

KIT



(Keeping In Touch)

A Newsletter of the

The First Church of Christ, Congregational, United Church of Christ

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MAY 2013



Dear Friends in Christ,

In a special meeting of the Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ, on Saturday, April 20, at the First Church of Christ, Congregational, of New Britain, the Rev. Kent J. Siladi was elected as our new Conference Minister.

A Connecticut native, the Rev. Siladi grew up in Stamford where he was confirmed in membership at the First Congregational Church, UCC. After graduating from Nasson College and Yale Divinity School, he began his ministry as the associate pastor at the Congregational Church of Brookfield, UCC. He went on to serve as the pastor of the North Guilford Congregational Church, UCC and later accepted a call to be a Connecticut Conference Regional Minister.

Rev. Siladi worked closely with the members of our Church's Pastoral Search Committee who interviewed and recommended me to be your pastor almost ten years ago. He and I began a good collegial relationship, and I was honored that he preached at my installation service on Sunday, November 16, 2003. During my early years here, I found him to be very emotionally and spiritually helpful to our church and to me as well as to all the churches and clergy of the Middlesex Association.

In 2007 he began his ministry as the UCC Conference Minister in Florida where he learned even more about administrative leadership and the creative diversity within the body of Jesus Christ. Now he feels God's call to return to us while he recognizes the many challenges before him.

Kent is a devoted husband to Laura, a loving father to Katrina and MaryAnn, and a proud grandfather to Riley.

He is also very committed to his Christian ministry. He recently stated: "I have a great love for and passion for the Church, and a deep love and affection for Jesus. And at the end of the day, when we think about what Christianity is, it's about Jesus, and following Jesus."

We welcome the Rev. Kent J. Siladi back home as our Conference Minister! As we offer him our congratulations, we also pray for God's blessings to be upon him and his family.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Chris



FREE! Our old pew *Good News Bibles* need **new homes**. They are stacked on a bench in fellowship hall. **Donations are still welcome** toward the cost of the pew Bibles, which can be inscribed if you wish. There are also a limited number of copies available for personal use. The cost is \$12.00 per Bible and checks should be made payable to First Church of Christ.



**90th Anniversary Celebration
of St. Stephen's A.M.E. Zion**

~ ~ ~+~ ~ ~ ~
Pentecost Sunday, May 19 • 3:00 p.m.
31 Rogers Street • Branford
*Pastor Chris will be preaching
and the Senior Choir will be singing!!*



Continued prayers for...
 Members and friends in time of need.

Please pray for: members & friends at home or in health care facilities...

all who grieve the servicemen and women who have given their lives in service to our country ...

and **the hungry and homeless ... all facing difficulties in the present economy ... all victims of war ... violence ... oppression ... disaster... all who speak for freedom and justice ... all in the criminal justice system ... all who have no one to pray for them**

Stewardship Reflection

I came across this old tale told by the Jesuit spiritual director, Anthony de Mello, and not only found it amusing, but a metaphor of how we assess miracles.

So What's Obvious?



A man took his new hunting dog out on a trial hunt. Presently he shot a duck that fell into the lake. The dog walked over the water, picked up the duck, and brought it back to his master. The man was flabbergasted! He shot another duck. Once again, while he rubbed his eyes in disbelief, the dog walked over the water and retrieved the duck. Hardly daring to believe what he had seen, he called his neighbor to go hunting the next day. Once again, each time he or his neighbor hit a bird, the dog would walk over the water and bring the bird in. The man said nothing. Neither did his neighbor. Finally, unable to contain himself any longer, he blurted out, "Did you notice anything strange about that dog?" The neighbor rubbed his chin pensively. "Yes," he finally said. "Come to think of it, I did! The son of a gun can't swim!"

