



Steeplelight

First Presbyterian Church

Steeplelight

September 2009

Rally Day Sunday & Pancake Breakfast

Join us on Sunday, September 13 for Rally Day, the official start of the Sunday School year. Beginning at 8:30 a.m. CED will host a pancake breakfast and you can register for Sunday School for children & adults. Meet the teachers and enjoy some family fellowship before the 10:00 a.m. Worship service.

While parents and teachers are busy preparing for the opening of the academic school year, Jenn Morrow and Mike Mears are busy planning the Sunday School year. If you are interested in volunteering or helping out with the Sunday School program, please contact either Jenn or Mike.

Calling all Third Graders!

On Sunday, September 27, third graders will receive their Bibles during the Worship Service with a special treat at coffee hour.

Inside this issue:

<i>Terians</i>	2
<i>Stephen Ministry</i>	2
<i>Stephen Hammer</i>	3
<i>Youth Group news</i>	4
<i>Alpha begins</i>	5
<i>World Communion Sunday</i>	6
<i>Consecrating Stewards</i>	7

Welcome Our New Soloist

We are pleased to welcome our new soloist, Beverly Blanchard, to the choir. Beverly, who is a lyric soprano, has been a guest soloist for First Presby on several occasions. She and her husband, David, live in Trumbull and have two grown daughters. We welcome Beverly on September 20, her first Sunday with First Presbyterian.

We wish Kristin Lattin, our former soloist, best wishes as she moves to New Jersey to pursue a degree in Music at Montclair State University.

Special points of interest:

- Important information for those in the hospital
- Fellowship program for Moms
- New Wednesday Bible Study
- Youth Group and CED News
- Upcoming speakers



Terians Host the KookeeUkies

On September 12, at 6:30 p.m. the Terians will host The Ukulele Club of Southern Connecticut, better known as KookeeUkies, to perform for us at 7:30 p.m. in

Brooks Hall. Our church member, Joy Vischio, is a member of this group. The cost is \$5.00. and includes dinner (sub/salad) and

dessert. Reservations are necessary. Please contact Elaine Brown at 259-8097 or Jean Harbinson at 929-5810.



Stephen Ministry Training Opportunity

In Stephen Ministry life challenge in congregations, lay and around our caregivers (Stephen Ministers) provide one-to-one Christian and confidential care to the bereaved, hospitalized, terminally ill, separated, divorced, relocated, unemployed and others facing a crisis or

tions to implement this exciting and caring ministry. Our second Stephen Ministry class will begin on Wednesday evening, September 16. The 50-hour course will meet weekly (for 20 sessions) with several Saturday seminars (determined by participant's availability.)

*For more information about the Stephen Ministry or the training, please contact :
Jim Fedoryk at 372-4482.*

Thank You

We would like to thank all of Jean Wico's church friends for their prayers and support, which were greatly appreciated and a source of strength at such a difficult time. We would also like to extend a special thank you to all who helped make her memorial service a wonderful tribute and celebration of her life and faith - a large part of which included the people and activities of our church.

The Family of Jean Wico



Stephen Hammer to Visit on September 20

We are pleased to welcome Stephen Hammer on Sunday, September 20 to hear his inspirational personal testimony of the young man who has been tapped as a Rhodes Scholar and future Army platoon leader, and how he came to Christ.

Stephen Hammer arrived at Princeton planning to focus his studies on contemporary public policy. But that changed

when he read "On Duties" by the Roman statesman Cicero in a political theory class. Cicero's notion of how to live a moral life crystallized for Hammer the importance of living ethically and redirected his academic interests. As a result of his reading and reflections, he was baptized at Nassau Presbyterian Church, an experience that he said

"changed his whole life" and has served as a peer minister with the Princeton Presbyterian. In addition, Stephen volunteers for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, and held internships with the Dallas County Criminal D.A.'s office. After completing his service in the Army, Hammer plans to attend law school with the hope of one day becoming a judge.



Stephen Hammer, a classics major, will serve in the U.S. Army after two years of post-graduate study at the University of Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar.

