

ConnTact

United
Church
News



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Two churches join UCC and Connecticut Conference

BY HAL CHORPENNING

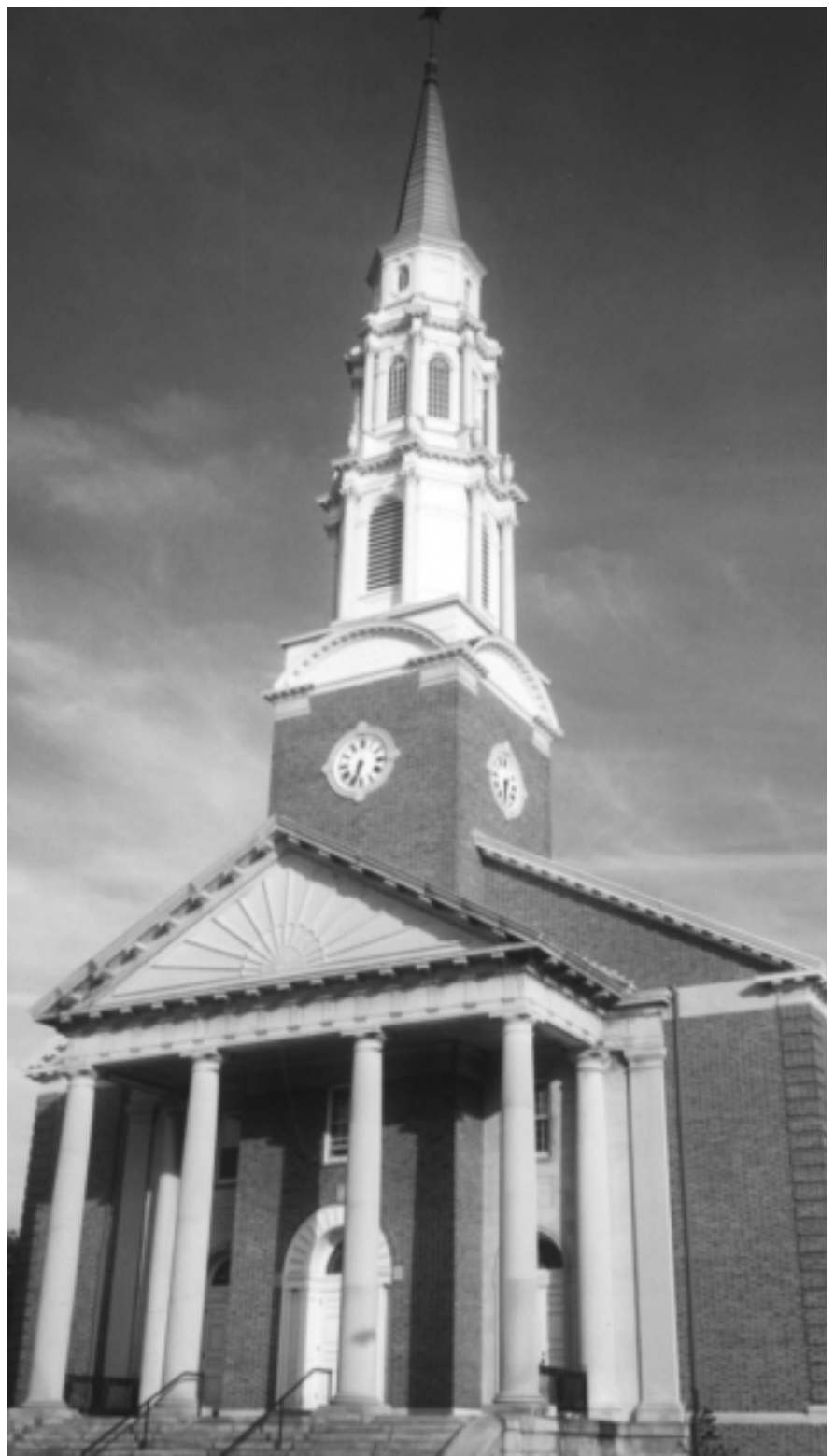
The United Congregational Church in Bridgeport is not a new church at all, but it is new to the United Church of Christ. Gathered in 1695, United Congregational did not vote to join the UCC when the denomination was formed in 1957 by the merger of the Congregational and Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church. But after a period of discernment, United Congregational voted to join the Fairfield East Association of the UCC this year.

Part of the yearlong process was hearing the perspectives of other churches, says Interim Senior Minister Tom Walter. "We invited two different delegations to speak," he says. All the delegation members were laypeople. One group was from the New Fairfield church, which joined the UCC in 1998, and the other from First

Congregational in Fairfield. "The New Fairfield group was enthusiastic about their process of joining, and their enthusiasm communicated well to our congregation," comments Walter. "In discussions with the members from Fairfield, we had honest give and take, with some tough questions and good, solid answers."

One church member, 98-year-old Leonette Wishard, commented that she "refused to die until the church joins the UCC." Mrs. Wishard had been a missionary in the Philippines in the 1940s and was interned for three years by the Japanese. Later, she was a missionary for the United Church Board for World Ministries (now the UCC's Wider Church Ministries) in Greece and in Turkey, where she taught in Izmir for five years. She was also director of Christian Education at United Congregational in

Continued on page 3



The United Congregational Church of Bridgeport

Photo: Barbara Brown Zikmund

Respecting God's Earth



The Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree,
Conference Minister

Summer, for many of us, is the time when we are most aware of our environment. We garden and play expansively in this lovely season in Connecticut. We dip our bodies in cool pools, bake them [cautiously] in the hot sun, gear up for tennis or bicycling or a run. We see things differently because we have moments of leisure – colors seem more intense, birds chirp more loudly, common vistas take on a beauty we hardly see at other times.

