



**THE PARISH POST**  
*FIRST UNITED CHURCH*  
*OF CHRIST*  
*(CONGREGATIONAL)*  
*MILFORD, CT*

MARCH - MID APRIL 2010

**Sunday, March 7th**  
*Sacrament of the Lord's Supper*  
*Worship at 8 & 10 am*  
*Sunday School and Childcare*  
*Provided*

**Sunday, March 14th**  
*Girl Scout Sunday*  
*Worship 8 & 10 am*  
*Sunday School and Childcare*  
*Provided*

**Sunday, Marsh 21st**  
*Sacrament of Baptism*  
*Worship at 8 & 10 am*  
*Sunday School and Childcare*  
*Provided*

**Sunday, March 28th**  
*Palm and Passion Sunday*  
*Worship at 8 & 10 am*  
*Sunday School and Childcare*  
*Provided*

**Sunday, April 4th**  
*Easter Sunday*  
*Worship at 6, 9, and 11 am*

**Sunday, April 11th**  
*Sacrament of Baptism*  
*Worship at 8, All Ages at 10 am*

**Holy Week Services**

**Palm Sunday**  
**March 28th, 8 & 10 am**

**Maundy Thursday**  
**Service April 1st,**  
**7:30 pm**

**Good Friday**  
**Young Family Activity &**  
**Service April 2nd,**  
**10:00 am**

**Easter Services**  
**April 4th, 6:00 am,**  
**9:00 am and 11:00 am**

**Breakfast between 7:00 and**  
**8:00am, egg hunt and coffee**  
**hour between 9 am and 11**  
**am Services**



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CHURCH STAFF  
AND OFFICERS

**Church Staff:**  
**Senior Pastor**

James P. Tusedso x302

**Associate Pastor**

Adam E. Eckhart x303

**Acting Minister of C.E.**

M. Ashley Grant x309

**Music Directors**

James Balmer and Mary Nelson x308

**Church Secretary**

Debi Mastroni-Kenyon x300

**Sexton**

Roger Brockett x306

**Parish Intern**

Will Brown

**Church Officers:**

**Moderator:** Mike Tylutki

**Vice Moderator:** Bob Macklin

**Clerk:** Allison Britting x305

**Treasurer:** Jim Sparks x301

**Financial Secretary:**

Nancy Macklin x301

**Church Historian:**

Ardienne Damicis

**Members-at-large:**

Caitlin Mundy, Patti Rutherford

**Diaconate:** Karen Helene, Stacie Plaut

**Trustees:** John Toronto

**Christian Ed.:** Lara Edmondson

**Music:** Gary Becker

**Outreach:** Marlene Sanchez,

Robbie Silver

**Stewardship:** Letty Corrado

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## *Why We Do What We Do in Worship*

Recently I was asked a question about the inclusion of the *Gloria Patri* in our worship services. The questioner wanted to know why we sing it on some Sundays and not on others. Many of you may have noticed the occasional changes in our service and have wondered why we do what we do. In this article, I will try to answer some of your questions.

We call our worship on Sunday the *Service of the Word* or the *Service of the Word and the Sacrament*. Our sacraments are the Lord's Supper and Baptism. In our Church we also follow the Church Year in our liturgy (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost) and we structure our worship services differently in each of those seasons. That change might appear in the placement of the sermon in the order of worship, or the offering or what happens at the beginning of the service.

For example, in the case of the *Gloria*, you probably have noticed that we always use the *Gloria* after a *Prayer of Confession* and an *Assurance of Forgiveness*. That means that every time we have communion no matter what the church season, we will sing the *Gloria*.

During Advent and Lent, we sing the *Gloria* each Sunday because in those seasons we focus on penance, our sinfulness and we ask God to forgive us. During Easter, Christmas and Epiphany we usually begin worship with a *Prayer of Invocation* followed by the *Lord's Prayer* and during Pentecost, the longest season of the Church year, beginning in late May and ending in late November, we split it up. We usually sing the *Gloria* throughout the summer and as we begin our program year in September, we switch to the *Invocation* and the *Lord's Prayer*. We switch because we want our children to learn the *Lord's Prayer* and recite it with us and so we include it at the beginning of the service before they leave for their classes. Also by changing with the seasons, our children learn the *Gloria* as well as the *Lord's Prayer*.

As I was brought up in the church and trained in ministry, I was taught that Protestant worship differed from Catholic worship because we emphasized the importance of the word, the interpreted word of

God and so the sermon held a lofty place at the center of the worship service. Over the years, I have heard another argument, one that emphasizes offering, the offering of ourselves and our gifts to God's service as being central to our worship. Both are important and make sense to me and at different times in the church year, offering or sermon could be in the middle of our worship service.