Hospital Visits from the Pastor

When you are hospitalized, if you would welcome a call from our pastor, be sure (if possible) to ask someone to let our church office know.

Today's strict privacy laws (with which all hospitals

must comply) do not permit any hospital employee or volunteer (even the chaplaincy office) to inform the church office that you are a patient, as they once did, in times past.

When you phone the pastor, or the

church office, let us know whether you wish only the pastor to know, or whether it is also possible for our prayer groups, and congregation, to include you in their prayers. We always want to honor the patient's wish on these matters.



Youth Group Plans for September

Plans are underway for the fall Youth Retreat during the weekend of September 18-20. All youth that are in 7th grade and older will be returning to Litchfield for a weekend of Christian fun, fellowship, games and study.

And our own version of a polar bear dip in Bantam Lake. In addition, the Middle School Youth Group will move their meetings to Thursday nights and Senior High will meet on Sunday nights after Confirmation class.

A Youth Service is scheduled for Sunday, September 27 with the youth who attended the Week of Hope and Young Life Camp sharing their life changing experiences. Plan to join us!

Confirmation Class Begins

Starting in September, Confirmation class will be held for all students 8th grade and older who wish to join the church. Seven-

teen sessions will take place on Sunday nights, starting September 27 from 5:45 p.m., to the 6:30 p.m. prior to the Senior high

school youth group meeting. Students will also attend a retreat the first weekend in March. If interested, contact the Church office.

Stop and Shop Cards Youth Ministry Fundraising Program



Members of the Youth Group wish to thank all those who have participated in the Stop and Shop Fundraising program. Over \$1,200 has been raised to support

the Youth's summer and mission trips.

So if you haven't participated yet, please consider doing so this fall. It has made a huge difference in the

ability for all youth to attend retreats and trips regardless of cost. For more information, e-mail Kim-Louise Spinosa at klspinosa@optonline.net



"You can ask anything - there are no dumb questions, yet there is no pressure to talk."

Ask About Alpha

What is Alpha, anyway? Alpha is something for anyone with questions - questions about the meaning of life and what happens when we die. Questions like, how do we deal with guilt and forgiveness? Who is Jesus and why does He matter? Alpha is a ten-week opportunity to explore the Christian faith and offer answers to our ques-

tions. We'll meet in the Parlor in a relaxed setting with a little talk and treats, followed by a video presentation and a discussion. You can ask anything - there are no dumb questions, yet there is no pressure to talk. The Alpha course is a positive, engaging experience that began in London and has spread over the world to reach over 1.5 million people.

We're excited to offer the new Alpha Express version to fit our busy schedules.

There is no charge for the course. We will meet Wednesday evenings at 7:30 PM beginning September 16.

If you're interested or want more information, please contact Kim Hill at 259-2824 or the Church office.

Everyone is welcome!

Musings from The Stacks

WELCOME BACK! I can't believe that the summer has flown by and we are beginning another church year. I hope your summer was a time of rest and renewal.

It has been a busy summer in The Reading Room with the arrival of many

new and varied books and materials. Many of the new books are on display and soon there will be a display of some of our new arrivals in the Narthex. Be on the lookout for it and please sign out anything of interest to you.

During the coming

months I will discuss specific books that you might enjoy. Any suggestions for books that you recommend for The Reading Room would be appreciated. Your input is important and very valuable. Do stop in soon and enjoy.





World Communion Sunday, October 4

“Justice and peace shall kiss each other” Psalm 85:10

On World Communion Sunday, October 4, when Christians around the world gather to eat the bread and drink the cup offered by Christ, the Prince of Peace, we will collect a Peacemaking Offering. The Peacemaking Offering supports the efforts of Presbyterians to work for justice and peace, through the local congregation, the Presbytery, the Synod and the General Assembly. World Communion Sunday is a time when we become mindful of our spiritual unity with Christ and each other and it is a time through our actions, when we demonstrate

unity with Christ and others. Collecting the Peacemaking Offering on October 4, and dedicating ourselves to the work of justice and peace is an example of how we can share in the unity we have with Christ and others. Seventy five percent of the offering to be collected on October 4 will go to the Presbytery for distribution to Synod and General Assembly. The other twenty-five percent of the offering will be designated by the mission committee to a local peacemaking agency. On four successive Sundays beginning on September 13, fliers will be in the

Church bulletin explaining how peacemaking contributions from the previous years were put to use nationally and internationally.