For me, this has been a year of appreciating the magnificent planet on which we live. Spending sabbatical time in the midst of the Everglades and pondering the ways of God as I watched ibis and vul-

tures, explored cypress forests and wetland habitats enabled me to reconnect with life-long commitments. Having three weeks this summer to stay at home and coax my perennial gardens into a fulsome blooming and remembering what it is like simply to live in the midst of beauty might be called an essential luxury.

The beauty we have received from God surrounds us all. Certainly some of us have a great deal more than others. I remember the years in which I lived in apartments and eventually a little house in the south end of Hartford. Seeking beauty, and still being young, I would run up the hill to Avery Heights and around in circles as I took in every garden. Or I would drive out to the reservoirs in West Hartford and run for an hour or two, just for the sheer joy of it. Older now, I walk and garden, trying to surround myself with the peace of God found in the beauty and serenity of the natural world.

And so, out of deep conviction and a good measure of fear, I must write to you that I am profoundly concerned that the House of Representatives has voted to drill for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I've only seen the Kenai Peninsula and Anchorage myself. But that experience will be forever with me. And I know from my years as naturalist at a camp and my major in biology in college that once the wilderness is damaged, it can never

be restored. What Congress is contemplating is unthinkable to me. Human beings are intended to be stewards of the earth, not its selfish exploiters. As stewards, we bear the privilege of utilizing the resources of the earth, not using them up! When we read the early chapters of Genesis and Psalm 104, we find a record of God's delight in the earth and all its living things. To me, these dynamic and poetic records speak of God's vision of the interrelationship of all of life. They presage so much of what science has "discovered" in these late centuries.

And so I conclude with a personal appeal. Call Senators Dodd and Lieberman and urge them not just to vote, but to organize against this terrible policy. And while you are at it, call Representative Nancy Johnson and thank her and our other representatives for voting against this policy in the House. Let Connecticut stand united against selfish exploitation of the environment, and let the creativity of Connecticut's inventors be unleashed in finding new energy sources to meet the need. A number of years ago, the youth of our Conference presented a resolution at General Synod that focused our attention on these concerns – let us be led by their insight and their vision of the future as we make public policy today!

Oh – and let's all agree to try to slow down a little and see the sunsets as we move into autumn and its crazy pace. Life is for living!

ORIGINAL SPIN • THE REV. HAL CHORPENNING

Search and Call

A friend of mine recently suggested that we should have a Personals column in Conntact. I think she was kidding, but I can just picture it now:

Single white female, in search of long-term relationship with spiritually grounded, intellectual UCC male, 35-45. Must be open and affirming, committed to justice and peace. Reply to mailbox 001.

Well, perhaps not. Matchmaking is well beyond the charter of Conntact. But it occurred to me that we do have such a service in the UCC...well...sort of.

The way we connect ministers and congregations is a lot like a dating service. And maybe that's preferable to other systems (such as the United Methodist system, in which ministers are placed by the bishop in a local congregation and then recalled at the bishop's pleasure).

In the UCC, we have a monthly publication called "United Church Employment Opportunities," which is a listing of churches searching for new ordained leadership. It's a lot like an extended Personals column. One of our Connecticut churches writes, "Small historic, musical, country church seeks 'people' pastor. We are located about 2 hours from NYC and 2.5 hours from Boston." Another church describes its diverse age group as extending from "the blue-haired" to the "pierced." Here's an extract of one entry from

Maine: "Fringe benefits include a majestic view of Casco Bay from the senior pastor's study...and a lobster dinner and a piece of hot blueberry pie upon acceptance of the call."

I was talking a few months ago with one of our regional ministers—he handles the search-and-call process here in Connecticut—and he suggested that search committees are also looking for other "qualifications" that don't show up on paper. Often, he says, search committees are looking for male ministers, preferably married. That may be the idea we have in our minds of what a minister "looks like"; when most of us were kids, that is what most ministers looked like. Welcome to the 21st century! Women now form the majority of newly ordained ministers.

This same colleague approaches a search committee with two stacks of profiles (a candidate's packet of essays, personal records, and references): the smaller stack is the married white guys and the larger stack contains the profiles of UCC ministers who don't fit that mold. The women; the people of color; the gay and lesbian folk; the ministers with disabilities. And the regional minister asks them to look at how many talented people they will miss, if they don't rethink their assumptions about what a minister "looks like."

We, all of us, need to be open to the movement of the Holy Spirit in discerning the call of a pastor; that is the theological rationale behind the way we call our clergy. And if we refuse to break our narrow mold of what a minister "looks like," we're not only depriving our congregations of great applicants, we're getting in the way of the Spirit.

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Two churches *Continued from page one*

the 1940s and 50s, and was a Sunday School teacher of the Rev. Ted Hoskins (now pastor emeritus at the Saugatuck Church in Westport).

"For nearly 50 years – ever since the UCC was formed – I have been trying to get us to join the United Church of Christ," she recalls. "I've tried not to be a pest about it, and there have always been members who have supported the idea. I am just so pleased about the vote."

