



# Kit (Keeping in Touch)



## MARCH 2010

*A Newsletter of the*

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

55 Church Road • Clinton, Connecticut 06413-2050

**Sunday – March 7**

*Third Sunday in Lent*

**Sunday – March 14**

*Fourth Sunday in Lent*

*One Great Hour of Sharing  
Daylight Savings Time Begins*

**Sunday – March 21**

*Fifth Sunday in Lent*

**Sunday – March 28**

*Palm Sunday*

*Food Bank Sunday*

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Dear Friends in Christ:

Years ago a friend of mine in ministry telephoned me with the news that the church he was serving was ready to celebrate the completion of their meeting house mortgage. He invited me to attend and to offer a prayer, and I was happy to accept.

The day of celebration arrived, and the time came for the church leaders to go outside and light up the legal documents that had kept this church in the bondage of debt for years. As the flames consumed the papers, I saw the joy and relief of a grateful people. But I was a little detached and unable to experience the heights of jubilation that the members of this congregation felt. I was present at the victory but I had not shared in the people's daring vision, their leap of faith to move in God's direction, their sacrificial giving, and their patient hopefulness to make this great event happen. I was an outsider looking in.

The resurrection event of Jesus Christ presents a similar issue. The true joy of the first Easter had power only for those who had a part in the hardship and the suffering of Christ that preceded it. What can the dawn mean to one who has not endured the night? What can

good health mean to someone who has never been ill? What can restoration mean to those who have never felt separation? What is the glory of Easter without the preparation of the Lenten season and the penitence of Good Friday? If we miss the spiritual lessons of this time to make our faith journeys to the cross, then Easter becomes just another day for brunches and finery, bunnies and jellybeans.

We mark our lives in terms of celebrations. But we can forget the memories of trial and difficulty. We may want to move smoothly from the poinsettias of Christmas to the palms of Palm Sunday to the lilies of

Easter and by-pass the thorns of Good Friday. But it is in those times of trial when we find out who we really are. We discover our own identities, strengthen our faith, locate our courage, and realize the purpose that God has given to our lives. Jesus showed that to gain the everlasting crown he had to first endure the wooden cross. For us to follow Jesus all the way, we need to identify with Jesus in his sacrifice and death so that we may participate in his resurrection. That is what the apostle Paul meant when he wrote: "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me." (Galatians 2:19b-20) To feel the freedom of new life in Christ, we ask God to help us let go of the old life that has entombed us.

Easter proclaims that in the resurrection of Jesus Christ God also raised up life from death, healing from suffering, and reconciliation from brokenness. This has been a very difficult winter for many people in our church, our community, nation, and world. I hope all of us can share in giving comfort, strength and support to one another and to others. We do that through



**Pastor's Message  
for Lent**

our heartfelt prayers, thoughtful words, and loving actions. We do that by upholding our covenant and coming together to worship God on Sunday morning. We do that in showing our faithfulness to God by caring for those who are hurt and in grief, who are hungry and in need.

To be part of the Easter celebration we first experience the challenges of the Lenten Season, the trials of Holy Week, and the hardship of Good Friday. When we do, our faith in God becomes stronger and the victory that Christ won for us becomes much more meaningful.



Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Chris Horvath

**Suggested Food Bank Items**  
Dried/Canned Beans • Canned Fruit  
Household Cleaners • Laundry  
Detergent



**FIRST CHURCH LADIES TEA**  
**Saturday, May 15 • 2:00 p.m.**  
**Fellowship Hall**  
**Tickets: \$15**

Come and enjoy an afternoon tea complete with delicious finger sandwiches, scones, and desserts. Sit with new and old friends at beautifully decorated tables that have been individually designed for your pleasure.

Tickets must be purchased prior to the day of the Tea and will be available after Easter from committee members. Funds raised will benefit the Capital Campaign Fund.

If you would like to be responsible for designing a table, speak to a committee.



~Tea Committee

## March Lectionary Readings

### March 7

Isa 55:1-9 Ps 63:1-8  
1 Cor 10:1-13  
Luke 13:1-9  
*Open Invitation*

### March 14

Joshua 5:9-12; Ps 32  
2 Cor 5:16-21  
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32  
*Embracing Love*

### March 21

Isa 43:16-21; Ps 126  
Phil 3:4b-14  
John 12:1-8  
*Something New*

### March 28

Ps 118:1-2, 19-29  
Luke 19:28-40  
(Liturgy of the Palms)

### **KIT GUIDELINES**

When submitting news to the KIT, please:

- Prepare your information as *text only*. You don't have to include a graphic or format it as a text box.
- Leave your submission at the church office by noon, or email it and any questions or suggestions to:  
[kitfcc@firstchurchclinton.org](mailto:kitfcc@firstchurchclinton.org).

