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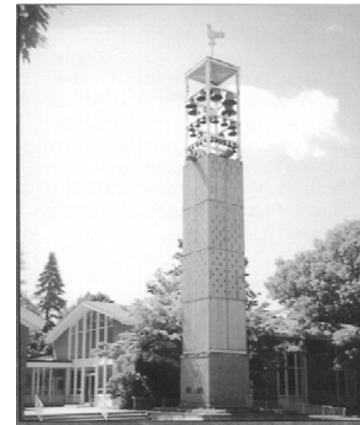
First Church website - www.firstnewbritain.org

First Church News

**First Church of Christ, Congregational
United Church of Christ**

830 Corbin Avenue
New Britain, CT 06052
860-229-3709
www.firstnewbritain.org

July 2010



SUMMER OFFICE and GALLERY HOURS
Monday - Friday 9:00 am – Noon

PROGRAM STAFF

The Rev. Jack Cook, Senior Minister
Sharon Chamberlain, Coordinator of Christian Education
James Gower, Director of Music Ministries
Sarah Flythe, Coordinator of Youth Programming

Please go to our website, www.firstnewbritain.org for staff contact information

Copies of sermons and additional newsletters are available in the information rack outside the church office.

The Bells of First Church

Please join us at First Church for Carillon
Concerts, Tuesday evenings at 7 pm, during the
month of July!

More information inside this issue.

**First Church provides worship and education that deepen the
understanding and living of the Christian faith to promote
spiritual growth, hospitality, and service to others.**

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Today (June 21) is the very first day of summer; and so, we are reminded that a new climatic as well as liturgical season is upon us.

Let us praise God for the gift of summer—

“Praise God for the summer rain, feeding, day and night, the grain;

Praise God for the tiny seed, holding all the world shall need.

Praise God for the garden root, meadow grass, and orchard fruit:

Praise God for hills and valleys broad, each the table of our Lord.” (*New Century Hymnal*, No. 430, stanzas 3 and 4)

And let us praise God for this season of Sundays after Pentecost, sometimes also called *Ordinary Time*. This is the longest season of the liturgical year; it explores the church in mission and uses the color of green to symbolize growth. This new season lasts until Advent begins (November 28, 2010).

Let us pray for the mission and growth of our church as we ask God’s blessing on both the literal and metaphorical gardens of our lives—

“May God’s garden flourish, may our toil succeed,

May God bless our actions, every word and deed!

Serving Christ each season, with God’s diagram,

Charted by the Spirit, for the task at hand!” (*New Century Hymnal*, No. 586, stanza 3)

Happy Summer!

See you in church! Blessings always!

Jack

The Bells of First Church

We hope you’ll join us for our annual concert series
on the Philip B. Stanley Carillon
each Tuesday in July, beginning at 7:00 p.m.
Bring a lawn chair or a blanket, a picnic, and your friends
for a delightful evening of music on the lawn.

July 6 ~ David Johnson

Carillonneur, Minnesota

July 13 ~ Daniel K. Kehoe

Carillonneur, Simsbury United Methodist Church, Simsbury

July 20 ~ Marcel Siebers

Carillonneur, St. Martin Church, The Netherlands

July 27 ~ George Matthew, Jr.

Carillonneur, Middlebury College and Norwich University, Vermont

Concerts are free and open to the public.
Complimentary ice cream & bottled water will be provided.
Covered seating will be provided in the event of rain.

CARILLON CONCERT PICNIC

On Tuesday, July 6th, we will begin our summer carillon series. The Christian Growth, Ministries and Outreach working group would like to invite you to attend a picnic that evening starting at 6:00 p.m. Hot dogs and drinks will be provided and First Church members are asked to bring the following:

Last Name begins with A – L: Salad
Last name begins with M – Z: Dessert

Bring a friend and come for an enjoyable and relaxing evening! Use the sign-up sheet in the church office or call the church office.

~Judy Robertson



FIRST CHURCH TAG SALE

The Missions and Congregational Life Working Group is pleased to announce that \$800 was raised at the Tag Sale held on May 22nd. In addition to being able to get rid of a lot of the “stuff” our parishioners had, we also used it as a way for people to get to know our church better. Informational packets were put together by Joan Cromwell, Joyce Anderson, and Sophie Senk and were distributed during the tag sale. They also had a plant raffle to obtain names of people in attendance, and a follow-up note was sent by Peg Guilbault inviting them to come to our services. All in all, it was a fun day - the weather was beautiful, there were plenty of donuts and hot dogs to eat, and there were many “tag salers” looking for a bargain. Many thanks to all the volunteers who set-up, cashiered, cleaned up, and assisted in any way.