The congregation has 497 members and has made contributions consistently to Our Church's Wider Mission. "There has been a real change in attitude over the years," Walter suggests. "There is not a go-it-alone attitude in this church. We need connections with other UCC congregations, as well as a determination to be in the city and not flee to the suburbs." Walter describes a congregation that once was almost exclusively European-American and now has African-American, Hispanic, and Southeast Asian members, as well, "who are now moving into places of leadership and being warmly welcomed." According to Walter, "We have a burgeoning hope of connecting with some of our suburban churches, which will enrich us both."

Hungarian Roots Run Deep

While most churches in Connecticut trace their lineage to Puritan and Pilgrim ancestors, we have churches that find their origin in another stream of the UCC tradition, including the Evangelical and Reformed Church in Wallingford, which voted to join the New Haven Association of the UCC.

Formed by Hungarian immigrants in 1904, the church comes from the Reformed tradition in Hungary. Upon arrival in the United States, many such congregations formed alliances with the German Reformed Church (which then joined with the German Evangelical Church to form the Evangelical and Reformed Church, which later merged as a part of the UCC). Many Hungarian churches retained a separate episcopate, however, and today the Calvin Synod of the UCC, composed of ethnic Hungarian churches, has a bishop

and functions as a non-geographical conference. It was in this strand of the UCC tradition that the Evangelical and Reformed Church in Wallingford was founded.

According to David Carvalho, who is the chief elder of the congregation, "The church is relatively small and having some difficulty. Some of our members now come from non-Hungarian backgrounds." Carvalho, whose ancestry is Portuguese, married a Hungarian woman in the congregation. "We were married here 50 years ago, and all our children were baptized here," he says.

The process for the church was difficult for some. In October 1999 they voted to leave the Calvin Synod. "For some there were theological differences, and others were looking to extend their constituency beyond ethnic Hungarians," says the Rev. Lynn Anderson, the church's interim minister. "But there has always been a desire to be part of the larger church." Leaving the Calvin Synod was initiated by the congregation, but then the church had to discern whether to join the New Haven Association, essentially re-entering the UCC via that association and the Connecticut Conference.

"There was an intentional process of relationship-building before they made the decision to join the association," recalls Regional Minister Kent Siladi. The New Haven Association formed a committee to be supportive of the congregation's process, headed by Detra McDougall, who has served on the Conference Board of Directors and is registrar at Yale Divinity School. The committee also helped them examine what it would mean to be part of the UCC and the association. According to Siladi, "They did it well, with integrity and care."

At their annual meeting this year, the congregation took a ballot on whether to join the association, and the vote was unanimous. "We waited and met a lot," remembers Carvalho. "The New Haven Association was very helpful in working through a tough decision. We've just formed a search committee, and I'm hopeful about our future."

Congratulations to all these Connecticut Churches celebrating anniversaries this year

First Church of Christ, Congregational, Farmington	350th
First Congregational Church of Norwalk, Inc.	350th
First Congregational Church of Derby, Inc.	325th
First Congregational Church of East Hartford	300th
First Church of Christ, Congregational, Groton	300th
Buckingham Congregational Church of UCC, Glastonbury	275th
North Branford Congregational Church, UCC	275th
Rocky Hill, Congregational Church	275th
Somers Congregational Church	275th
First Congregational Church of East Windsor	250th
North Greenwich Congregational Church	175th
First Congregational Church of Essex	150th
Mystic Congregational Church	150th
Pilgrim Congregational Church, New Haven	150th
South Congregational Church, East Hartford	125th

Board Approves Conflict of Interest Policy

by Alan E. Green
chair, Board of Directors

May the peace of God be with you.

At the June Board of Directors meeting the topic of conflict of interest was discussed, and I thought it would be important to share with you the outcome of the discussion.

Several months ago a Board committee member shared with the Board the possibility of receiving a monetary benefit from his professional expertise given to the committee (and the Conference). The monetary reward was not to be paid by the Conference but by another party that stood to benefit from the Conference work. In good faith the committee member advised the Board of the potential benefit. The benefit and the way it was to be provided to the committee member were standard for the industry.

When the Board considered this information it realized that the Conference did not have a conflict of interest policy. Subsequently a committee was formed and a suggested policy was presented to the Board, which it adopted at the June 21, 2001 meeting.

Several parts of the policy read as follows:

Each person who is a Director, Officer or Committee Member of the Connecticut Conference shall exercise good faith and best efforts in the performance of his or her duties to the Conference and all entities affiliated with the conference.

No person who is a Director, Officer or Committee Member of the Conference shall accept any material compensation, gift, or

favor that could influence or appear to influence such person's actions affecting the Conference or any affiliated entity.

The Conference Board and the Committees of the Board are comprised of people with many professions and areas of expertise. There are lawyers, accountants, investment professionals, social workers, educators, and clergy to name a few. The Conference needs the expertise of its members to function successfully. The Conference needs to know that there is not even an implication that a committee member would take a position that could adversely affect the Conference.

Affirmative action is another reason for this policy. If a member of our Conference, or anyone else for that matter, can stand to benefit from their expertise than the Conference should ensure that it acts affirmatively in securing services of individuals regardless of race, color, gender, disability, religion, or ethnicity. The Board is now reviewing its Affirmative Action Policy to make sure it is current with present standards. The Board wants to ensure that when a person can monetarily benefit that there is equal opportunity for all individuals.

