

# THE PARISHIONER

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, WOODBRIDGE 1738-2009

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

Telephone (203) 389-2119

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E-mail: [office@uccw.org](mailto:office@uccw.org)

Website: [www.firstchurchwoodbridge.org](http://www.firstchurchwoodbridge.org)

UCC Website: [www.ctucc.org](http://www.ctucc.org)

August 2009

## Church Council

Council met on July 6, 2009.

During the last year members of Council have been sharing their perspectives on Leadership. With a new council year, we will be sharing our perspectives on Change. Our Moderator, Julie Altman, started off with her thoughts on the subject. Council members wrote haiku poems on the theme.

Members provided updates on various church activities – the search for a Christian Education Director, the refugee resettlement project, handing out church brochures at the weekly July town concerts, the upcoming Pine Ridge mission trip, the budget-balancing challenge, and the upcoming Fall Leadership Retreat.

Your Council's next meeting is scheduled for August 24, 2009.



## A Challenge Gift for Our Deficit Budget

Diana Mott made a challenge gift at the Congregational Meeting that she would give \$500 over and above what she had already pledged if nineteen additional donors would do the same. So far the following have stepped up:

Diana Mott

Nancy Dickgiesser

Phyllis Hedberg

Michael Penn-Strah

Bob Knapp

Betsy Demir

Beverly Fries

One Anonymous Donor

Women's Fellowship

John Anderson and Garrett Stack

Faye and Eaton Chen

George Taylor



We still need eight more donors to meet the challenge. Your gift may be the one to complete the challenge. Checks must be received at the church by September 16. If you wish to make a challenge, please call Carole, 389-2119.

## Sunday School Teachers Needed!!!!

As you know, we will be starting off a new Church School year in September, but we are in great need of teachers. Please think about donating a couple of Sundays to help us get started. You would be looking after a small group of children and the program will be in place, so it will be very easy for you to follow with the children. This is one of the Christian Education Boards three vision areas, and we need your help to get our Church School up and running successfully!

So please, donate your time and contact Fiona at 203-389-7297 or email at [Peasinapeapod@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Peasinapeapod@sbcglobal.net).



# Pastors Corner

The Rev. Dr. Sara E. Penn-Strah

My Dear Friends,

On the day I write this to you, July 10, I have just finished seven days of my study leave. Some of you have asked me exactly what that means. The notion of study leave comes from the recognition that effective pastoral ministry requires continual study—important to improve the quality of pastoral service and to encourage your pastor’s professional development. I am grateful for this time away.

So what have I been doing? I have spent this time in two ways so far. First, I have worked on planning for the upcoming program year. I have gone through the scripture passages prescribed for each Sunday of the Revised Common Lectionary, considered important themes that we might lift up in worship and recorded in general terms what I expect worship to be about on that Sunday. I do this mostly to aid the rest of the staff—especially our music staff, Faye Chen and Dean Beckert—so that they can plan music that will augment the rest of our worship.

The second thing I have been doing is reading. I’ll be sharing one of the books I read with our council this year and inviting them to read it with me, Leading Change in the Congregation: Spiritual and Organizational Tools for Leaders, by Gilbert Rendle. Why this book? I chose this book in response to leadership from our moderator, Julie Altman. This year Julie has asked the church council to lift up “change” as a theme for our conversations about leadership at our council meetings.

Change is going on all around us all the time. With a shift in pastoral leadership after a long-term pastorate, the changes that happen naturally come into sharper focus. How can church leaders, in a church that is growing in so many ways, provide leadership that helps us adapt and respond faithfully to the changes that are going on all around us while holding on to the core of our identity as a community of faith? I found this book very helpful and trust that our church leaders will too.

In the meantime, as I approach the end of my third year in ministry with you, and begin, on August 1, our fourth year together, I am grateful to be part of a community of faith that seeks to hear and respond to Jesus’ call to discipleship.

Many blessings for a restful month,

Sara

P.S. One of the best parts of my study leave so far was witnessing how amazingly you all have been doing ministry without me! Thanks especially to the amazing Refugee Resettlement Group, to Betsy Demir for our updated church brochure, and to Jan Drummond and Ginny Calistro for telling people about our church during the July Tuesday evening concerts on the Town Green.