As de Mello observes, "It isn't that life is not full of miracles. It's more than that: it is miraculous, and anyone who stops taking it for granted will see it at once." "And so it is with the 'miracle' of abundance...becoming a generous people depends on the way we look at life. We give as we live, out of a sense of who we are and what we believe to be true." One key, then, to generosity and affirmative giving is in discerning and accessing the richness that is already ours – realizing that through God's grace and blessings, we all share in His "miracle of abundance."

Put stock in our faith!



The young people participating in this summer's mission trip to West Virginia are selling stock shares to fund the trip. Shares are \$10 each – no limit! – and entitle the shareholders to a "shareholders' report and dinner, boundless appreciation, and the knowledge that the seeds planted hereby will long bear fruit in an unknown number of lives." An unbeatable deal! Please speak to one of the participants for more information. Stocks are ready for purchase during coffee hour!

Our Mission for May



From Mother's Day to Father's Day the **Mission Committee** sponsors a drive to collect money or diapers for **The Diaper Bank**. The Diaper Bank (TDB) centralizes the fundraising and distribution of free diapers to poor families through existing service providers, including local food pantries, soup kitchens,

daycare centers, social service agencies and shelters. TDB provides free diapers to poor and low-income families in New Haven, Bridgeport, Hartford, and Middlesex County.

The Diaper Bank has three goals:

- 1) to ensure that families living in poverty have an adequate supply of diapers for their infants and toddlers;
- 2) to raise community awareness that "basic human needs" include diapers and that these needs are not being met for children living in poverty;
- 3) to advocate for policy reform so that diapers are included in the definition of and provision for the "basic human needs" of families

Please give what you can. Checks can be made out to **The Diaper Bank** or **First Church**, with "for Diaper Bank" in the memo line. Thank you for your support.



MISSION CAR WASH

Saturday ♦ May 11 ♦ 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

(Rain date: May 25)

~ across from Church ~
behind the "old" police station

Support our young people!

From the Choir Loft...



One of my favorite hymns, especially in the springtime, is *This Is My Father's World*. Maltbie Babcock wrote this sixteen stanza poem praising the beautiful world he enjoyed on his long walks. He was a

multi-talented student at Syracuse University and could have been successful in any profession, but God called him into the ministry. It was at his pastorate of the First Presbyterian Church in Lockport, New York, a beautiful area between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario not far from Niagara Falls, that he put his thoughts about God's beautiful world into this poem. He would often tell his secretary that he was going out "to see my Father's world." In 1886 he was called to the Brown Memorial Church in Baltimore. While there he traveled widely and was in great demand on college campuses. He was an engaging speaker who never failed to stimulate students. In 1899 he moved to the Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City. Here he found it more difficult to take off on his walks. The work load was enormous, but he faced it stoically. At age 42 his church presented him with the special gift of a trip to the Holy Land. With great excitement he departed, but while en route, in Naples, Italy, he was stricken with a deadly bacterial fever and died at the International Hospital on May 18, 1901. After his death, his wife compiled his writings into a book entitled *Thoughts For Everyday Living*, published in 1901. Included was his poem "This Is My Father's World." (from *Then Sings My Soul* by Robert Morgan)



Ice Cream Social

Families Helping Families

Second Annual Ice Cream Social

Saturday ● May 4 ● 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Event is free, but those attending are asked to donate non-perishable foods or cash for FHF outreach programs



Friday • August 9 – 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Saturday • August 10 – 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Workers are needed for every booth. Please contact the booth chairperson and sign-up to work. A list of the chairpersons is posted in fellowship hall.

Pre-fair volunteers will be needed to clean and paint our booths – dates to be announced.

Pre-fair volunteers will be needed in the Rummage and Tag Sale rooms also.

Donations are needed and may be brought to the church any time the parish house is open for the **Tag Sale, Rummage Sale, Books, Records and Toys, and Silent Auction**

Think baked goods as the fair gets closer! Get out those recipes or tried and true treats!

A sign-up is posted in fellowship for the loan of picnic tables for the fair. We provide pick-up and return if needed.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~
Our annual Summer Fair is a church event which all members are asked to participate!
~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The **Silent Auction** needs your help with donations for this summer's fair. We are looking for members ...

