



FIRST AND SUMMERFIELD CHURCH NEWS

MARCH 2010

First and Summerfield United Methodist Church

425 College Street New Haven, CT 06511

Phone: 203-624-2521

Pastor: Rev. Sara Lamar-Sterling

Editor: Mary Ann Fuentes

Website: www.fsunc.org

March is Hospitality Month

Brothers and Sisters, this month FSUMC is embarking on a new and exciting ministry opportunity, in cooperation with a number of other faith communities in the greater New Haven area: Abraham's Tent.

Thanks to Columbus House and Interfaith Cooperative Ministries, we have accepted the invitation to host 10-12 men from Columbus House from March 22 to 28, as part of the overflow shelter program. Although federal and state funding has been cut, dramatically effecting the work that shelters all over the state, like Columbus House, can provide, the interfaith community of New Haven has stepped up to help shelter our neighbors. The program has been underway since mid January, and all reports are overwhelmingly positive.

There are a number of ways for you to be involved. Nichols UMC, Trumbull, and Clinton UMC, have already agreed to prepare and serve a meal for one night. Many of you have volunteered to serve a meal, too. Thank you! Come to the volunteer training in Trinity Hall on Thursday, March 18 at 6pm. Stay for fellowship hour on Sunday, March 21st and sign a housing advocacy letter, provided by our social justice team. Donations of

letter-size envelopes and stamps are welcome for this letter writing campaign. Donate needed items like movies, magazines, games, bag lunches, or breakfast cereals. Talk to Ad Tucker (admtucker@yahoo.com; 203-281-4482) to find out what you can do to offer God's gracious welcome to our guests, March 22 to 28, 2010. Prayerfully consider how God is calling you to be a part of this important ministry.

What a powerful way to celebrate Lent together this year, living up to the UMC motto: open hearts, open minds, and open doors. Read on for Margery Dodge's invitation to be a part of this effort to provide radical hospitality as our Father Abraham once did.

—Pastor Sara

We learn in the book of Genesis that Abraham, sitting at the entrance of his tent, saw three men standing nearby. Some scholars identify those men as being two angels and the Lord. Abraham saw no need of checking their identification papers but acted with oriental courtesy and hospitality. They were invited to stop, and instructions were issued to provide for their comfort. "Let a little water be brought and wash your feet and rest yourselves under

the tree. Let me bring you a little bread that you may refresh yourselves."

We will be privileged on March 21 to offer a week of hospitality, as modeled by Abraham, to a group of homeless men. They are overflow from the Columbus House whose staff will be supportive. For many of our guests the care and respect they will experience with us may be life changing.

The Columbus House bus will deliver them at 6 o'clock and we will serve them dinner. Greeting them and sharing in the evening meal (though not pressuring our guests to talk) may be as important as the food. After dinner we will have reading materials (newspapers, magazines), games and TV available. Lights Out is at ten o'clock. Columbus House is providing the cots and bedding.

We will provide a simple breakfast at 6am and guests will be picked up and returned to Columbus House between six thirty and six forty-five. We hope to have sack lunches donated for the guests to take with them each day.

Addie Tucker has done much of the organizing and John Helmiere is helping with the enlisting of night staffing (two to four hosts each night).

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Mar 3 - Trustees, 6pm, Parlor
- Mar 8 - Staff Parish Relations Committee, 7pm, Parlor.
- Mar 10 - Finance, 6:30pm; Church Council, 7:30pm - both in Trinity Hall. Come at 6pm for a simple meal before meeting. Please enter Trinity Hall at side ramp.

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY



Don't miss the New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade Sunday March 14th - 1:00pm. Parking is restricted on Church & Chapel Streets that day.

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: If you'd like to learn more about FSUMC or you would like to join as a member, please come to a meeting on Sunday, March 7th at 11:30am in the Parlor. New Members will be received into the congregation in March. For more information, please contact Pastor Sara.

Black History Month

Many thanks to Wanda Harris for coordinating our Black History Month celebrations this year; and to all the volunteers who participated. Thank you!



Congrats!



Congratulations to Hesung Koh on the marriage of her granddaughter Diane Choo to Harlan Young on Saturday, February 27th.

Pastor Sara presided at the ceremony, held in FSUMC's sanctuary. Best wishes to the happy couple!

One Great Hour of Sharing

We are saddened by the wide eyes filled with fear which look out at us from newspaper pictures every day. The response of some might be to say: "Great God, how is it that a loving creator can see such things and yet do nothing about them?" But the spirit within us answers: "God did do something. He made you." We are provided by our connectional church with the means to do something. Our giving on One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday makes it possible for every penny contributed to United Methodist Committee on Relief to go entirely to specific causes. Where Methodist ministries are providing needed food, shelter and health care you can be there too. Please be generous.

