



Steeplelight

November 2018

Consecration Sunday Is Coming

With much excitement, elation and gratitude, we are entering into our Church's Consecration Stewardship Season. Over the next five weeks we will have the unique opportunity to reflect, pray and meditate on proportional giving to God.

Our Church has grown to accept the approach to financial stewardship from a biblical perspective and not view the money we give to our Church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, we passionately feel that our financial contributions are a way to help us grow spiritually in our relationship with God by supporting our Church's mission and ministry with a percentage of our incomes.

The path to spiritual wellness includes giving and helping others. While we all experience at different times pitfalls in our lives, it is said many times in the Bible, that giving what we can to help others will lead us out of these pitfalls and to life filled with love and compassion. Over the coming weeks we will focus on how giving and helping others can help pave our individual paths to spiritual wellness...AND...how this should influence our proportional giving to God. Starting Sunday, October 28 and culminating on Sunday, November 18 we will hear personal messages, scripture readings, prayer and sermons that will open our hearts and minds to this theme.

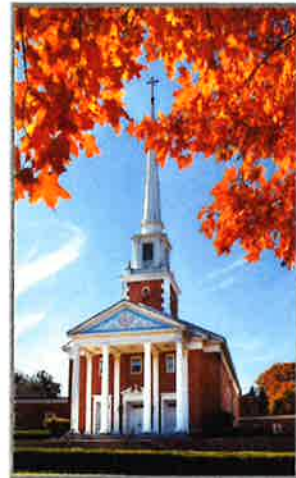
Here are a few key dates that should be noted:

- ◆ **First Sunday Worship Service– October 28**
- ◆ **Second Sunday Worship Service– November 4**
- ◆ **Third Sunday Worship Service– November 11**
- ◆ **Consecration Sunday – November 18,**
including Luncheon immediately following
the worship service

Feeling blessed and in the spirit of God.

John Winstead, David Boczar and Vance Hancock

...on behalf of the Stewardship & Finance Committee



Interim Pastoral Nominating Committee (IPNC) Update...

By the Numbers

The Presbytery of Southern New England has approved all the required documentation for requesting an Interim Pastor. Our church profile (MIF) has been on line for about one month. A cut-off date of **October 15th** for accepting candidates was put in place.

We are presently completing a review of the candidates that have come forward or have been brought forward by PCUSA's electronic job posting system. The committee is narrowing down the candidates to locate those that seem most suited to our church. This process should be completed by the time you receive this newsletter. Candidates came from **18** states across the country. We received the most candidates from Michigan (**6**), New York (**4**) and Pennsylvania (**4**).

Now that we have the capability, the initial interview process can be conducted on-line, primarily to save time and costs. Many candidates have on-line sermons that can be listened to prior to their interview so we can assess their preaching style. Of course, the final candidates will be interviewed in person.

Some additional numbers:

109 pastors have reviewed our church profile as of October 15th

25 pastors were selected as possible matches by the on-line job posting system

6 self-nominated after reviewing our profile through the system

1 came forward by suggestion of the General Presbyter

1 came forward based on learning of the position locally

We are reaching the crucial point in the nominating process, meeting and discerning the best person to serve our congregation as an Interim Pastor. Therefore, we need all **370** members of our congregation praying.

"And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith". Matthew 21:22

Your nominating committee in faith,

Vance Hancock, Maria Lindsay, Pat Piddington, Bill Schimpf

Thank you from Pastor Duffy

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the overwhelmingly wonderful way in which you marked the end of my ministry at FPC a week ago Sunday. All the speakers conveyed the same theme -- that we were giving glory and thanks to God, for anything and everything that had been good or gracious within the past fifteen years of our life together. You were shining with the light of Christ, and with such radiance -- in the words that you spoke, and the way that you conducted the reception. You knew that I would not have been completely comfortable with "testimonials to Ed" -- and the way in which you included Lynne again and again was, to me, so fitting, and so well-deserved, that I can tell you I have given thanks again and again for every moment of that unforgettable day.

Your gifts -- and the purse you presented afterward -- were beyond generous.

The reception itself had such a feeling of joy, and new beginnings that somehow I left it able to move forward with thanks for what had been, and greatest hope for what would lie in your future for the church we so love, and its incredible people.

The years at FPC, Fairfield, have surely been the happiest of my entire ministry. They flew by so swiftly. Each one of you is inscribed on my heart -- with the grateful recollection of your laughter, your soul, and most of all your faith in Christ.

Please know that I will always pray for you each and every day. Bless you and thanks, till we meet again!

Ed

Bridgeport Rescue Mission Coat Drive

The cold weather will soon be upon us and FPC is once again supporting Bridgeport Rescue Mission's annual coat drive. Last year BRM gave away over 15,000 coats and winter wear! Your donations of men's, women's, and children's new and gently-used coats helped make this possible. Coats are being collected now and will continue until November 11, so please check your closets now for donations and hang them on the coat rack outside the church office.







American Chamber Orchestra Concert

The American Chamber Orchestra opens its 16th season with a fall concert on Saturday, November 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Performing with the orchestra will be the choirs of the Cheshire Connecticut High School. Music on the program will be by Bizet, Schumann, Schwartz and Berlin. Suggested contribution is \$20 for adults and \$10 for students.



As with other concerts in this series, a portion of the contributions goes to supporting music programs in our church. Please visit www.americanchamberorchestra.com for details and tickets or call Ray Weber at 203-255-7661.

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will meet Saturday, November 3 at 8:00 a.m. We will continue with the Ray Vander Laan's *The Path to the Cross* study. In the story of God making Himself known to His people, Passover is a foundational element. As the continuation of this redemptive process, the Lord's Supper finds its most profound meaning when taken in the context of Passover imagery. In this lesson, you will unpack the full meaning of the Last Supper and learn how to engage it in deep celebration, commemorating Jesus' redemptive work on our behalf.

Fall Work Day, December 8

The fall All Church clean-up day, sponsored by the Trustees, will take place on Saturday, December 8, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please bring your work gloves, rakes and leaf blowers. All church members and friends are encouraged to join in this annual event to help restore the church grounds and prepare for winter.

Memorial Garden Service, November 4

During worship on November 4, FPC will set aside a moment of solemn remembrance during which the names of members and relatives of our church who have passed away this year, will be read. After the service, we will proceed to the Memorial Garden where we will remember and pray for those memorialized there. Please plan to attend this meaningful service of remembrance.

Howdy partners - We had a great Fall Hoedown and Chili cook-off on Saturday Oct 13th hosted by the fellowship committee. The event was attended by nearly a hundred members, family and friends. We wish to give a big thank you to our ten fantastic Chili cook-off entries and Maria Lindsay for coordinating this. Congratulation go to Sean Butler-first place, Paige Piddington-second place, and Patti Law-third place. We had authentic hoedown music, square dancing and a home-cooked country meal. A special thank you for the delicious meal and decorations provided by the Piddington family, Pat, Ken and Eric. Thank you also to Nancy Murray who provided a tasty corn casserole and many others for help in making the evening a success.



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

Welcome to our Newest Members



Sunday, September 16 FPC welcomed new members, Christiana Adenekan, Allison Becker, Charles Kasulani, and Anita and Godfred Effah.