Judy Robertson, Chair

Missions and Congregational Life



BECOME A LITERACY VOLUNTEER!

Create a new opportunity for others and yourself, become a Literacy Volunteer Tutor. The need is great...the rewards are many! We currently have approximately 120 adult students waiting for tutors to help them learn to read, write and speak English. Training and support are provided. July PM training takes place on all of the following dates 12, 15, 19, 22, 26, 29. For more information call 229-READ(7323) or email lvccoffice@gmail.com

Literacy Volunteers of Central CT, 20 High Street, New Britain, CT

"Volunteers helping people improve their lives through English literacy."

www.literacycentral.org

COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT

Back at the Annual Meeting in January of this year, a motion was passed that the council look into alternative solutions to our financial problems. In response to that, a committee has been formed that will meet with other local churches and would look into possibly merging with other churches- not necessarily to leave one church and move into the other, but to share common areas and activities. For example, Berlin Congregational and First Church have two smaller Youth Groups. These two groups now meet frequently and share their activities for the benefit of all.

The committee consists of Susan Rathgeber, George Martin, myself and is chaired by Mike Gorzoch. Hopefully this new committee will find common ground with other area churches and initiate talks into other possible mergers in the near future. If you have any questions or suggestions, please see any one of us for assistance.

The Church Council and all the Working Groups will take the next few weeks off in July and most of August. We will meet again before Labor Day and get the ball rolling for Rally Day on September 16th and the Stewardship campaign starting shortly after.

Keep your eyes open for the monthly newsletter for activities during the summer. We have the Carillon Concerts starting July 6th and the weeklong Summer Bible Camp (The Good News Clues Detective Camp) starting July 12th, just to name two.

As of July 4th, we will have our Sunday worship services in the Chapel. It's air conditioned and comfortable. Come join us some Sunday!

Have a great summer and enjoy the best time of year!

Don Robertson

Church Council Chairperson

SUMMER REMINDERS

- Beginning Sunday, June 27th, and through the summer, the toddler room will be open and there will be a structured activity for children through 5th grade.
- Beginning Sunday, July 4th, Worship will be held in the Chapel at 10:00 am.
- Summer Office Hours will begin on Tuesday, July 6th. The office will be open from 9:00 – 12:00, Monday – Friday. Please call the church before coming in, especially in the afternoon, to be sure the building is open.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

In case you missed it . . .

George Martin's grandson, Ian Martin recently graduated from New Britain High School as the valedictorian! He will be attending MIT in the fall.

Children's Sunday has come and gone (and the children did an amazing job), but that doesn't mean it is too late to participate in the Backpack Project! You will be able to purchase \$5 paper backpacks thru **Sunday, July 18th**. Proceeds from that sale will be taken to Thailand to purchase school supplies for the orphans in Sirirat's village. The collection of school supplies in the narthex will continue thru **Sunday, August 15th**, and will be delivered to Wheeler Clinic the following week. The wish list for the students (ages 12 thru 18) at Wheeler Clinic include: **binders, spiral notebooks, loose leaf paper, pencils, pens, highlighters, calculators, rulers, folders, and of course – BACKPACKS!** Thank you for your generous participation!

Thank you also, to the members of the Aston Fund Committee, who elected to contribute **\$3,000** to the construction of the new Women and Children's Center in Sirirat's village in Huakrai. That translates to roughly 120,000 baht, or one tenth of the total cost for the building. When I told Sirirat that we would be bringing this money with us at the end of July, she reminded me that First Church has been there to help with the construction of all 3 buildings, with both manpower and financial support. She sends love and gratitude.

Although it is only July...it is not too soon to start planning for the **Confirmation** class that will begin in September. Rev. Jack and I will be sending out a letter to the families who have a son/daughter entering 9th grade this fall, outlining what the 2010-2011 program will look like. If you have a 9th grader in your household and have not received a letter by the end of July, please call the church office and let us know!

During July and August, our church school students will be working on a mission project for the Friendship Service Center. It's called "Homelessness Is For The Birds"! We will be painting birdhouses which will be available for purchase on Rally Day, September 12th. All proceeds will go to the Friends of the Friendship Center, a wonderful volunteer group who provide Friendship Center residents with a few "extras", such as a laundry basket filled with cleaning supplies, kitchen gadgets, etc., on move in day. My hope is that we can complete 40 or 50 birdhouses before September!

Have a happy, healthy summer,
Sharon Chamberlain
Coordinator of Christian Education

YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

- There will be a Youth Group Pizza and Game night on July 25th, from 5:30-8:00 pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS



THE "NICK-NACK PADDYWHACK, GIVE A KID A BACKPACK" PROJECT!

