

steep light

First Presbyterian church
2475 Easton turnpike, Fairfield, Connecticut

June 2008

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Dates to remember	
June 7	Strawberry Festival
June 8	Teacher Appreciation
June 22.....	Graduate Recognition
June 27.....	All church pot-luck supper
.....	Grove Methodist Church choir
July 13.....	Youth Mission Trip
August 11.....	Vacation Bible School
September 7.....	Rally Day



TEACHER APPRECIATION BARBEQUE

Sunday, June 8th

Join us as we thank our church school and adult education teachers for all of their hard work throughout the year. There will be crafts and outdoor fun (weather permitting) for kids of all ages. Burgers and hotdogs will be provided. Please help us show our appreciation by bringing an item to share...A-M side salad and N-Z desert. Sign up on the CE&D bulletin board outside of Brooks Hall.

COME ENJOY THE FUN SUN AND FELLOWSHIP!

ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Saturday, June 7

11:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Handmade crafts, baked goods, jewelry, books plants, tag sale items.

Come and join us in the fun!

And lunch: hot dogs, hamburgers, fish sandwiches and of course, strawberry shortcake!!

Where Does The Church Money Come From?

This is the second in a series of articles designed to give the whole congregation a more complete view of the Church's finances. This article focuses on the sources of income for the Church.

First Presbyterian Church of Fairfield has been fortunate to have a dedicated and caring staff and devoted volunteers to operate the Church and its programs. Those programs are also supported by the various sources of income the Church has. The Church's income falls into three general categories: facility use income, investment income and pledge (or contribution) income. While all three have played an important role in sustaining our Church, by far the most important to our current and future operation is pledge income.

Facility use income comes from the various groups that use our Church. Our Church has for many years been host to organizations with missions that are complementary to that of the Church and that contribute monetarily for its use. Perhaps the most familiar is the Presbyterian nursery school. Others include Wakeman's Boys and Girls Club, the Fairfield School system (for its Coop program), a Brazilian Presbyterian Church and a Korean Methodist Church. In all, for fiscal 2008, it is expected that these users of our building will contribute \$ 159,000 or approximately, 28% of the funds the Church takes in for operations. With perhaps the exception of the Presbyterian Nursery School, each of these users may decide to relocate from our building with some, but not a great amount, of notice. Accordingly, while these contributions to our Church are helpful, as good stewards we need to be aware that they are unreliable.

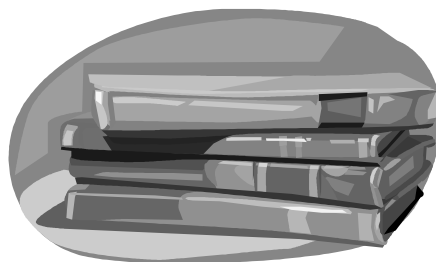
Investment income comes from trust funds that have been set up for our Church. In particular, the Church has a main trust fund, which is referred to as the Brooks Fund. The trustees of this fund have discretion to determine how much money from this fund will be contributed to the Church's operating budget each year. Their decision is based upon how well the fund's investments have done and the needs of the Church. For this year, the trust fund's contribution to the operating budget of the Church is budgeted to be \$90,000 or approximately 16 % of the Church's budget. The Church also has a fund called the Munich and Memorials Fund. The session determines how this fund will be used and has determined that all of the income from this fund will be used to fund specifically applied for projects for the Church. These projects are reviewed by a Munich Fund Committee, which then makes recommendations to the Session regarding them. The Session has final say on which recommendations to approve. These projects are not a part of the regular budget of the Church. As might be expected, the amounts that either the Brooks Fund or Munich and Memorials Fund can contribute to the Church's operations or projects depend on an uncertain market.