A copy of the Conflict of Interest Policy is on the Conference Web site www.ctucc.org.

Finally the Board encourages the Associations and local churches to consider adopting a similar policy if one does not already exist. The Conference has had a long history of inclusiveness and ensuring the rights of all people. A Conflict of Interest Policy and an Affirmative Action Policy are a cornerstone to future inclusiveness of all.

BACK BAY SHRIMP SALE



Back Bay Mission will be conducting their annual shrimp sale. It is a great opportunity for great seafood and to support a worthwhile cause. If you have never ordered before please contact us at www.Backbaymission.org for details and dates.

Back Bay Mission is a United Church of Christ Community ministry and is supported by the Connecticut Conference United Church of Christ.

Back Bay Mission
868 Bayview Avenue
Biloxi, MS 39530
(601) 432-0301

WHAT DOES BACK BAY MISSION DO?

- provides direct EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE;
- operates a FOOD PANTRY and a THRIFT SHOP;
- provides education/ service-oriented WORK-CAMPING opportunities to UCC youth and adults;
- organizes and helps operate new service agencies like:
 - *Coastal Family Health Center* serving 22,000 low-income patients; *Gulf Coast Women's Center* an advocacy and shelter program for victims of domestic violence and rape;
 - *Loaves and Fishes* which served 58,473 hot meals in 1994;
 - *South Mississippi AIDS Task Force* providing services and education to the community and persons living with HIV/AIDS

Churches of Connecticut Living out the Gospel

The Wider Church Ministry Team of the Connecticut Conference is planning for another exciting opportunity for Christian service at this year's Annual Meeting, October 19 - 21. Last year the churches of the Connecticut Conference donated almost a ton and a half of school supplies and over the counter medicines to our partner church in Colombia.

This year we are asking the churches to donate Health Kits and School Kits, for distribution by Church World Service (CWS). Your church can send preassembled kits or send the materials listed below. We suggest that you set aside a place in your church to collect these items in September and early October. Please dedicate them on October 14th and send them with your delegates.

Each Health Kit includes:

- One hand towel
 - One washcloth
 - One comb
 - One metal nail file
 - One bar of bath soap
 - One toothbrush
 - One tube (4-7 oz) toothpaste
 - Six band-aids
- Bundle all items into the towel and tie it together with ribbon or yarn.

Each School Kit contains:

- One pair blunt scissors
- Two pads or notebooks of ruled paper 8-1/2 X 11", containing 150-200 sheets of paper
- One 30-centimeter ruler (12")
- One pencil sharpener
- Six new pencils with erasers
- One 2-1/2" eraser
- Twelve sheets colored construction paper
- One box of 24 crayons
- One 12" X 14" cloth bag with cloth handles
- Bundle these items in the cloth bag, fold top
- Over, and secure with two large rubber bands.

For further information contact Jill Shaw at gmslaw@juno.com or 203/792-0596.

Scholarship Announced for Church Musicians

Applications are now being accepted for the 2002 Charlotte Hoyt Bagnell Scholarship. The scholarship is for study in religious music and liturgy and is intended to help musicians improve their ability to support religious worship services. It is open to musicians of all faiths.

Up to fifteen hundred dollars will be awarded this year based on the judgement of a panel of prominent church musicians from Connecticut. The scholarship can be used for a variety of religious and music studies including:

- Organ lessons
- Undergraduate or graduate studies related to organ or religious music
- Attendance at seminars
- Individual college level courses related to religious music

To qualify for consideration, applicants must be able to demonstrate proficiency on piano and/or organ and must be currently employed (part time or full time) by a religious organization or be seeking such employment.

Information and applications can be obtained by visiting the scholarship website <<http://www.pcdevelopers.com/chb>>, by sending a request to <CHBScholarship@cs.com> or by writing The Charlotte H. Bagnell Scholarship at 17 Beaverbrook Road, West Simsbury, CT 06092.

Hear the Rev. Dr. Andrew Young

You have two opportunities to hear the ordained UCC minister, former UN ambassador, former mayor of Atlanta, and chair of the Atlanta Olympic Committee!

- September 27 at the 25th Anniversary of the Christian Conference of CT. Contact Gail Oliver at 860-236-4281
- May 3-4, 2002 at the Hartford Seminary Reunion.

Join us and hear Ched Myers

speaking about *Sabbath Economics* an economic justice conference

sponsored by
*the Connecticut Conference
Justice & Witness Ministry Team*

October 27, 2001 9:00 - 4

The Newington Congregational Church
For more info or to sign up, contact Cecile Gilson
at 860/233-5564 or cecileg@ctucc.org

Ched Myers has worked with several peace and justice organizations and movements, including the American Friends Services Committee, the Pacific concerns Resource Center and the Pacific Life Community. He writes regularly for *Sojourners*, *The Other Side* and *The Witness* magazines.

On a Mission: Redding Church Works with UCC Partners in Jamaica

by Hal Chorpennig

The First Church of Christ, Congregational, in Redding Center has a knack for mission projects. During each of the past three years, the congregation has undertaken mission trips: to Americus, Georgia, to Orland, Maine, and this summer to Jamaica. Thirty members of the church went on the trip, including their pastor, the Rev. Dean Ahlberg.

The church tied into the People-to-People Pilgrimages, a program of the Global Ministries of the UCC and Disciples of Christ, which is supported by your church's gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission. The People-to-People Pilgrimages are a great way for UCC congregations to connect with UCC-related mission partners.