## WORSHIP IN AUGUST

All our worship through Labor Day is kid-friendly. On two Sundays, August 23 and 30, we will worship outdoors on our beautiful Green if the weather permits. Don't forget that the Sunday after Labor Day, September 10, will be Rally Day when we will dedicate ourselves to teaching and learning and when our children will meet their Sunday School teachers.



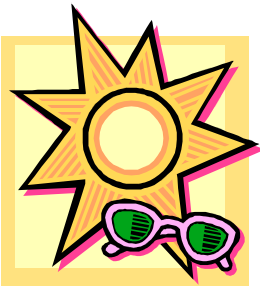
**August 2:** 9<sup>th</sup> after Pentecost; proper 13. Ephesians 4:1-16 Holy Communion (Paul writes to the Christians in Ephesus about their spiritual gifts and about using them for the good of the church) John 6:24-35 (Jesus chides his listeners for relying on material things and offers them the bread of life, instead.)

**August 9:** 10<sup>th</sup> after Pentecost; proper 14. 2 Samuel 18:5-33 (The story of the death of King David's son, Absalom, who was challenging his father's kingship. How do you tell bad news to the most powerful person you know?). Ephesians 4:25-5:2 (Paul continues his letter to the church about how to get along and build up the church: What do they do with anger and disagreement?)

**August 16:** 11<sup>th</sup> after Pentecost; proper 15. 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 (At David's death, his son Solomon ascends to the throne and prays to God for wisdom). Ephesians 5:15-20: (Instructions for the church on wisdom with the invitation to praise God in community with others. The power of wisdom strengthens the community of God's people by lending a common commitment to seek God's right, just, and good purposes.)

**August 23:** 12<sup>th</sup> after Pentecost; proper 16. **WORSHIP ON THE GREEN, WEATHER PERMITTING** Psalm 84 (The Psalmist exclaims, "How lovely is your dwelling place" and invites us to trust and abide in God); Ephesians 6:10-20 (Paul reflects on the strength such abiding makes possible.) In what ways and places on our journeys have we experienced and joyfully celebrated our home in God? How might these passages invigorate our responses to those who are in need of a safe dwelling place?

**August 30:** 13<sup>th</sup> after Pentecost; proper 17. **WORSHIP ON THE GREEN, WEATHER PERMITTING, HYMN SING** (baptism of baby Hubbard) James 1: 17-27 (every generous act of giving comes from above... be doers of the word not merely hearers.)

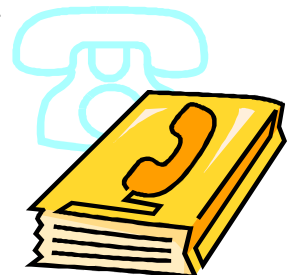


### Summer Giving Reminder

During the summer months, it is easy to get lulled into forgetfulness about our financial commitment to God's work. Although we may be spending good quality time with our family and friends, we should not let our pledges lapse because the ongoing expenses of the church operation do not "go on holiday." Please take a minute to keep The First Church family in your prayers and to send in your regular donations during July and August.

### Send Us Your Photos!

As part of the plan for our new church directory, we are eager for digital images. We are asking that you send us a digital image of your family, as formal or informal as you'd like! Also welcome are digital images of church activities. Simply attach your photo file(s) in an email to the church office: office@uccw.org. If you would like someone to take a photo of you for inclusion in the directory, let Carole know (389-2119). Other questions? Contact Julie Altman (393-0796), or Sally Lohne (387-8459).



### Columbus House Outreach Cooking Schedule 2009-2010

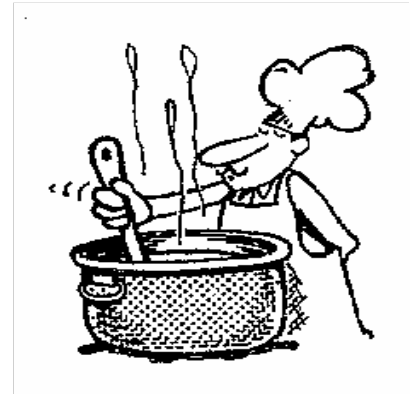
Columbus House is New Haven's primary shelter for homeless individuals, and it has been a long-standing commitment of our church to provide residents there one meal a month (the third Monday night of every month). Groups from our church take turns preparing and serving. Cooking is usually done after church on the Sunday prior to the Monday meal. Henry Gates is our generous volunteer shopper so all the food and materials needed to prepare the meal are available in the Parish House kitchen.

