the worship leaders; Rev. Kristen Dunn and the counting teams; Eloise Rentz and the fellowship hour teams. Thank you so much for all that you do to make FSUMC an inviting, welcoming, joyful place to worship.



SUMMER HOURS

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.

PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

As we seek to live as who we are at First and Summerfield, we can be grateful that we can address so many issues through our special offerings. How, for instance, is the money from our Peace and Justice offering used?

Here are words from the director of a Peace Challenge Camp in Oklahoma City: "If someone bumped into you on the street, most adults would not think much of it, but if you are a 12 year old living in a poor neighborhood where gangs populated the playground and your parents have taught you hit or be hit, it is not as easy as saying 'Excuse me'. We work with kids accustomed to hearing a lot of harsh words and to being threatened physically". What a wonderful use of money-teaching children how to make peace with themselves and others.

The offering gives us a voice in advocating for peace and justice at home and around the world. We affirm that peace is possible. Jesus taught us "Blessed are the peace makers"... Please be one too as you give to this special offering.



Pastor Sara heading to Haiti

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. This will be the second team from the New York Annual Conference to travel to Haiti since the earthquake, and will function in accordance with the requirements of United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and Volunteers in Mission (VIM). We will fly in and out of Port au Prince, but will be spending most of our week in Furcy, high in the mountains an hour and a half southwest of Port au Prince. The NYAC mission to Furcy, called Mountains of Hope for Haiti, supports a health clinic, a Methodist Church, and a school in Furcy. FSUMC helped fund a doctor's presence at the clinic for one week in 2008 at the request of our District Superintendent and supplied 50 health kits in March 2009.

If you'd like to be a part of an upcoming team, you must have Early Response Training, provided by UMCOR. Please contact Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie (jewoodzie@nyac.com) to apply. A local training in CT may be offered if there are enough people interested from our area. If you'd like to help in other ways but cannot travel to Haiti, please consider making health kits for Pastor Sara to take with her or donate funds to Mountains of Hope for Haiti, c/o Wethersfield UMC, 150 Prospect Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109.

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.

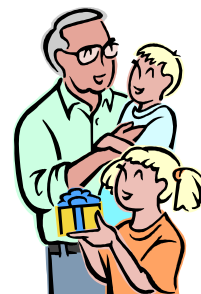
Health Kits for Haiti

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

June 20th



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday June 5, 2010 ~ 9 am to 2 pm
Middlesex Community College ~ Chapman Hall
100 Training Hill Rd, Middletown

A Statewide Training Session on Health Care Reform

Join community leaders and health care reform advocates from across Connecticut to learn more about what we can do together to make quality, affordable health care a reality.

Please RSVP at: info@healthcare4every1.org or 203.639.0550 x320

You Are Invited!

Dear FSUMC Member,

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ to you from FSUMC's Board Of Trustees! Spring is upon us and it is time for some new life & new activity for the physical structure & space of our beloved church. Please give this letter prayer & consideration.

We are organizing a Spring Cleaning in June, and we'd like your help.

The Trustees identified 2 projects:

#1) The United Methodist Men's group will be cleaning out the "maintenance closet" (the large central room at the top of the ramp at in Trinity Hall). If you are interested in helping, please speak to Bob Hancock or to me about this project.

#2) The second volunteer project will be repairing drywall & painting the handicap accessible bathroom near the nursery room. Mike Clarke, Wanda Harris, and I are heading up this project. Please speak to one of these 3 people in order to help.

Please consider volunteering. These projects have my personal guarantee to include fun, food & music, as well as being easy to do!

The other big news is our opportunity to improve our stewardship of the building's physical space that God has given to us. Our current permanent space users upstairs (the Yale Unions 34 & 35) have asked us again about expanding their usage. By the way, no plans are agreed upon yet. Also, there is no plan to infringe on the sanctuary or the current schedule of services. This is just about making the most of our unused or under-used space. I ask you to consider what responsible stewardship of God's resources (in this case, our Church building) means for FSUMC.

The trustees have had exploratory conversations (starting 6 years ago) and now we are overdue to make a decision about what the future looks like for our building space. In order to include everybody, the trustees are holding a question & answer meeting right after church on **Sunday June 6th** immediately following church. We will have coffee fellowship time and then start our discussion at **11:30am**. Wanda Harris & I will lead this meeting which will last around 45 – 60 minutes and will include an opportunity for everyone present to share their ideas. We will leave the meeting with a conclusive plan for the trustees to consider so that we can put plans in motion by the end of the summer. Please talk to a trustee before the meeting to learn more...or just show up with your questions & ideas.

