



Steeplelight

First Presbyterian
Church

Steeplelight

March 2009

The Footsteps of Jesus a study on being a disciple, interpreted through the archaeology of the Holy Land

"Follow a rabbi, drink in his words, and be covered in the dust of his feet." So says an ancient Jewish proverb, encouraging disciples to follow right on the heels of their teacher. Our Lenten series will offer an on-location view of archaeological sites in Israel and Turkey. Discover the first-century practice of a Jewish rabbi and his disciples

("talmidim"), and gain new insight into the message of Christ. This series will help to open and illumine the Scriptures for you in a new way. *Newcomers are welcome at each of the five sessions, beginning on March 4.* Pastor Duffy and CED/ Youth Director PJ Drost will moderate discussion after each film segment. A hospitality time will follow in

Join us for a fascinating journey through the Holy Land for the Lenten Series on Wednesdays beginning on March 4

the parlor every Wednesday in March, 7:30 to 8:30.

Rhythm Salad - Parents Night Out

After a successful Parents Night Out in January with over 60 parents and children attending, another Parents Night Out is planned for

Saturday, March 21. Anthony DeQuattro will be featured for the children's entertainment while the parents will enjoy a

candlelight service, dinner and fellowship. All activities start at 6:00 p.m. For more details, talk to PJ Drost.

Inside this issue:

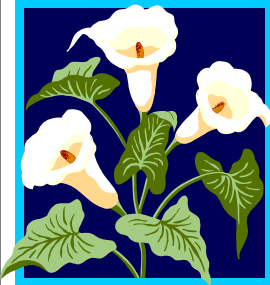
<i>Easter Memorials</i>	2
<i>Dining Room set available</i>	3
<i>Stephen Ministry update</i>	4
<i>New members</i>	5,8
<i>Calendar</i>	6,7
<i>Message from Outreach</i>	9
<i>CED and Youth Ministry</i>	10, 11

Special points of interest:

- Soup, Sandwich and Study for March
- Fellowship opportunities and special events
- VBS and children's events
- Meet our new members



Easter Memorials



Beginning Sunday,

March 8, the Flower Committee will be accepting Easter Memorials. Easter Memorials may be given in memory of loved ones or to the Glory of God. Donations will be used to pay for palms and the Easter lilies that will

be in the Sanctuary for Easter.

Envelopes will be available in the Church Office and in Brooks Hall before and after the worship service. You may include as many names as you wish in a memorial,

Coffee Hour Volunteers

We all benefit from the delicious and beautiful ways our members help us enjoy time together after worship. If you've never hosted a coffee hour, why

not consider it this spring? A Fellowship Committee member can "show you the ropes." If you're interested, sign up in Brooks Hall on Sunday, or speak with

Jim McDowell or Patti Law.

Looking for ways to get more involved in the life of our church family?

Fellowship is looking

Try Something New!

Have an idea for a new event?

The Fellowship Committee

wants to hear it.

Church Women United meeting

Church Women United in Fairfield will meet on March 6th at the Greenfield Hill Congregational Church to celebrate World Day of Prayer. The Rev. Alida Ward

will lead a Bible study at 10:00 a.m. This will be followed by The World Day of Prayer celebration led by the members. There will be a brown bag lunch immediately

after with desserts and beverages provided by the ladies of the church. *For additional information, please call Louise D'Amico at 372-2846.*



Dining Room Suite Available—to benefit First Presby!

One of our First Presby families has very generously donated their beautiful dining room suite for sale by First Presby. Proceeds of the sale will be retained by the church. This is a beautiful, mid-century, Bernhardt 10 piece dining room suite. It is a traditional style, solid

wood, and in beautiful condition. The set includes a two-piece, lighted hutch with intricate carving. It also includes matching table and chairs and a buffet. The table comes with a leaf, six chairs and custom pad for the table without the leaf. The two end chairs have

arms. The top of the buffet opens to reveal a heat proof surface, perfect for serving. This is great opportunity both for the buyer and the church. The suite is valued at more than \$5,000, but we will certainly accept a lower offer. The two-piece hutch is now on display in

the church parlor. The table, chairs, and buffet will be in the choir room. If interested, please see Trustee John Harris, who is handling the sale for us. John may be reached at 374-9479 or via email at ctterp525@yahoo.com.