And from here on, will be called *just* The Backpack Project! Beginning **June 6th**, paper backpacks will be for sale following worship. They will be \$5 each and that money will be used to purchase backpacks and school supplies for Rev. Sirirat's orphanage children in Thailand. At the same time, there will be a large box in the Narthex with a school supply list on the side. In it, we will collect backpacks and supplies for the children at the Wheeler Clinic in Plainville. Those supplies will be delivered at the end of August – in time for the start of the new school year. We'll be helping students both near and far! Thank you in advance for your support,

The Missions Team and Mike Duncan, Sarah Joyce-Grikis and Sharon Chamberlain

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!



THE 2010 ANNUAL FIRST CHURCH GIANT DIVOT GOLF OUTING

This year's event will be held Saturday, October 9 at Stanley Golf Course in New Britain. Food and festivities at the church after the golf.

Bring your friends and plan on joining us for good fellowship and a lot of laughs. Proceeds from this event will support the New Britain Food Collaborative and our Thailand Orphanage Mission Project.

More details in the coming month.

SAVE THE DATE

The Hot Cat Jazz Band will perform at First Church on Friday, October 29th. Please save the date!

CHURCH NEWS

IN OUR FIRST CHURCH FAMILY . . . CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

- Chris and Peggy Porter were recently honored by the Marine Corps League (Hardware City Detachment), with The Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Award. The Chapel of Four Chaplains is a not-for-profit membership organization that advocates for cultural harmony and religious tolerance. It promotes annual memorial services in communities across the United States on, or near, the February anniversary of the sinking of the U.S.A.T. Dorchester, to raise awareness of the need for cooperation among all peoples.
- Warm Wishes to the Boakye Family! G. Kingsley & Evelyn Boakye had a baby boy, Prince-Steve, on May 26, 2010, who weighed 8lb 15oz.
- Glenn Anderson was one of 21 individuals nominated for the 2010 Celebrate New Britain! Community Service Award Program. He was nominated by Rebuilding Together New Britain.
- Joyce Furman, daughter off Bill and Lynne Furman, graduated on June 3, 2010, from Middlesex Community College. She received High Honors in the Ophthalmic Design and Dispensing Program and was inducted into the International Honor Society, Phi Theta Kappa, for academic excellence. Her family is so proud of her . . . and so are we!

THANK YOU

A Thank You note was received form Claire Collins for our many kindnesses, flowers prayers and thoughts. She thanked Jack for his visits and for “being there”. She is feeling better and will be back soon.

FOOD NEEDED FOR THE OSGOOD FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for your generous donations of food and toiletries. We have been able to make three deliveries in the last four to five weeks. There is a great need for food right now at the Osgood Food Pantry and we are helping to fill that need. Please bring in food on Sunday at church or drop it by at the office in the morning during the week if you are unable to attend church that week (summer hours are 9 am – noon Monday – Friday). We are really making a difference! Thank you, the Missions Committee.

NEW MEMBER RECEPTION

We hope to receive new members into our family of faith in the near future. If you would like to join First Church at this time (or would like to consider membership), please contact Rev. Cook or call the church office at 860-229-3709. All are invited!

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Greetings from the DWAGWG.

Happy Fathers Day, Happy Summer!!

As we move into summer, I would like to thank the members who have served as deacons and ushers and those of you who have committed to serving on the other various sub-groups of the DWAGWG: Growth, Music, Flowers and Pastoral Relations.

Going forward, we ask for everyone to consider how you can contribute your time and talent to help with the focus on church growth. We are looking for creative ideas to promote the good works of the church. If you have (or know someone who has) talents with website support and electronic media, let us know. If you are not technically inclined, we look to expand the group of readers and ushers, and we are looking for a new group of greeters/welcomers. These groups require a very small time commitment, but are critical to the worship services and growth initiatives of the church.

As Rally Sunday approaches, consider how you can help to support the worship experience and extend a welcoming hand to members and guests by serving in one of these capacities.

Have a great summer!

Bill Allen

On behalf of the DWAGWG members: Mike Chamberlain, Lois Zink, Peter Gacek, Joni Anderson, Sylvia Lucas, Mike Gorzoch, Mitch Miller, Steve Anderson and Meg Nieman.



FIRST CHURCH SOFTBALL DATES

- Monday, June 28th, at Chesley 2
- Wednesday, June 30th, at Chesley 3
- Monday, July 5th, All Star Game
- Wednesday, July 7 at Chesley 3
- Monday, July 12th, at Osgood
- Wednesday, July 12th and after are Playoffs, time and place TBA