Pledge income consists of pledges and other contributions from the members of the Church and from non members who attend services at the Church. This income makes up the overwhelming majority of the Church's income. This income includes amounts paid on pledges, plate collections, per capita payments and other amounts received for good will offerings. For 2008, \$323,681 or 56% of the Church's operating income, is expected to come from pledges and donations to the Church by its members and those who attend the Church. Because of the consistent generosity of this Church's members, contribution income is the most stable source of income that our Church has. Given the uncertainties associated with the other sources of Church revenue, continued support from the members will define the future of the Church.

While our Church is blessed with a magnificent building and some investment funds to support our mission, by far our most important blessings are our wonderful staff and our involved and generous congregation. The Church will continue to need strong financial support from its members to maintain and build on the great advances it has made in the past few years.

Musings From The Stacks by The Church Mouse

I noticed a lot of activity in the parlor one Saturday and I peeked in (I didn't want to scare the ladies) and found many women and friends of the church participating in a day of reflection and renewal at a ladies retreat that was chaired by a lovely, talented lady of the church named Mary Avila. She had a lot of help from many women in the church who with their generosity provided me with delicious nibbles to sample. All of the books displayed and spoken of at the retreat will be available in The Reading Room.



In the meantime we have a new book in the Reading Room by Joyce Meyer called Approval Addition, Overcoming Your Need to Please Everyone. Joyce Meyer is a well known author and radio and television personality. Her message affirms that God and his presence in our lives can bring happiness and fulfillment. Our goal in life is not people pleasing but God pleasing. She believes that "we are free to be ourselves and become all we can be in Him and that by resting in his love and approval we will find complete acceptance and freedom."

I met a delightful new friend in a book in the children's selection in The Reading Room. Page McBrier titles the book Beatrice's Goat and it is a story based on the true life of a little nine year old girl called Beatrice who lived with her family in a far country called Uganda in Africa. Her family was very, very poor and they often had no food to eat and could not afford to send Beatrice and her brothers and sisters to school. The children had to help their mother grow whatever food they could and to take care of their land and each other. One day Beatrice hears that a group in American called Heifer International is going to give them a goat. She has never seen a goat and doesn't know what it looks like. She is very excited and curious. It will be her responsibility to care for the goat. When the goat arrives she names her Mugisa, which means luck. Soon the goat is providing milk for not only the family but also giving them enough to sell to earn some money. In time not only Beatrice but also her brothers and sisters are all about to attend school. She eventually comes to Connecticut to attend College. Mugisa's babies are given too many people in the village and she becomes good luck for a whole village thanks to Heifer International.

May we all be blessed with a summer of bounty and joy!

Terian News

The Terian picnic will be held at The Brown's home, 261 Papurah Road.
June 14, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided. Please bring either your favorite salad or dessert.
There is no charge.

Please RSVP to Elaine Brown by Thursday, June 12, 2008 at 259-8097.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
FOR**

SUMMER COFFEE HOUR
Perhaps you have a little bit more time during the summer months? Please sign up in Brooks Hall.

Thank you to the May Coffee Hour hosts:
PNS Board
Ruth Carey and Pam Ales
The Carruth Family
The Randolph Family

Register Now For VBS 2008

Come to God's Big Backyard on August 11! We'll be having an outdoor adventure that starts in your own backyard and gets bigger each day as kids take the love of Jesus in to their neighborhoods and communities.



The Vacation Bible School campers will do mission projects, create crafts, sing, hear Bible stories and of course, play! Pick up a VBS registration form at church or during coffee hours in month of June.

Leaders and volunteers are needed! If you have helped out in the past or would like to jump into the fun this summer, see Sarah Ribbens or Clare Schimpf.

30 HOUR FAMINE RESULTS

Many thanks to the Youth Group members who participated in the 30 Hour Famine and to the many members of the Congregation who contributed to their fundraising efforts. We are pleased to announce that \$1,000 was raised for World Vision to combat hunger in the world.

Children's Summer School Volunteers Needed

CED offers a summer Sunday School program during the Worship service for children ages 3 through those entering first grade. Volunteers are needed so please consider signing up for just one Sunday starting June 15 through August 31. Curriculum is provided and easy to use. Sign up is on the CED board outside Brooks Hall.