"We had worked previously [only] with other volunteers and wanted a different experience," says Bowie Duncan, a member of the Redding Center church. Isabel Gonzalez of People-to-People Pilgrimage "was very helpful in our effort to find a program where we could interact more with the community," he says. She "helped us find the Madge Saunders Conference Center in Jamaica."

The Center is a meeting place for church and youth groups, named for the Rev. Madge Saunders, an ordained Presbyterian minister now in her 90s. She set up the island's first Sunday School teacher training program and also set up six "basic schools" in Jamaica for children ages 4-7. From those six schools, 120 have emerged.

Perhaps not coincidentally, one of the accomplishments of the mission crew from Redding was a mural of feeding the five thousand. In a recent sermon, the Rev. Dean Ahlberg, said, "There's no doubt in my mind, that as those loaves and fish multiplied in Galilee, so Madge Saunders' efforts have multiplied love, and caring, and sharing throughout the world."

Duncan reflects on the mural and the trip this way: "The miracle is in the energy released among those individuals passing the loaves and fishes in partnership...that is the difference in the People-to-People Pilgrimage."

Making Connections

Many of the young people from Redding who participated recorded their thoughts in an album, and without exception, they all commented on the bonds of friendship that were formed between the UCC members and their Jamaican partners. "It was truly the friendships created and hard work accomplished that gave me the most out of our mission trip to Jamaica," reflects Ashley St. Pierre. One of the other participants, Kimiko Tanaka, recalls "the wonderful, caring people. making new friends was a great experience....The adventures and hard work have brought everyone together in a great way!"

The team from Redding painted three cottages, raised a roof, and painted a mural, and all are tangible improvements. It is true that many mission trips accomplish much, in terms of doing good, but the bridge-building aspect is sometimes neglected. When two groups of people are drawn together by their faith, bonds are formed.

Seeing a mission trip as a pilgrimage and a partnership also is a way to work with the sometimes paternalistic notion that we have the answers and the ability and the "recipients" do not. Pilgrimage involves a spiritual change for the pilgrim. Partnership involves two parties working together without hierarchy.

"Partnership," writes Duncan, "... is a way of seeing the UCC provides, which I think is superior in getting at the root of the problem of the Third World and its connection to the First World." He also points out an article in a recent New York Times issue, in which Bard College president, Leon Botstein criticizes service trips because they fail to provide adequate education about the realities of other nations. "The UCC People-to-People program provides such education," comments Duncan.

Often, when groups return from immersion experiences, they often wonder, "Who was the recipient and who the giver?" Clearly, a successful trip is one in which both partners benefit from the experience. "Partnership is our [emphasis]," writes Duncan. "We brought home more Good News than we brought to Jamaica."

Find out more about the People-to-People Pilgrimage program by calling Isabel Gonzalez at 317-713-2579 or email her at igonzale@dom.disciples.org. You can also get more information from the UCC/Disciples of Christ Global Ministries website at <http://www.globalministries.org/go/wt.htm>



Clockwise from top left: Stephen and Tom Santa; Dean Ahlberg; Chris Ahlberg; the People to People Pilgrimage Team and David Cramer.

This month's column highlights a few of the many mission work trips and fundraisers done by the UCC churches in Connecticut. The Connecticut Conference recognizes the faithful service done for others by the youth and adults of our congregations.

East Granby

Congregational Church sent several youth and adults to the Appalachia Service Project in Kentucky over the summer. During the summer home repair program youth and youth-full group leaders complete every imaginable kind of home repair through ASP's 20+ summer centers and 3 housing centers. In the year 2000 ASP hosted 11,123 volunteers through 22 different central Appalachian communities.

Farmington

First Church sent 24 youth and 6 adult leaders to New Milford, PA to work on house renovations for the elderly. In order to fund their trip they sold service hours for babysitting, yard work, and odd jobs around the house.

Glastonbury

First Church of Christ Senior High Youth Fellowship were in Chicago for a mission trip. One of their projects during their visit was to provide substantial meals to the residents of the shelters with which they were working. In order to off set the cost of a quality dinner for a large number of people they had a plate sale. For \$5 a plate members could purchase a paper plate that symbolized the meals that would be served.

Simsbury

First Church sent 35 high school youth and adults during February vacation to Harlan, Kentucky. Working with COAP (Christian Outreach for Appalachian People) the youth helped refurbish homes and worked with families from Harlan. They shared their experiences with the congregation in a special Youth Sunday Service. During April they helped refurbish two homes in Hartford, CT.

East Hartford

First Congregational Church held a Stock Sale to support their Mission Work camp trip to Waterville, Maine to help aid in repairs there in response to flooding this past year. Everyone who purchased stock received a personal postcard written by a work camper; an invitation to a "Stockholders Only" fall banquet with pictures and reports of the work camp experience; the love and appreciation of the senior high youth; and satisfaction of supporting the mission project.

Westport

Green's Farms Congregational Church were part of a mission trip to Alamosa, Colorado with San Luis Valley Habitat for Humanity. The project built adobe homes for the community and worked with Alamosa youth at a garden project. They also visited LaPuente, a shelter that serves the needs of over 1000 migrant workers.