- who have connections for tickets to any kind of sports or cultural event ...
- who have connections for gift certificates for services, i.e., legal, accounting, chiropractic, painting, plumbing, electric, handyman, lawn or yard services, septic, tree services, restaurants,...anything else you can think of – we are open to ideas ...
- who have connections to area recreation activities such as skiing, climbing, sailing, fishing, etc.

We are also looking for a few good people to help our booth – won't you join in the fun?!?!?

If you know of anyone who is interested in renting a crafter space, or you see an interesting crafter in your travels, do let them know about our fair!

Our 2013 Summer Fair has some **new booths, activities and food items this year....** Stay tuned for more details!



Golfing for Silver Lake

As an alternative to the annual fund raiser the Connecticut Conference organizes for **Silver Lake Conference Center**, our church will have its own local golf fund raiser. We will be playing at the Clinton Country Club on Wednesday, May 15, with May 22 as a rain date. Currently there are 8 (of 14) slots remaining on a first come basis. The **cost is \$110.00** which includes 18 holes of golf, carts, dinner, and a \$25.00 per player donation to Silver Lake. If you are interested in playing, payment is due by May 1st. **Thank you!**



CLASS OF 2013!

Please share your good news with your church family by noting your achievement on the sign-up posted in fellowship hall. We will include your name, where you're graduating from, and what's next in your future in the June or July-August KITs ... and, **if you're graduating from high school this year ... look out below** ↓

Abraham Pierson Scholarship



In 1996 in recognition of the importance of providing funds for education beyond the high school level, the Diaconate established the Abraham Pierson Scholarship in recognition of the work that this minister of our church (1694-1707) began when he became the first teacher and rector of what is now Yale University. This scholarship of \$750 is awarded in December for use in the second semester.

Guidelines for the scholarship are:

- The applicant must be a member of The First Church of Christ, Congregational, Clinton, Connecticut.
- The applicant must be a graduating high school senior with plans for furthering his/her education.
- The applicant must be active in church activities. A detailed list of such activities must accompany the application letter.
- An application letter is to be sent to the Mission Committee stating (1) What my church means to me and (2) What I mean to my church.
- The applicant must submit a letter from an adult, non-family member of this church (other than the pastor or a current member of the Mission Committee) which states his/her knowledge of the applicant's participation in and dedication to church work.
- The applicant must submit a letter of acceptance from a post-high school educational institution.
- **The deadline for applications is August 31st** of the year of high school graduation.

As the Town of Clinton celebrates its 350th birthday, there are many events planned to commemorate the occasion. Mark your calendars now for the next one – a Memorial Day picnic – on the Abraham Pierson School front lawn following the town's Memorial Day parade Monday, May 27.

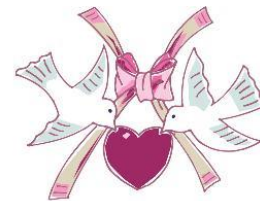


There will be hotdogs, chips, water, and ice cream for all Clintonians. The event and food are FREE. The Clinton Lions Club will grill the hotdogs and the Connecticut Water Company, located in Clinton, will donate bottles of water. There will be games, singing, and other events, especially those honoring veterans and those who gave their lives fighting for America's freedom. The town's Partners in Community and the 350th Committee are hosting the event Join the 350th Celebration Committee celebrating their message, "It's great that we can gather."

Congratulations to those



And to



May Anniversaries

ON DUTY ... MAY

Lectors

May 5	Pastor Chris
May 12	NEEDED
May 19	NEEDED
May 26	NEEDED

Fellowship Hour Hosts

May 5	filled
May 12	filled
May 19	filled
May 26	filled

Flowers

May 5	filled
May 12	filled
May 19	filled
May 26	filled

Soup Kitchen

May 15	Menu/Sign-up Posted
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Greeting Cards filled

Communion Bread

May 6	filled
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Noon • Tuesday, May 21
at the Church Office or emailed to
janeatc@firstchurchclinton.org

Suggested Food Bank Items MAY



Unsweetened Cereal • Soup
Toothbrushes • Toothpaste



Items are distributed through
The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries.