Contact Marci Marrs (marcimarrs@hotmail.com) for more information.



Calling All Graduates

Sunday, June 22nd is Graduate Sunday at First Presbyterian Church. The CE&D Committee is asking all members or children of members to let us know if you are graduating from High School or a post secondary education institution this year. Please let us know the school you are graduating from, the degree (with major) or certification, and what your future plans are (travel, more education, career etc). Feel free to include any other interesting facts. We would also love to have a recent photo of the graduates to include on our Congratulations board. Please send all information and pictures to the church office (e-mail first-presbyterian@sbcglobal.net)

Zone Deacons Report

The Zone Deacon program was officially launched in April, with the distribution of letters to each member of the congregation by their Deacon representative. Each Deacon has 12-18 families in their territory, which was assigned on a geographical basis.

This program was developed to give members of the congregation a contact for information on programs or services offered by the church and to support people during times of need. Listed below are examples:

- Information about Services
 - Sunday Worship Service
 - Sunday School/Youth Group
 - Committee Programs
 - Special Events
- Support for Elderly and Shut-Ins
 - Transportation to/from Church
 - Delivery of Audio Recording of Service
- Care and Concern Support
 - Flower Deliveries
 - Basket of Love/Card

If you have any questions about the program, please contact your Deacon representative or myself. Your suggestions and/or feedback on this program are welcome.

God Bless.

Mark Rappel Phone #: (203) 371-0244
E-mail: markrappel@sbcglobal.net

- ✂ Phil Luckhardt wishes to thank all for their prayers, visits and cards, in support of his recovery.
- ✂ Phil Duffy wishes to extend a warm thanks to all who sent a card, or phoned him, following his recent surgery.

Zone Deacons

- Cathy Wells: Bridgeport
- Sherry Harris: Easton
- Bron Marrs: Fairfield 1
- Carol Fraser: Fairfield 2
- Devin Donohue: Fairfield 3
- Lauren Murray: Fairfield, Milford, Orange
- Nancy Weber: Fairfield, Norwalk, Weston, Westport
- Jackie Carruth: Shelton
- Ann Cucak: Stratford
- Lynne Duffy: Trumbull
- Angelika Clum: Derby, Middlebury, Monroe, Naugatuck, Newtown, Seymour, Wallingford, Waterbury

ATTENTION:

STRAWBERRY LOVERS!!

Spring has sprung, the grass is rizz,
 Wonder where the berries are?
 We need you to come to our yearly bash,
 For missions' need a lot of cash.
 Invite family, friends and neighbors too.
 Save Sat., June 7 from 11 to 2.
 Bake cookies, pies, jams or cake,
 The more we get, the more we make.
 Good things you no longer need
 Will help the tag sale to succeed.
 Homemade biscuits with real cream
 Covered with strawberries truly a dream.
 All this will be fun.
 Including the hamburger and hot dogs

June 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Trustee Meeting 7:30 pm	3 9:30 a.m. Women's Assoc. 7:30 p.m. Mission	4 10:30 am Bible Study 7:00 pm BSA Trp 10 7:30 p.m Christian Believer	5 9:00 am Sewing 7:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm S & F Strawberry Festival Set Up	6 Strawberry Festival Set Up	7 Strawberry Festival 11 am–3 pm
8 9:00 am Bible Class 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Hr	9 7:30 pm Session	10 10:30 am Miriam Circle 7:30 pm Ruth Circle	11 7:00 pm BSA Trp 10 7:30 p.m Christian Believer	12 9:00 am Sewing 7:30 pm Choir	13	14 Operation Hope Cooking CPR Training 10 a.m.
15 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Hr. 11:15 a.m. Fellow- ship mtg	16	17	18	19 9:00 am Sewing 7:30 pm Choir	20	21
22 10:00 am Worship Grad. Recognition 11:00 am Coffee Hr. 11:15 am Worship Mtg	23 7:30 pm Outreach 7:30 pm CE &D	24	25	26 9:00 am Sewing	27 Grove Methodist 5 pm Dinner & Concert	28 8:15 a.m. Habitat Grove Methodist 10 a.m. breakfast
29 10:00 am Wor- ship 11:00 am Coffee Hour	30					

Trustees

The First 3 ½ Hour CPR Training Class will be Saturday June 14 for the 8 people who have enrolled. If you wish to enroll for future classes, please put your name on the list in the church office so we can schedule the next class. We will schedule additional classes when we have 8 enrollees for each class.