Most importantly, worship at First Church is a collaborative effort of the church staff and in our tradition we are not bound by hard and fast rules. Hymns and anthems follow the scriptures of the day or the themes of the season and sometimes our order of worship is guided by practical decisions that may include getting a children's choir off to Sunday School or the organist up the stairs to play the next hymn. Each week, however, a great deal of time, effort and devotion is invested in worship, not only by the staff, but by numerous volunteers, by choirs, deacons, ushers and greeters. All that work is made complete when we gather each Sunday to praise and thank God and listen to God's word for our day and time.

Jim

## ADAM'S MESSAGE

### **The Lord's Prayer Challenge: Joy and Frustration in Prayer**

*In January, I challenged the First UCC Milford community to pray the Lord's Prayer every day. In my Parish Post articles this year I will address matters of prayer, share my own experience of praying every day, and offer insights from faithful people near and far.*

Nearing the end of February, I have reached a few peaks and valleys in the daily practice of the Lord's Prayer.

One highlight for me of praying the Lord's Prayer each day is how it frames my days, my personal prayers, and my reading of Scripture. It enables me to anticipate that I will face temptation and evil, that I require daily bread in many forms, that I am engaged in constant processes of forgiving and being forgiven, that God can have a central, guiding role in my decisions, and that God is sometimes alongside of me, sometimes ahead and offering paths of righteousness for my life.

As we enter the season of Lent, prayer can take on a more intense role in our lives as we consider the life and death of Jesus, who provided the "Our Father" for his disciples' sake and for ours. The Parable of the Prodigal Son comes to my mind each Lent, so I honed in on a quotation recently from James Bryan Smith, who wrote about what that parable says to us about prayer and our relationship with God: "If we knew God in this way—as a loving, forgiving Father—praying and talking with him would not be a chore or a duty but would rather be our inner desire throughout the day. God longs for us, searches for us—and even died for us—in hopes that we will respond to [God's] longing, searching, self-sacrificing love."

That is how I have often experienced God in those mountaintop, peak moments of prayer.

My valley moments in prayer are a result of a cancer diagnosis for a good friend, David. Dave and I have known each other since high school, and although we live far apart and are "low-maintenance" friends (as men sometimes are), he's dear to my heart. So when I set aside time for prayer, Dave's health usually leaps out of my heart in a frustrated prayer. I run through the standard forms of prayer in the face of that kind of situation: laments ("Why, God?"), the bargaining

("If I do this, will you make him better?"), the rationalizations ("Is this a test?") and more. I believe that God's steadfast love and desire for a real relationship means that God accepts those prayers. I also have discovered that the Lord's Prayer can re-center me after God has received my intense frustrations and questions. In light of frustrations, praying for God's will to be done takes on another level of significance; I stop presuming that daily bread (and more) is my entitlement; the prayer helps me to find forgiveness for God, myself and the world. By practicing the Lord's Prayer, I can see a glimpse of God's kingdom once again—especially when I recall that God's kingdom comes through Christ's own suffering in solidarity with all humankind.

I invite you continue to practice the Lord's Prayer or to take up the practice and share with each other and me what it means to our lives of faith.

### **Our April Communion Service**

It is our custom to celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of the month. This year Easter falls on the first Sunday in April and Maundy Thursday falls on April 1<sup>st</sup>, so we will celebrate our April Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on the Thursday that Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with his disciples. We urge you to join us that evening for communion and the service of Tenebrae as we tell the story of Jesus' betrayal, condemnation and crucifixion and prepare for a glorious celebration of the resurrection on Easter morning.

**Maundy Thursday**  
**April 1st at 7:30 pm**  
*The Order for Tenebrae*



On the Thursday evening before Easter, we gather to worship and celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper on the evening when Jesus celebrated the Passover with his apostles, his last supper, and when he talked about the bread and the wine of the Passover meal becoming his body and blood. In this act of communion, Jesus asked that his followers remember him when they gathered in the future to share the bread and the cup.

Also in that meal, Jesus issued a new commandment to his followers, "Love one another as I have loved you." Maundy is the English form of the Latin word meaning commandment and so this Thursday before Easter is called "Maundy Thursday."

In our service on this evening, we also celebrate the *Order for Tenebrae*. *Tenebrae* is the Latin word for shadows. On Maundy Thursday following the Last Supper, Jesus was betrayed and arrested and the story of Jesus arrest in the garden is read by the laity of the church as candles are extinguished and the shadows lengthen.

Our Maundy Thursday service is a deeply meaningful worship experience that reminds us of the sacrifice of Jesus that made Easter possible. Take some time to join us on Thursday evening as we listen again to the commandment, "Love one another as I have loved you."