Lectionary Readings from the United Church of Christ Calendar

May 5th

Sixth Sunday of Easter
Orthodox Easter • Rural Life Sunday

Acts 16:9-15

Ps 67
Rev 21:19, 22-22:5
John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

Disciples Together

May 12th

Seventh Sunday of Easter
Festival of the Christian Home • Mother's Day

Acts 16:16-34

Ps 97
Rev 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21
John 17:20-26

Breaking Chains

May 19th

Pentecost Sunday
Rural Life Sunday

Acts 2:1-21 or Gen 11:1-19
Ps 104:24-34, 35b
Rom 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21

Gathered and Scattered

Wear Red to Church!

Red is the color of fire and so
symbolizes the presence of God. It
is the liturgical color for *Pentecost*.



May 26th

Trinity Sunday
(First Sunday after Pentecost)

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

Psalms 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15

Wisdom Calls

2013



2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
APRIL 28 8:30 Confirmation 10:00 Worship/Church 11:15 Fellowship	APRIL 29 10:00 Mom's Morning Out 7:30 Al-Anon	APRIL 30 9:15 Yoga	1 9:30 Morning Circle 10:00 Cancer Survivors	2 7:00 Senior Choir 7:00 Troop 7 [FH]	3 10:00 Al-Anon	4
5 HOLY COMMUNION 8:30 Confirmation 9:30 Communion CS Staff/Meeting 10:00 Church School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 Chdrn Choir 11:30 Nominating 12:30-5 FH in use	6 10:00 Mom's Morning Out 7:00 Al-Anon District 7:30 Al-Anon	7 9:15 Yoga 7:00 Pack 7 [FH] 7:00 GSA Leaders	8 9:30 Morning Circle 6:00 GSA 62221 7:00 Pack 7 Committee	9 7:00 Senior Choir 7:00 Troop 7 [FH]	10 10:00 Al-Anon	11 8 a.m.-5 p.m. FH in use
12 8:00 MBS 8:30 Confirmation 10:00 Church School 10:00 Worship 11:30 Chdrn Choir	13 10:00 Mom's Morning Out 7:00 Troop 7 Cmte 7:30 Al-Anon	14 9:15 Yoga 6:15/7:00 Pack 7 [DS]	15 SLCC Golf Tournament 9:30 Morning Circle 5:00 Soup Kitchen/ UMC	16 7:00 Senior Choir 7:00 Troop 7 [FH]	17 8-11:30 Husky Helper Day 10:00 Al-Anon All Day – Ladies Tea Set-up [FH]	18 9 a.m.-5 p.m. FH/Kitchen in use 2:00 Ladies Tea
19 PENTECOST 8:15 Sunday Women 10:00 Church School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 Chdrn Choir 11:30 B&G/C.E./ Diaconate/Mission/ Music/Summer Fair 3:00 Bfd AME Zion Pastor Chris/Choir 4:00 GSA 60504	20 10:00 Mom's Morning Out 7:30 Al-Anon	21 Noon JUNE KIT DEADLINE 6:15/7:00 Pack 7 [DS] 7:00 GSA Leaders [FH]	22 SLCC Golf Rain date 9:30 Morning Circle 6:00 GSA 62221 7:00 Church Board	23 7:00 Senior Choir 7:00 Troop 7 [FH]	24 10:00 Al-Anon	25
26 MEMORIAL SUNDAY 8:00 MBS 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	 7:30 Al-Anon	28 6:15/7:00 Pack 7 [DS]	29 9:30 Morning Circle	30 7:00 Senior Choir 7:00 Troop 7 [FH]	31 10:00 Al-Anon	JUNE 1