~ Submitted by Margery Dodge

With Sympathy

Our sympathies to Marion Sachdeva and her family on the death of her father, Rev. Robert Hamilton. He died in his sleep on February 17, 2010. A memorial service is being planned for Sunday, April 11th at 3pm at Faith UMC in North Haven (81 Clintonville Rd. North Haven, CT). Bob helped to found that congregation and requested that his memorial service be held there. If you'd like to make a memorial donation in lieu of flowers, Bob's family asks that you please consider Heifer International or Faith UMC (www.faithumcc.org). Online donations are accepted by Heifer and by Faith UMC.

Open Hearts & True Colors

Join us for a special worship service on Sunday, March 14th, at 10am when we celebrate the wide welcome of FSUMC and other reconciling/affirming congregations throughout Connecticut for the Radically Inclusive Spiritual Celebration weekend, March 12-14, 2010. True Colors, an organization that works with sexual minority youth and families, extended the invitation to congregations state-wide to participate in a number of ways.

Our social justice team met in February to make some plans for this special day. We want to live the "open hearts/minds/doors" of the UMC and include all God's children in the full life of our congregation and the UMC. We will have literature available on LGBT spirituality and issues, or organizations that support LGBT youth, adults, and families. Our guest preacher that Sunday is Rev. Kristen Dunn will preach on the topic of inclusivity. Wear your pride colors, pins, t-shirts. We may also have some updates on legislation that may be coming to Annual Conference this June on inclusivity issues.

Also that weekend, True Colors is hosting a two-day spiritual institute at U. Connecticut all day March 12 and 13, for youth, young adults, and adults. With more than 3,000 attendees, True Colors annual conference is the largest LGBTQI and ally youth conference in the country! There'll be Jr. High, High School and College offerings; Workshops for parents and family members; Professional workshops for educators, social workers, youth service workers and clinicians; films, entertainment, daily keynote presentation, dozens of workshops to choose from, and a youth dance on Saturday! To find out more about the workshops, please see www.ourtruecolors.org. And don't miss this special celebration at FSUMC on March 14th! See Marion Sachdeva, Kristen Dunn, Ad Tucker, or Nancy Davis if you'd like to participate or share in planning the service.

RUMMAGE SALE APRIL 17TH

FSUMC's Women's Forum and the women's fellowship of First Church Woodbridge are collaborating for a clothing Rummage Sale on Saturday, April 17th from 10am to 2pm.



Come check out great bargains on clothes for men, women, and children in good condition at very low prices at FSUMC Trinity Hall.

If you have gently used and laundered clothes to donate, please drop them off on Friday, April 16th, 9am to 2pm. All unsold items will be donated to Salvation Army after the sale on April 17th.

Continued from pg 1 "March is Hospitality Month"

The following are items which we can donate to Columbus House: new or gently used coats, tube socks, hats, gloves, mittens, toothbrushes and travel size toothpaste, single bed sheets.

Donations of reading materials or games which could be enjoyed by our guests would be welcome. Father Abraham, thank you for providing us with an example of how we can be there for those who need us and may we enjoy the time this week in "Abraham's Tent" will provide.

~ Margery Dodge

UPDATES ON OLD FRIENDS

- **Emily Jones**, first year MDiv student at Chicago Theological Seminary, says hello. She was back east in December and worshipped with us on a very snowy Sunday around Christmas. She's enjoying her studies and misses everyone at FSUMC.
- **Phil Gressman**, now teaching at U Penn, is doing well there. He's a member of a church in Phillie, serving on their finance committee. Phil and colleague R.M. Strain recently proved an important theory about the activity of gas molecules with a soon-to-be-published article, "Global strong solutions of the Boltzmann equation without angular cut-off". Also coming in the next year for Phil—his wedding day! He and longtime girlfriend Jen are engaged to be married. A May 2011 wedding in Boston is planned. Congratulations!
- **Eva Johnson** says hello. She's doing consulting work as EJ Connections: Developing, educating, and serving. She continues to do well in Chattanooga and sends her greetings to FSUMC. You can still reach her at evajo7@yahoo.com.



**Remember:
Daylight Savings Time ends
March 14th at 2am.
Turn your clock ahead 1 hour.**

LENT, LUKE & LECTIO DIVINA

Lent, Luke, and Lectio Divina: Faith Nurture Opportunity 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. This is 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 March 2, 9, 16, 23, from 7-8pm, in the Parlor.

HOLY WEEK

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

Our District Superintendent, Rev. Ken Kieffer, 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.

First Sunday in Easter, our special guest preacher, a prophet for justice and peace, will be Rev. Dr. Traci West from Drew University.



A NEW FACE FOR FSUMC!



Check out our updated website at www.fsumc.org!