Pictured above are youth and adults from UCC of Tolland, St. Paul United Church of Christ in Denver, Iowa, and The Sager Family of Hanover, PA. These three groups came together during the last week of June to be in community together and to do mission in the Faithful Advocates Serving Together (F.A.S.T.) program in Hazard, Kentucky. The work was made possible through the combined efforts of the national mission offices of the United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ in cooperation with the Hazard-Perry County Housing Development Alliance. This was the fourth annual such project, which is available from early June through mid-August. Their week was spent refurbishing and building homes for persons who qualified for assistance through the Hazard-Perry County Housing Development Alliance, Inc.

What's New in the Ruth Dudley Resource Center?

by Cecile Gilson

The Introductions in Feminist Theology Series, published by Pilgrim Press of the United Church of Christ, explores various theological topics that challenge patriarchal theology and suggest liberating alternatives.

The authors and editors seek to expand the theological discourse by providing reliable guides to the history of thinking, current issues and debates, and possible future developments in feminist theology. The following four resources are available in the Ruth Dudley Resource Center. Be sure to check out the RDRC catalog on line at www.ctucc.org for more available resources.

Introducing Body Theology by Lisa Isherwood and Elizabeth Stuart offers a body-centered theology that discusses cosmology, ecology, ethics, immortality, and sexuality, in a concise introduction that proposes and encourages a positive theology of the body.

Introducing Theology by Melissa Raphael provides an accessible, critical introduction to the relationship of religion, theo/ology, and gender, especially as these concepts unfold in the revival of Goddess religion among feminists in North America, Europe, and Australasia.

Introducing Redemption in Christian Feminism by Rosemary R. Ruether examines two contradictory strains of thought in Christianity: the redemption of Christ being applied to all without regard to gender, and the exclusion of women from leadership because of the traditional beliefs that women were created subordinate in nature and that they were more culpable for sin. After exploring these two traditions, Rosemary examines key theological themes: Christology, the self, the cross, and eschatology.

Introducing Asian Feminist Theology by Kwok Pui-lan surveys the social, political, and cultural contexts of the experiences of Asian women in theology, the interpretation of the Bible, and the appropriation of Asian religious traditions. Kwok Pui-lan then offers Asian women's critiques of the patriarchal church and outlines the search for a new spirituality that expresses women's embodiedness and sexuality.

Pettigrew to Speak at Women's Luncheon

The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Landers Pettigrew will be the featured speaker at the luncheon, sponsored by the Connecticut Women of the United Church of Christ to be held on Saturday, October 20, 2001. Rev. Pettigrew is the Minister for Children and Families, Worship and Education Ministry Team, Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ in Cleveland. Local church educator, youth minister, hospital chaplain, spiritual director and researcher specializing in the transition from Apartheid to freedom for the South African church are only a few of the titles attributed to Dr. Pettigrew. Her talk, "The U.C.C.-Where All Are Welcome" will take place during the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference which will be held in Danielson, CT. Site of the luncheon will be the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church at 80 Furnace St in Danielson. The women of the Westfield Congregational Church will prepare lunch for us; beginning at 12:15 and ending at 1:45 p.m. Delegates to the conference should register for the luncheon on the Annual Meeting registration form. All others should send their name, address, phone number, request for special meal (if needed) and a check for \$8.00 (made out to "CT Women of the UCC") to: Pam DiDio, CT Women Secretary, 125 Sherman St, Hartford, CT 06105. Questions or further information requests should be made to Susan Waldron, President, CT Women of the UCC, 860-923-2887.

CLASSIFIEDS

Positions

BLOOMFIELD — Covenant to Care a Bloomfield Agency serving abused children is looking for a Program Assistant. This part-time position includes communications and coordination support, outreach and meeting support, activity recordkeeping support, CTC activities support and newsletter involvement. Microsoft Access and Excel experience a plus. Position is 15 hours a week with flexible scheduling. Contact: Send/fax resume and cover letter to 860-243-0100, CTC Search, 120 Mountain Avenue, Suite 212, Bloomfield, CT 06002. EEO/AA [10/01]

CHESHIRE — Youth Advisor position, 25 hours per week including Sunday evenings. Looking for an individual with a passion for youth ministry to take over a vibrant and growing youth fellowship group. Flexible work schedule and salary within the Connecticut Conference Guidelines for Christian Educators. Contact: Youth Advisor Search Committee, First Congregational Church of Cheshire, 111 Church Drive, Cheshire, CT 06410 [9/01]

CHESTER — The United Church of Chester is seeking an enthusiastic part time organist/choir director for its adult choir. Major responsibilities include 10 am Sunday service. Flexible schedule—usually rehearsals before and after service plus seasonal weekday evening. Fun loving, loyal choir members. Very fine

organ and baby grand piano. Excellent salary. Contact: Organist Search Committee, United Church of Chester, PO Box 383, Chester, CT 06412 Call the church for more details. 860-526-2697. [11/01]

COLUMBIA — Columbia Congregational UCC is looking for a Church School Coordinator for birth through 6th grade. Approximately 30 hours per month for mid-August to mid-June. Salary \$4500. Contact: Jackie Kittle, 860-228-9306 [11/01]

GUILFORD — First Congregational Church is looking for a Part time sexton, (25 hours per week). Sunday work necessary. Weekdays flexible to meet their needs and year schedule. Organized handiperson a must. Contact: 203-453-5249 [9/01]