Musings From The Stacks by The Church Mouse

Hello! What a winter we have been through. It was a great time to hibernate, rest and read. I hope that you were able to do a little of each and enjoy some of the special materials that are available in The Reading Room.

Spring and Easter are now on their way. A thought provoking book for Lenten reading is [Living the Resurrection](#) by Eugene H. Peterson. Rev. Peterson stresses that the resurrection is not a one-day a year occurrence but should be part of our every day journey through life. The wonder of the resurrection should occupy the central space in our life and should be the basis by which we live. Every activity from being with friends and loved ones to sharing meals can be joyful experiences when done with Christ as the centerpiece. The book also includes the four gospel resurrection stories.

You might also like to read [Praying in Color](#) by Sybil MacBeth and [Your Whole Life](#) by Carol Showalter. Both of these books were featured and discussed at our women's retreat last year. Praying in color shows us how to open our minds and hearts to new ways of praying and drawing closer to God. As Dr. Duffy explained prayer itself is our gift from God. Carol Showalter's book is a twelve-week guide to the building and living a healthier life. The book offers a comprehensive plan that discusses all aspects of our lives. These include not only our physical needs but also our spiritual ones. The guidelines for diet and exercise are written by a nutritionist. Mrs. Showalter tells her own life story and provides the spiritual basis for the daily devotionals and readings to guide us on our faith journey.

I hope to see you soon.



Stephen Ministry: What's Next?

It has already been a month since I have come back from the Stephen Leadership conference and it has been a busy time. We as a congregation have completed the first two steps of becoming a Stephen Ministry congregation (first enrolling and then having someone attend the leader's training). The next step of building awareness of Stephen Ministry within our congregation is well underway. There was an overview of Stephen Ministry in last month's edition of *The Steeplelight* and there have been weekly announcements in the bulletin providing more information about this ministry. Please continue to look for the weekly updates in the Sunday bulletin.

If you have missed any of these previous notices, don't despair! On Sunday March 1 after the service, you will have the opportunity to learn much more about Stephen Ministry; how it works, what it can do, and how you can help (and not just by becoming a Stephen Minister). I will give an informational presentation on the Stephen Ministry program and encourage everyone to attend who is able to.

This program can touch all members of our church and beyond – not just those called to be Stephen Ministers or Leaders. Stephen Ministries will be a supplement to our existing pastoral and deacon care. Our congregation should be mindful of how Stephen Ministries will benefit those that might be hurting. You may be in a position to refer someone you know who is in need of help to a resource who can walk with them in their journey of healing. Understanding what Stephen Ministry is (and what it is not) will help you identify and refer those care receivers (a key component of this ministry being successful).

In addition, in the next month or so we will be offering a course based upon the book *Christian Caregiving – a Way of Life*, by Rev. Kenneth C. Haugk, Ph.D. Dr. Haugk founded Stephen Ministries and is a pastor and clinical psychologist. *Christian Caregiving* is part of the Stephen Minister training and an excellent introduction to how this ministry works and who it serves. There are limited copies in the church office to borrow if you would like to get a preview of what's coming in the course.

It has been encouraging to hear the level of interest that many of you have in Stephen Ministry and seeing it work within our congregation. I look forward to speaking with more of you and seeing you at the March 1 presentation. With all of our efforts, we can provide the care and love that Christ has commanded us to do for those in need. Please keep our Stephen Ministry in your prayers and prayerfully consider your spiritual gifts and how you may use them in support of this ministry. Contact me or see me in church or at coffee hour or visit www.stephenministry.com.

Jim Fedoryk

203 253 4557



Welcoming Visitors

"Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it"
Hebrews 13:1-2

Visitors to our church who ultimately choose to become members are often asked why they chose First Presby. The answers vary—location, like the minister, denominational allegiance, like the Sunday School program, have friends who attend. The list goes on and on, and every individual and every family has a special and personal reason why our church is the right choice, but there is almost always a second part attached to their answers. They have felt welcome!!

The Outreach Committee does many things to encourage and identify visitors, but without a truly warm, sincere and welcoming congregation our efforts would be less meaningful and we would probably see fewer returning visitors.

Most people in our congregation instinctively seem to welcome and engage those they do not know. As a congregation we are doing an excellent job, but we could do a bit more.