Dobihal Lecture in Religion & Health March 11, 2010

The annual Dobihal Lecture in Religion and Health is being held on Thursday, March 11th in the Beaumont Room of the Yale School of Medicine (entrance at 333 Cedar Street). We gather at 4:30pm for a time of light refreshment and the lecture itself starts at 5:00pm. This year's lecturer is Connie Donovan, an advance practice nurse and ethicist, recently retired and now studying cultural anthropology particularly as it impacts health care. She will be sharing a case from her recent trip to Guatemala. For more information, contact Peg Lewis at Yale New Haven Hospital at Peg.Lewis@ynhh.org.

The Sengbe Pieh Awards were created in 2002 to honor Sengbe Pieh, the charismatic leader of the Africans aboard the Portuguese transport Amistad. Sengbe and his comrades seized control of the ship in 1839 and subsequently secured their court-ordered freedom. Much of their fascinating story took place in New Haven, CT. The Sengbe Pieh Awards are given to individuals who have made a major contribution to the general welfare of the community through their generous public service acts. Please consider placing an ad (order form below) to celebrate justice and peace, honor a friend/relative, or remember Sengbe Pieh. Ads are due for the book on March 15th.

**Support Advertisements for the Program Brochure
For Sengbe Pieh Awards Ceremony 2010
Date TBD—later this spring**

Sponsored by
First & Summerfield United Methodist Church
New Haven, CT

Please make checks payable to: "First & Summerfield UMC"
with "Sengbe Pieh Ads" or "Sengbe Pieh Patron" in the memo.

For questions or to authenticate request for advertising, contact
Rev. Sara Lamar-Sterling, 203.624.2521/revsara@sbcglobal.net.

Organization/Business Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Size of Ad: _____ Cost: _____

Comments: _____

Order received by: _____

Phone: _____

Whole Page Ad (8.5"x11"): \$100
payable to FSUMC "Sengbe Pieh Ads"

Half Page Ad: \$50
payable to FSUMC "Sengbe Pieh Ads"

Business card Ad: \$25
payable to FSUMC "Sengbe Pieh Ads"

Patron (for individuals/memorials) \$10
payable to FSUMC "Sengbe Pieh Patron"

Preparation of Ads:

Camera-ready copy, if possible;

Supply any logo or artwork

Prices are for different size spaces, as indicated above

Name of donor(s): _____

Given in memory of: _____

Phone: _____

Amount given: _____

Please return this ad form to church by **March 15**.

For Sengbe Pieh Awards Ceremony 2010 payable to FSUMC "Sengbe Pieh Ads"
Patron (for individuals/memorials) \$10 payable to FSUMC with "Sengbe Pieh Ads" or "Sengbe Pieh Patron" in the memo.

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



FSUMC
**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SUPPORT!**

We appreciate your generous donations to Human Relations Sunday (\$350.00) and your financial donations to support emergency needs in Haiti (\$1106.15), to date. It goes to show that the members of First and Summerfield come together when needs arise here at home and around the world.

Thank you so much!



The Calling

A Celebration in Music and Dance
for Everyone Seeking Their
Mission

Come hear, see, enjoy

- **Singer/songwriter Jana Stanfield**
- **Moving in Grace Dancers**
- **The Sounds of Afrika drummers**



Sunday
March 21st
2:00 p.m.

Mission Fair (continues after concert) 3:00 p.m.

Seating for Concert 3:30 p.m. Concert begins

Danbury United Methodist Church

5 Clapboard Ridge Road Danbury, CT

Admission free/Goodwill offering

For information call (203) 929-3537

Sponsored by the CT and NY/CT Districts of the New York Conference of the
United Methodist Church

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, 5:30pm Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen, 311 Temple St., 1st & 3rd Tuesdays
7pm Lent, Luke, Lectio Divina, Parlor 7-8pm

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

Dates to Remember

Tues Mar 2: Lent, Luke and Lectio Divina, Parlor, 7-8pm

Wed Mar 3: Trustees Meeting, 6 pm, Parlor

Sun Mar 7: New Member Class, 11:30am

Mon Mar 8: Staff Parish Relations Committee, 7pm, Parlor

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.

Thurs Mar 11: Dobihal Lecture in Religion & Health, 4:30pm, Beaumont Room, YSM.

Sun Mar 14: Daylight Savings Time ends 2am.

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. All volunteers are expected to attend.

Mar 21: 11am housing advocacy letter writing campaign. Donations of pens, letter-size envelopes, and stamps are welcome.

The Calling, 2pm, Danbury UMC.

March 22-28: Abraham's Tent Hospitality Week, Trinity Hall, 6pm to 6am every night! Talk to Ad Tucker for more information or to volunteer.

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
Clothing Rummage Sale, 10am-2pm, Trinity Hall



*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 April 2010 newsletter deadline is March 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.