HAMDEN — Spring Glen Church is looking for a part time Interim Christian Education Coordinator who will be responsible for the development and support of the Christian Education program of the church. 25 hours a week, on a contractual basis for one year. Contact: Karen Tozzi, 203-281-7651 or Nayiri Karjian, 203-288-3381 [9/01]

NEW HAVEN — Dixwell UCC is looking for a Director of Music/Organist. Responsibilities include directing the Amistad Choir, holding weekly rehearsals, playing for Sunday worship

service as well as special services held during the year. Some weddings and funeral as well. Send or fax resume. Contact: Dixwell Avenue Congregational UCC, 217 Dixwell Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511 203-787-5839, fax 203-777-7341. [11/01]

THOMASTON — First Congregational Church is seeking a part time Youth Director for newly developing youth ministry program. Approximately ten hours per week. Must have some youth ministry experience. Please send resume and brief statement of belief. Contact: First Congregational Church, 135 Main Street, Thomaston, CT 06787 c/o Youth Director Search Committee first.congregational@snet.net or Carol Pytel, 860-283-4937 [11/01]

TRUMBULL — Congregational Church is seeking a spiritually motivated enthusiastic individual to fill a part-time position of Christian Education Director. 15 hours/week, competitive salary, beginning August 2001. Must be available on Sundays from 9:30 to 11:30, rest of schedule is flexible. Send letter of interest and resume. Contact: Trumbull Congregational Church, 3115 Reservoir Avenue, Trumbull, CT 06611, fax 203-268-2433. [9/01]

WATERBURY — Director of Christian Education for Bunker Hill Congregational Church. Responsible for overseeing the Sunday School Program, teacher training and recruitment, special

events, and youth ministry. Flexible 25 hours/week, 42 weeks/year. Salary based on experience. Prefer ACE certification. Contact: Diane Hermann, 203-757-0539, 274 Bunker Hill Avenue, Waterbury, CT 06708 [9/01]

WEST HARTFORD — Anyone interested in working with the First Korean Congregational Church in the World? Anyone interested in working with wonderful kids who can speak at least two languages? Anyone interested in working with a 100-year-old dream now unfolding? Anyone interested in working with covenant? 3 - 4 hours per week, \$500 per month. Contact: Rev. Chang Ho Jun, First Korean UCC 860-582-0342 [11/01]

Service

Correctional Enterprises of Connecticut offers a Church Pew Refinishing Service. MacDougall-Walker C.I. will refurbish church pews at a fraction of the cost of purchasing new pieces. Excellent workmanship and quality finishing are offered at reasonable prices. Work done by inmates provides training and a sense of accomplishment. Contact: Fax 860-692-7628, Telephone 860-842-1146, Correctional Enterprises of Connecticut, 24 Wolcott Hill Road, Wethersfield, CT 06109 [11/01]

Update

New Cabins at Silver Lake Conference Center

You may know that new cabins are in the works for the Connecticut Conference's primary outdoor ministry site, the Silver Lake Conference Center. So, far churches, associations, and individuals around the state have responded generously by pledging to support the building efforts, which should begin this fall. The materials for a single cabin cost \$9,900 and for a double cabin are \$19,800. Labor can come in the form of "sweat equity" or financial support.

We are still looking for more donors, so please call Dana Fisher at Silver Lake to find out how you or your church can get involved. She can be reached at 860-364-5526 or danaf@ctucc.org.

Some of the larger donations include:

Central Association	Double Cabin
Congregational Church in South Glastonbury	\$10,000
Congregational Church of Naugatuck	\$10,000
Fairfield East Association	Double Cabin
Farmington Valley Association and UCC of Southbury	Double Cabin
First Church in Glastonbury	\$10,000
Naugatuck Valley Association	\$1,000
Roxbury Congregational Church Women's Circle	\$1,000
South Church, Middletown	looking for a partner church

Every Woman In The United Church Of Christ Is Invited

BY SUSAN WALDRON

During MARCH 15-17 of 2002, UCC Women from all over New England will come together in Burlington, Vermont for CELEBRATION VI. Be part of that group. The theme for this Celebration is **VINE OF LIFE: BRANCHES OF SPIRIT.**

Here are some of the things in store for you:

Music, Bible Study, Prayer, Communion, Fun, Fellowship, top notch speakers, luncheons, breakfasts, workshops, morning matins, evening complines, hospitality, and new friends.

We are looking forward to hearing the Rev. John Thomas, General Minister and President of the UCC, Dr. Bernice Powell Jackson, executive minister for Justice and Witness at the National level, Dr. Dale Bishop, executive minister for the UCC's Wider Church Ministries around the globe, Bill Wildey direc-

tor of Massachusetts Church World Service, Connecticut's own Barbara de Baptiste with words of inspiration (Barbara was one of the very first UCC women to receive the lay woman award), The Rev. Dr. Mary Luti former Andover Newton Theological School Dean and Sr. Pastor of First Congregational UCC in Cambridge, MA, Bible story teller Valerie Tutson, Kathy Eddy who will lead inspirational music, and to the lady from Texas with the hats, Pat Crenshaw.

The Worship committee is planning outstanding services for the gathering on Friday evening and Sunday morning.

Saturday will also include choices of FIFTY WORKSHOPS.

Come be part of the time of Celebration and celebrate the spirit of Christ alive and among us.

Bus transportation is being planned by the State Board so you can leave the driving to us.