Wishing you God's Peace,

Chris Lamar-Sterling, Chair FSUMC Trustees, (203) 891-7590

KNOW YOUR (IMMIGRATION) RIGHTS WORKSHOP coming to FSUMC June 25 , 6-9pm

Pastor Sara presented a request to the Church Council on May 12 for FSUMC to host a Justice for Our Neighbors "Know Your (Immigration) Rights Workshop". Church Council unanimously approved the request. Whether you'd like to help host or you'd like to find out more about your immigration rights, here's what you want to know:

Justice for Our Neighbors is a faith-driven ministry, welcoming immigrants into our churches and communities by providing free, high-quality immigration legal services, education and advocacy. All legal advice and services are provided by an experienced immigration attorney.

Justice For Our Neighbors New York (NYAC-JFON) is supported by the NY Annual Conference and is led by Rev. Pauline Wardel-Sankoh. NYAC JFON has received a grant to host immigration "Know Your Rights" workshops around the NY Annual Conference. These workshops will consist of a presentation of general information and answers to common questions. Following the workshop, attendees will have an opportunity to have a free private initial consultation with our immigration attorney, TJ Mills.

If it is determined that an attendee has a viable avenue for relief and meets our income guidelines, s/he will be referred to one of our existing clinics in metro NY for a more detailed intake interview and consultation.

In preparation for a workshop, a host congregation must be ready with the following:

- A Fellowship hall with moveable chairs and tables. Trinity Hall would be perfect--We don't use it much in the summer!
- A pool of volunteers to greet and mingle with community members. FSUMC has great justice-loving volunteers!
- Private space to do interviews and consultation - with a table and chairs. FSUMC has space for this!
- Access to a copy machine for about 25 copies. FSUMC can make those copies!
- Advertise the workshop to congregation and community members - we would like at least 15-20 attendees. FSUMC can do this!

NYAC-JFON is a partnership between the NY Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and the Presbytery of NYC with clinics in Chinatown, Bedford-Stuyvesant, Flushing, and Yonkers. For more information visit www.justiceforourneighbors.org.

To volunteer as a greeter for this important justice-seeking work, please talk to Pastor Sara or contact the church office. Five volunteers would be most helpful. Stay tuned!



New Haven Preservation Trust will offer a tour of downtown sacred spaces on Saturday, June 19th, led by Bruce Peabody. The tour will begin at FSUMC at 11am, then head across the street to Battell Chapel and to Dwight Chapel.

If you aren't familiar with some of FSUMC's history, come hear this brief presentation (15 minutes) on the architectural innovations of our downtown buildings. This tour is free and open to the public, part of the Festival of Arts & Ideas, which takes place June 12-26, 2010. For more information, go to:

www.artidea.org

Conference Secretary's Retirement Celebration June 19th

A retirement celebration for Ernest Swiggett, NYAC treasurer and director of administrative services, will be on June 19 at 1pm. To reserve your seat at \$85 contact Mrs. Ivy Mignott, c/o Swiggett Retirement Committee, 920-12 H Baychester Ave., Bronx, NY 10475 by June 7. The retirement celebration will be held at the Crowne Plaza, White Plains, NY, at 1pm on June 19th, 2010. All are welcome to attend.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2010

June 12th

Festival of Ministries at Annual Conference

All are welcome to be a part of the festivities for new members at Hofstra University, from 10am to 1pm, on Saturday, June 12th. Learn more about the UMC and our Annual Conference during the Festival. If you need transportation, please contact First UMC, Shelton (sheltonumc@snet.net) to see if space is still available on either bus.

June 13th

Annual Conference

We'll hear about the meaningful events of Annual Conference from our two lay delegates, Bob Hancock and Wanda Harris, during worship. Many thanks to Bob and Wanda for representing FSUMC at Annual Conference.

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

THURSDAYS: 7:15pm Choir rehearsal. Ring College Street buzzer to enter. Rehearsals end June 24th.

Dates to Remember

Sat Jun 5: Health Care Reform Training, 9am, Middlesex Community College

Sun Jun 6: Trustees Open Meeting, **All members invited to attend**, 11:30am, Trinity Hall

Wed June 9: Annual Conference begins at Hofstra University

Fri Jun 11: MIND Day (see page 2 for details)

Sat Jun 12: Festival of Ministries at Annual Conference, 10am, Hofstra University,

Sun Jun 13: Reports from our delegates to Annual Conference, 10am

Sat Jun 19: Sacred Spaces Tour-part of New Haven Arts & Ideas Festival - 11am. Starts at 11am from FSUMC, free. Ernest Swiggett Retirement Celebration, 1pm, Crowne Plaza, White Plains, NY (reservations required)

Sun Jun 20: Worship, 10am. Graduate's Sunday; Last Day of Sunday School for summer; Father's Day

Fri Jun 25: Justice For Our Neighbors "Know Your Rights" Immigration Workshop. Open to community. 6-9pm Trinity Hall

Sun Jun 27: Recognition Sunday, 10am. Worship, last day of Fellowship hour for summer

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

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

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 July/Aug 2010 Newsletter deadline is June 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.