#### **Deadlines for 2010 KIT submissions are:**

April.....Thursday, March 18  
May .....Tuesday, April 20  
June .....Thursday, May 20  
July-August.....Thursday, June 17  
September .....Tuesday, August 17  
October .....Tuesday, September 21  
November .....Tuesday, October 19  
December-January ....Tuesday, November 16  
Thanks for your contributions!

## BUY A SHINGLE ... OR TWO OR THREE!

The Capital Campaign continues with our next project: **putting a new roof on the Parsonage**. The roof is just starting to leak, so we want to fix it before any major damage occurs. I was asked to put in this statement from my Capitol Campaign Moment during the church service:

*"Just imagine Pastor Chris and Carol with buckets all over their home and sitting under a tarp to keep dry."*

It received a big laugh – we all know what it is like to deal with drips, leaks, and rushing water.



So purchase a \$25 shingle...or two or three! Any amount donated will be greatly appreciated. Look for our "covering the roof" poster in Fellowship Hall to track our progress!

For those who have pledged to the Capital Campaign, remember to keep up on your payments!

Long Rang Planning and  
Capital Campaign Committees



## Stewardship Corner

### New Year New Decade New Committee New Attitude



As most of you know from previous years, the Stewardship Committee usually starts gearing up in late summer for our annual fall pledge drive. This year we are doing something new. You will be hearing from our committee throughout the year via

Sunday Stewardship Moments, the KIT, mailings, and get-togethers. Stay tuned for more!

We ask all our members to take some time to think about what stewardship means to them. Upcoming events will give you an opportunity to share those thoughts. In the meantime, we leave you with ...

#### Do All You Can

Do all the good you can  
By all the means you can  
In all the ways you can  
At all the times you can  
To all the people you can  
As long as you ever can.

~John Wesley



### Boy Scout Troop 7 6<sup>th</sup> Annual

Pasta Dinner & Silent Auction  
Saturday, March 6 • 4:30-7 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall

Adults and Youth - \$10

Children under 12- \$5

(Tickets available at the door)

Venture out, have some fun and support our Boy Scout Troop 7. Enjoy a wonderful Italian meal with delicious desserts, served by the Scouts. Take a chance on the Silent Auction!

We're bac-c-c-k! Please join the **Sunday Women** as we resume our gatherings in the



east kitchen on the third Sunday of each month starting at 8:15 a.m. We are using the *Serendipity Bible* as our study guide. (Copies are available to borrow.)

The lesson for March 21<sup>st</sup> is from *Course Three – Dealing with My Problems - Session 2: Matthew 18:21-35 and Ephesians 4:25-32.*

Coffee and camaraderie provided.



*Please check the sign-up.  
Lectors and fellowship hour hosts are needed. ~Thanks.*

#### **Communion Bread**

*March 7 – Filled*

#### **Lectors**

*Mar 7 – Pastor Chris*

*Mar 14 – NEEDED*

*Mar 21 – Filled*

*Mar 28 – NEEDED*

#### **Sanctuary Flowers**

*Mar 7 – Filled*

*Mar 14 – Clinton Girl Scouts*

*Mar 21 – Filled*

*Mar 28 – Filled*

#### **Fellowship Hour Hosts**

*Mar 7 – Filled*

*Mar 14 – Filled*

*Mar 21 – Filled*

*Mar 28 – Filled*

#### **Soup Kitchen Hosts**

*March 3- Filled*



**PIZZA & IDEA NIGHT**  
**Come to our 2010**  
**Summer Fair Kick-Off**

**Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**5-7 p.m. - Fellowship Hall**

All Summer Fair Booth Chairs & Co-chairs are invited to attend our summer fair kick off meeting. If you are thinking about coordinating a booth, please come as well!

Ads need to be placed, supplies ordered and NEW IDEAS need to be HEARD!

A sign up sheet is in fellowship hall so we know how much Pizza to order.

See you on the 7th with your ideas & appetite!

~ Summer Fair Chairs and  
the Long Range Planning Committee

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**  
**AND BEYOND ...**



Please join Crop/HUNGER Walk (Church World Services) and other local communities on May 2, 2010 in Old Saybrook ([webwalk@churchworldservices.org](mailto:webwalk@churchworldservices.org)). Registration begins at 1:30 pm. The walk is approximately two hours, and about 3-½ miles. You may sponsor someone who is walking, walk your-self, or get together with friends to walk as a group. Get your exercise AND support World Hunger. Hopefully, the weather will be out-standing!

**One Great Hour of Sharing**

In John 21: 15-17, Jesus asks Peter "Do you love me?" Peter confesses to loving Jesus. Then Jesus directs Peter to "Feed my sheep." This scripture inspires the 2010 *One Great Hour of Sharing* (OGHS) theme.

The OGHS offering is administered by Wider Church Ministries. It is the refugee, relief and development fund of the United Church of Christ. It provides assistance to more than 80 countries.