The Outreach Committee would like to challenge you to spend a few moments at coffee hour and introduce yourself to someone you do not know. We have visitors every week. We have relatively new members who are beginning to be assimilated into the life of the church. We have people who have returned after absences. How many have you met lately?

Genuine hospitality is grounded in God's love for us and the commandment that we love our neighbors as ourselves.

Pat Piddington
Outreach Committee

*As a
congregation we
are doing an
excellent job, but
we could do
a bit more.*

NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND DISCIPLESHIP



Vacation Bible School Week of August 17– 21

Welcome to Rome, where families meet Paul and early Christians, from the Underground Church.

During the Holy Land Adventure, kids and adults become apprentices in a variety of hands-on marketplace shops, play high-energy games, take part in eye catching dramas, and visit with Paul—who is under house arrest!

The CED committee will conduct Vacation Bible School the week of August 17-21. This summer's program will add some fun new activities to this popular week.

As always, VBS is not possible without the many volunteers it takes to run the program. So please see Sarah Ribbens if you are willing to be part of this exciting event. A planning meeting will be held in March.

Bible truths come to life as learners of all ages discover what it was like to be part of the early church.

Kid-friendly items to donate:

toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, baby wipes, Easter stickers, candy, small treats, shampoo

Easter Party - Saturday, April 4

Join us for an Easter Celebration on Saturday, April 4 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. There will be crafts, stories, snacks and an

Easter Egg Hunt. This year, CED is asking for donations to include in Easter baskets to be given to families at the Beardsley School in

Bridgeport. Items listed at the left are welcome from all members of the congregation— even gently-used Easter baskets! Thank you.



Maundy Thursday Soup and Bread Meal

The Youth Group will be sponsoring their annual Soup and Bread supper on Maundy Thursday, April 9 at 6:00 p.m. in Brooks Hall.

Delicious homemade soups will be served prior to the Maundy Thursday Worship service at 7:30 p.m.

Choir members are invited for an early seating at 5:30 p.m. prior to their rehearsal.

30 Hour Famine - April 24 & 25

The 30 Hour Famine is the biggest event the youth have until the summer, and probably one of the most important. Both Middle School and High School youth are being asked to

fast for 24 and 30 hours respectively, beginning on April 24. Leading up to the event they are asking people to sponsor them for the time period that they are fasting with the money support-

ing World Vision to combat world hunger. The "Break-Fast" supper on Saturday, April 25 will be at our church again this year. Volunteers are needed so please let PJ know if

you are interested in helping out. Please support our students as they participated in this event.

Community Shareholders Spaghetti Supper - April 4

Save the date of Saturday, April 4 for a Community Spaghetti Supper hosted by the Youth Group. This dinner will be a special fundraiser to help the youth raise money for their two summer trips. The Middle School youth will be attending the Week of Hope the week of July 26 in Pittsburgh, PA. The High School youth will be spending the week of July 12 at the Young Life camp in Saranac, NY. Watch for details!



First Presbyterian Church

2475 Easton Turnpike
Fairfield, CT 06825

Phone: 203-374-6176
Fax: 203-374-1643
Prayer line: 203-374-0846

Steeplelight deadline is the 13th of
each month.

What will you leave behind?

Please remember First
Presbyterian in your will.

Non-Profit Organization

U. S. Postage Paid

Bridgeport, CT

Permit No. 518

Soup, Sandwich And Study

A once-a-month opportunity to share a light
lunch of homemade soup and a sandwich,
enjoy fellowship and learn something new
and/or different for an affordable price.

Wednesday, March 11

12:00-1:30 In Brooks Hall

A Short Story from the Listening for God Series

Read by PJ Drost

Discussion will follow, led by Lois James

\$5.00

Reservations are suggested.

Call the church office, 374-6176,
see Pat Piddington after church

or sign the reservation form on the Outreach bulletin board

ENOUGH, ALREADY!

The birch tree is a shaft of light
Sheathed in snow, it cleaves the
night

And hedges hulk in domes of
snow

Silently, they guard my yard
Near birdbath, turned to
marshmallow

Like hedge, we huddle here at
home

Cabin – fevered, trapped, alone
With our prayers for tropic
things

Lord, grant us an early spring!
by Elaine Hawie Chedister