EVENTS

September 7 - 9 • First Church of Christ, Wethersfield • Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival/USA 2001 • Three days of Musical events. Friday at 7 p.m., Albert Schweitzer Celebration Concert featuring David Spicer, organist and the Festival choir. Competitions Saturday all day, Sunday 4 PM First Place Winners Recital and Awards. Cost: Donations accepted. Contact: Nancy Anderson, 860-563-7759

Thursday, September 27, 2001 5:30 - 9 PM • St. Thomas Seminary, Bloomfield • 25th Anniversary Celebration The Christian Conference of CT • Keynote speaker Ambassador Andrew Young, UCC minister and former United States Ambassador to the United Nations. Reception 5:30 - 6:45, Program 6:45 - 9. Cost: \$15 Contact: Gail Oliver, Christian Conference of Connecticut, 60 Lorraine Street, Hartford, CT 06105

Sunday, September 30, 2001 1-4 PM • Kensington Congregational Church • Now What? An Event for Christian Educators and Sunday School Teachers • Sponsored by CAUCE, CT Association of United Church Educators. Workshop Titles: I've Got the Book...Now What? They've Got Their Bibles...Now What? They Won't Behave...Now What? They've Got Their Hands Folded...Now What? Contact: Margi Hughes 203-729-3037

Sunday, October 7, 2001 4 PM • The First Congregational Church of Bloomfield presents "Off Center," The Connecticut Gay Men's Chamber Chorus in a concert of Broadway and traditional music. Donation \$10, \$7 for students/seniors. Tickets available by calling 860-243-9392 or 860-242-0776. Seating is limited, reservations are suggested.

Sunday, October 14 10:30 AM • First Congregational Church of West Haven • Special Home Coming Service

• First Congregational Church is inviting former pastors and members to a special service to renew friendships and make new friends. Following the service will be a time of fellowship. Former members and friends who cannot be there are invited to send updates to be shared. Cost: Free Contact: The First Congregational Church, 1 Church Street, West Haven, CT 06516

Thursday, November 8, 2001 9 AM- 4:40 PM • Mercy Center, Madison, CT • Anchoring Your Well-Being, Christian Wholeness in a Fractured World • This Clergy Day offers participants a chance to discover new meaning for themselves as they seek to live the abundant life that Christ came to give. Dr. Howard Clinebell, presenter, is one of the most well known innovators in the fields of pastoral therapy and wellness. Cost: \$55 includes tuition, refreshments and lunch Contact: Rev. Robert Blackard, PO Box 298, Brooklyn, CT 06238

January, 2002 • Hartford East Association • Faith Enrichment Program for Laity • This program is held in six week units including Bible Faith Perspectives, Discerning your Spiritual Path, Thinking Theologically and others. Cost: \$100 per unit, includes textbook and instruction Contact: Mitsey Mozeglio (cfmonzeglio@snet.net) 860-633-0535 or Pat Felletter (PPFCT@aol.com) 860-647-9573

Saturday, September 22 • 9 -Noon • Second Congregational Church of Stafford in West Stafford - Mobilizing Church Volunteers, A Look at New Ways to Energize your Members. The three hour workshop focuses on strengthening your local church volunteer program. Cost \$7 per person, minimum per church Minister plus three, maximum Minister plus eight. Optional lunch \$2.50 per person. Contact Rev. Joseph Wadsworth 860-684-2336.

CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE CONFIRMATION RETREAT SCHEDULE

November 2-4, 2001 • Silver Lake Conference Center • Connecticut Conference Confirmation Retreats • The Confirmation retreat gives confirmation students an opportunity to meet others like themselves and to experience Christian community.
January 25-27, 2002 • Silver Lake Conference Center • February 8 - 10, 2002 • Silver Lake Conference Center • February 22-24, 2002 • Incarnation Center, Ivoryton • Special East Side weekend for small groups.
March 8 - 10, 2002 • Silver Lake Conference Center • Friday at 7 PM through Sunday an noon. Cost: \$80 per person Contact: Sarah Annis, 860-233-5564 ext. 117

Don't Miss General Association 2001!

"Preacher-Teacher"
September 24th - 25th
Clergy, Christian
Educators and
Ministers of Music
are invited

Come to Annual Meeting and Learn!

October 19-21, Killingly High School, Danielson, CT

The 134th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference provides a great occasion to learn more about your denomination, the United Church of Christ, and how you can tap into the vitality of this 1.4 million-person faith community. Some years, Annual Meetings are packed with proposed resolutions on controversial subjects, but this year the emphasis is working out to be a heady array of learning opportunities. Everyone is invited to attend, whether as a delegate from your congregation, as a clergy member, or as a "visitor" – a local church member who attends sessions and workshops, but does not vote. Here are some of the ways you'll be able to learn:

- For clergy, a pre-meeting luncheon and presentation by the Rev. Dr. Mary Luti, called "Immigrants, Exiles, and Refugees," about ministering to former Catholics who now call the UCC home.

- Mission workshops on the Colombia Partnership, the Korea Partnership, Zimbabwe & the theology of mission, and Mississippi's Back Bay Mission, and more!
- Workshops on stewardship, led by the UCC's Tina Brochu on "Seasons of Stewardship." On "Hand Drumming," led by Jan Gregory; on "Same-sex Marriage," led by Wally Many, on "Spirituality and Healing," led by Martin Montonye and many others.
- A keynote address by the Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte, conference minister in the UCC's Southwest Conference.

For more information go to www.ctucc.org or call the Conference Office at 860-233-5564.