As coordinator, Julie Altman schedules the various groups and provides back up as needed each month. Groups should be sure there are 3-4 volunteers to cook and/or serve for their duty month. Carole makes sure the casseroles are hot and ready to go by 5 p.m. Monday night. If someone in your group does not have a key for the Parish House, be sure to pick one up from Carole in the church office.

Everyone who has had the opportunity to cook and/or serve has truly felt it to be a worthwhile experience – we hope you will help if and when called upon. Any questions about this mission opportunity, or to volunteer, please call Julie at 393-0796. Thank you!

Thanks to the many volunteers who have worked to bring a hot meal to the residents of Columbus House this year. You will be sent a reminder and instructions with a list of people who can assist you with any questions. The following committees/groups are scheduled:

<b>Monday, Sept. 21</b>	<b>Board of Trustees</b>
<b>Monday, October 19</b>	<b>Board of Christian Education</b>
<b>Monday, November 16</b>	<b>Confirmation Class</b>
<b>Monday, December 21</b>	<b>Robert/Glusac Family</b>
<b>Monday, January 18</b>	<b>Board of Christian Service</b>
<b>Monday, February 15</b>	<b>Board of Stewardship</b>
<b>Monday, March 15</b>	<b>Robert/Glusac Family</b>
<b>Monday, April 19</b>	<b>Youth Group</b>
<b>Monday, May 17</b>	<b>Boy Scout Troop 907</b>
<b>Monday, June 21</b>	<b>Board of Deacons</b>
<b>Monday, July 19</b>	<b>Altman Family &amp; Friends</b>
<b>Monday, August 16</b>	<b>??? It could be your group here!</b>



For \$130 you can sponsor a meal at Columbus House! Call Carole at the church office, 389-2119.

## **BUSINESS CARDS WANTED**

### **Yellow Pages Comes Again to The First Church in Woodbridge**

Do you need more business?

Trying to start a new business?

Do you want your church family to know what you do?

All members are invited, from babysitters to rocket scientists.

For the sixth year, we will be publishing business cards in The First Church Directory for all to see and support.

**It's So Easy!** Drop a business card and \$20 off at the church office and the card will be in the fall Directory.

**Don't Delay** and miss this great opportunity.

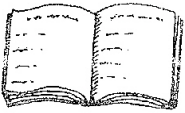
**Deadline** - August 21, 2009

**First Church of Christ, Woodbridge, CT  
Church Directory 2009-2010**

**Parishioner Information**

<u>Member Name(s)</u>	<u>Preferred E-mail Address(es)</u>	<u>Telephone Number(s) (cell / home / work):</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**\*Note: If you prefer not to have email addresses and/or phone numbers in the directory, please indicate. Also - if desired, please send favorite digital images of you (and church events) to [office@uccw.org](mailto:office@uccw.org)**



**Marking Life's Passages**

<b>Birth</b>	July 15, 2009	Marlow Justin Ziac son of Heather and Jona Ziac grandson of Debbie and Rich Forselius
<b>Marriage</b>	June 28, 2009	Kara Drummond and Steven Pope
	July 5, 2009	John Anderson and Garrett Stack
<b>Death</b>	July 23, 2009	Elfrieda L. Homeyer



Leave behind more than an empty pew. Remember the church in your will.

**The Parishioner**

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Woodbridge, Connecticut

**Editor and Office Manager** Carole Prescott  
**Pastor** The Rev. Dr. Sara E. Penn-Strah  
**Pastor Emeritus** The Rev. Boyd M. Johnson, Jr.  
**Compiled by** Cathy Hubbard

***NEXT PARISHIONER DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY, AUG. 19, 2009 (a firm date)***