On September 20 you will receive a special envelope for your Peacemaking contribution. The children of our congregation on that day will receive a bank in their Sunday school classes with a calendar which will suggest activities they can participate in, in preparation for the offering on October 4.

On Saturday, October 3, children and their

families will be invited to a special Peacemaking program that will include making the bread for World Communion Sunday. More information will follow from the CED committee about this special program.

Please stop by the Mission bulletin board and see the Peace Giving poster and other mission activities.

On Saturday, October 3, CED will host children and their families for a special Peacemaking program that will include making bread for World Communion Sunday.



Consecrating Stewards Program

We are excited to announce the dates and speaker for this year's Consecrating Stewardship program. This is the second year of a program that focuses on "faith-based" giving. The Consecrating Stewards Committee has been working this summer to put to-

gether a powerful and enriching program. We look forward to your participation in this special event. This year's guest speaker will be Larry Comstock. Larry will talk to the congregation on "The Importance of Stewardship" from a lay-

person's perspective. Larry lives in Wilton and his wife Alison and their two daughters and the family attends Noroton Presbyterian Church in Darien. Larry's faith has been profoundly affected by giving to the Church through good and bad times and he will deliver a

powerful and moving witness to the blessings that flow from faith-based giving on Consecration Sunday, October 25. We look forward to sharing this special experience with you during the month of October.

More details on the program will be communicated in the coming weeks, but for now we would ask that you mark the following Sunday services on your calendar.

- October 4th: Introduction of the Consecrating Stewardship Theme
- October 11th: Witnessing Steward talk by a member of the congregation
- October 18th: Witnessing Steward talk by a member of the congregation
- October 25th: Consecration Sunday with Guest Speaker Larry Comstock

M.O.M.s of Faith

Come on Tuesday mornings and relax, share a cup of coffee with other moms of all ages. Learn what it means to live a Christian

life. Beginning on September 22, we will meet every Tuesday morning from 9:30 to 11:30 in the Parlor. And a concurrent,

meaningful program and snack will be available for your children. To reserve a place or for further information, contact the

church office at 374-6176. A small donation of \$25 is requested to cover costs.



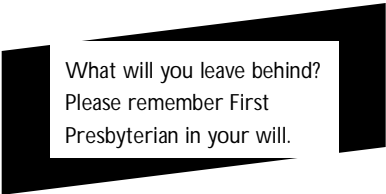
First Presbyterian Church

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.

Submit articles to
First-Presbyterian@sbcglobal.net



What will you leave behind?
Please remember First
Presbyterian in your will.

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
Bridgeport, CT
Permit No. 518

**DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER
BY SEPTEMBER 6**

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: 2 Corinthians

Starting Wednesday, September 24 Wednesday morning Bible class will study 2 Corinthians. which contains scripture verses that are some of the most beautiful. Yet, there is also "meat" in these chapters -- worth your attention, in this day and age especially. The Corinthian church faced a terrible cri-

sis with influential 'leaders' claiming to be powerful apostles. These 'super apostles' boasted about all kinds of spiritual experiences, speaking skill and financial power. In 2 Corinthians Paul is forced to open up his life as never before in order to show the confused Corinthian saints what it really means to serve the

church. If we ourselves ever want to offer strength, or leadership, in our family, home, work-place, then, rather than turn to the countless modern books on 'leadership', let's study this letter from the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ to His Saints in every age. Per the group's usual format, coffee,

and refreshments are served at the beginning of the hour. Pastor Duffy will introduce the topic of that week's passage. A short video study is shown, and group discussion and questions will "round out" the session at about noon. *All are welcome. No previous Bible study is assumed.*