The more people who are certified in CPR, the greater the probability that trained people will be present if and when the need arises.

The Defibrillator will be mounted in the rear hall by the door from the Parlor to the rear parking lot when updates to the equipment are completed. In the meantime, it is in Tim Cepetelli's office next to the Brooks Hall stage.

Spring Cleanup. The Trustees wish to thank all who worked during our three Clean-up Days to remove two dumpsters of debris. The Trustees passed motions that debris would no longer be thrown over the wall, and we will have dumpsters for future clean ups.

Painting. The Director of Christian Education's Office was painted similar to Rev. Duffy's office.

Replacement Doors We have ordered new exterior doors for the Brooks Hall, Parlor and Nursery School entrances. We need to completely rebuild the heavily used Brooks Hall entrance.

Masonry Work on Steps. A masonry contractor is doing a major repair of the Chapel steps, then the Brooks Hall steps and then main entrance to the Sanctuary, so that we won't have to repair them every couple of years.

Exterior Electric Lights We will mount lights with timers on the two trees in front of the church to light the walkways in front of the church, put timers on the lights for the doors to the Chapel and CE wing to save money, and replace some rusted light fixtures.

Junior and Senior High Week of Hope Work Camp 2008

Returning to Manassas, Virginia

This summer from July 13-July 17 12 members of our youth group and adult chaperones will return to Manassas, Virginia for a Week of Hope. There they will join 90 youth from various Christian churches to volunteer in soup kitchens, nursing home, summer programs for disadvantaged youth and many other programs.

Please buy a **share—or two**—by using the form below and be a shareholder in our Youth's mis-

July 13-17, 2008
Week of Hope Work Camp
Manassas, Virginia
SHARE

To support our youth

Attached is my check/cash for \$25.00 per share.

I understand the dividends to be paid are:

- Satisfaction of supporting the spiritual growth of the youth of First Presbyterian
- A postcard with news from the Week of Hope
- A special Thank You Brunch in September

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please make checks out to:

First Presbyterian Church

Put "Week of Hope 2008" in the memo line.

Return your share form and donation to the church office or in the collection plate.

THANK YOU

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE
FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 6 PM

Please plan to join your Church Family (young and old) for an Old Fashioned Church Pot Luck Supper followed by a concert in the Sanctuary, presented by the Grove United Methodist Youth Choir. We will supply the beverages, dessert, plates and flatware. You bring a main dish, casserole, salad or other side dish to share (enough to feed 8-10 people).

Sign up sheets will be available at coffee hour during June, or you may make a reservation by calling the church office.

If you would like to help, please contact Sharon Howell, 374-6109, sharonh@optonline.net or Pat Piddington, 452-9123, patpidd@earthlink.net. We will need help on Friday, during the dinner and on Saturday morning to help serve breakfast for the 70 choir members.

Opportunity to Serve

o Wednesdays from 5:30-7 p.m. – individuals needed on a regular basis to feed up to 90 persons through the Bridgeport Rescue Mission. Sign-up on the poster outside the Parlor door, or Email Ralph Bowley at hikerab@gmail.com (Ralph would be particularly interested in having a list of available persons, to whom he could Email a schedule once a month).

o Thursday mornings from 8:30 to 10 – individuals needed to work with Fairshare Table. For more information, contact Ralph Bowley at hikerab@gmail.com

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Fairfield, CT 06825-1195

Non-Profit Organization
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