On Sunday, March 14th, the fourth Sunday in Lent, our church will be collecting for OGHS. These funds are being used right here in the U.S. to rebuild homes along the gulf coast that were ravaged by the hurricanes.

OGHS also supports international programs of health, education and agricultural development, relief and refugee assistance:

- ❖ in India and Indonesia to build homes that were destroyed by the tsunamis
- ❖ in the Democratic Republic of Congo to assist refugees who were forced from their homes by war
- ❖ in Columbia, the Dominican Republic, and Zimbabwe to teach agricultural skills to people so they can provide for their families now and in the future
- ❖ in Darfur, Sudan to teach the importance of hygiene and clean water to children and adults in schools and camps
- ❖ in Haiti to help victims of the recent earthquake
- ❖ in Afghanistan to support Church World Service Child Rehabilitation Centers as they help children overcome traumatic experiences and move to brighter futures



As you can see your support of OGHS can make lasting changes right here in the U.S. and around the world. Thank you for any donation you can make.

~ Missions Committee

**One Great Hour of Sharing**  
**Sunday, March 14th**



## from the choir loft.....

**COME, TOUCH THE ROBE** is the cantata the SENIOR CHOIR will present at the 10:00 a.m. worship service, March 21<sup>st</sup>. The composer, Pepper Choplin, writes much of his music for his own church in Raleigh, North Carolina. His desire is "to create music that will lead people to worship in a dramatic way." Unique in concept, soaring in spirit, this work uses the simple garment Jesus wore as a thematic device to recount the interaction of several people who were with Jesus during His last days on earth.



Jesus' robe means healing to the suffering woman; on the mountaintop the disciples find that His robe conveys authority and His glory; when Jesus lays aside His garment to wash the disciples' feet, His robe conveys humility, and finally at the tomb, the grave clothes He left behind help us experience His resurrection and His victory over death. Please invite a friend to come, touch the robe, and experience the power and healing touch of Jesus.

FYI ... there is a choir fund separate from the music budget that is used to purchase music and/or bring in musicians. This fund allows for the "extras" in the music program that enhance our worship services. Of course gifts are always welcome.

~Joyce Baxter , Director of Music



**Palm Sunday, March 28**

10:00 a.m. Worship, Distribution of Palms  
 The Rev. Dr. Christopher C. Horvath, Pastor  
 11:15 a.m. Fellowship Hour

**Maundy Thursday, April 1**

7:30 p.m. Service of Tenebrae  
 and the Lord's Supper

**Good Friday, April 2**

Noon Ecumenical Service-  
 Holy Advent Church, Clinton  
 Noon-3:00 Church open for private  
 meditation



**Easter Sunday, April 4**

6:00 a.m. Sunrise Service  
 Gather in Fellowship Hall  
 to walk to Indian River Cemetery.  
 (inside in the event of rain)  
 7:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast  
 Fellowship Hall • Free Will Offering  
 10:00 a.m. Easter Worship  
 The Rev. Dr. Christopher C. Horvath, Pastor  
 Childcare available.  
 No church school or fellowship hour.

***God's Covenant with Us  
 and Our Covenant with One Another***  
**Wednesdays, March 3 – March 24**  
**Supper – 6:30 p.m. • Program 7:30-8:30 p.m.**

**March 3: *Covenant in the New Testament***

Dr. Joan Kelly  
 Professor at the  
 Center for Spirituality and Ministry  
 Sacred Heart University  
 Host Committees: Music and Missions

**March 10: *Covenant in Our  
 Congregational Heritage***

Dr. Margaret Bendroth  
 Executive Director  
 Congregational Library, Boston  
 Host Committees: Finance, Building and  
 Grounds, and Endowment

**March 17: *Covenant in the History  
 of the Connecticut Conference***

The Rev. John Van Epps, Pastor  
 North Guilford Congregational Church UCC  
 and Archivist for the Connecticut Conference  
 Host Committees: Nominating and Personnel

**March 24: *The Covenant of  
 The First Church of Church***

Pastor Chris  
 Host Committees: Christian Education  
 and Stewardship



Each evening begins at 6:30 with a potluck supper for which those attending are asked to bring a covered dish or other food item. The suppers are hosted by different church committee members each week. Beverages and desserts are provided. You are also welcome to attend *only* the supper or program.



# GIANT TAG AND RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> • 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

## To Support 2010 Mission Trips



This summer three of our members will be going to Guasmo, Ecuador, and 13 youth and three chaperones to Scranton, Pennsylvania, by far the largest group of missionaries our church has sponsored to reach out and help those less fortunate than ourselves. **This year we need your support more than ever.**

**Donations of clothing and tag sale items are needed** and can be dropped off in our tag sale room under the church anytime the building is open. Please look through your seldom used clean clothing and working household items that you have been holding onto, but may never use. Your spring cleaning will also provide more space for you to purchase “new to you” clothing and household items to support our church’s mission. Thanks!