**GOOD FRIDAY**  
**Worship & Activities**  
**Friday, April 2 at 10 AM**

Friends and members of First Church are invited to our Good Friday service, well suited for all ages. Adults have a good time explaining Easter to children, but Good Friday challenges the best of us when it comes to telling them about what happened to Jesus before the empty tomb. Come and share in music, story, symbols and prayer as we consider Jesus' last days and his commandment to love one another. Activities in Fellowship Hall will reinforce the amazing story of Jesus' life!

**Stewardship Update**

As the church season of Lent surrounds us, our church has much to be proud of and much to be thankful for throughout this season and the year ahead. Our members have given generously in order to care for one another and for the world around us. Our church is blessed with a dedicated staff, a beautiful worship space and many prayerful and caring members.

Your Stewardship Ministry is honored by the generosity of our church family during this pledge drive. We set a lofty goal of \$400,000 and your pledges have brought us very close to this goal, all the more meaningful in these difficult economic times. We thought it might also be helpful to show the breakdown of current pledges in the following chart to serve as a reference point:

<u>2010 pledge</u>	<u>Number of pledges</u>
>\$100	8
\$100 - \$500	100
\$501 - \$1,000	85
\$1,001 - \$1,500	52
\$1,501 - \$2,000	19
\$2,001 - \$3,000	21
\$3,001 - \$5,000	15
>\$5,000	10

As a point of consideration, if our current 310 pledgers would give an additional \$2.00 per week, we would meet our proposed budget. We encourage any member who has yet to pledge to please do so.

Two new members joined the Stewardship Ministry this year, Nina Kienzle and Eric Tashlein, and we are thankful to have such motivated and energetic people with us. We will regretfully miss working with Diane Hayden as she completes six years of dedicated work with the Stewardship Ministry.

We are looking forward to our annual Stewardship Work Day to be held in June. This year, we plan on doing work around our church buildings in addition to our tradition of fulfilling requests from our church family.

Please consider prayerfully the ways in which you can continue to support your church financially and spiritually and with your time and talents. All are important and needed.

Many blessings,

The Stewardship Ministry: Letty Corrado, John and Linda Haas, Diane Hayden, Nina Kienzle, Pam Pilla, Chuck Roy, and Eric Tashelin

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

### Heifer International Collection Date! **MARCH 21<sup>st</sup>**



Since last October the Sunday School has had our eyes on the work of Heifer International. Their mission is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and to care for the earth. Heifer does this by providing appropriate livestock, training and related services to small-scale farmers and communities worldwide.

- Today, millions of people who were once hungry will be nourished by milk, eggs and fresh vegetables.
- Families who for generations knew only poverty will be building new homes and starting businesses.
- Children who once headed out to the fields to do backbreaking work will be heading into schoolrooms to learn to read.
- And people who never thought they'd be in a position to help someone else will be experiencing the joy of charitable giving.

First Church's Sunday School learned about Heifer's origins, its mission, its means of building livelihood for individuals and families and villages. We incorporated its mission and story into our worship liturgy. We made bookmarks and baked goods to sell and raise awareness. We made animal banks so that we could focus on giving to others during the season of Advent while most everything tells us to be focused on getting for ourselves. We integrated the project into our practice of Christian discipleship through song and crafts and story. And during the Pancake Supper, we tried to better understand Heifer's impact by thinking about our own food and where our food comes from.

During the season of Lent, we continue our focused giving and invite others in the congregation to join us. On **March 21<sup>st</sup>**, we will collect the animal banks that many of the children have had since Advent, and we will collect other donations from the church family. Flyers are available to assist you in framing your giving.

This project opens our eyes to the potential of our combined efforts to make Christ's command to love one another a daily habit.

For information on Christian Education Ministries at First Church, contact Ashley Grant at [mfducc.cemin@gmail.com](mailto:mfducc.cemin@gmail.com) or 877-4277 ext. 309.

## SCHEDULE

### MARCH

- 7 SS (Regular Sunday School during 10am service)
- 14 SS
- 21 SS
- 28 **Palm Sunday & SS (Children gather in Fellowship Hall at 9:45 AM)**  
**Confirmation Good Friday Service Rehearsal 4 PM**

### APRIL

- 2 **Good Friday Worship and Activities for all ages 10 AM**
- 4 **Easter Sunday Sunrise Services; 7 AM Breakfast; No SS; 9 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Egg Hunt Plymouth Lawn; 11 AM Worship**
- 11 **No SS. All Ages Worship**
- 18 **SS**
- 25 **SS**

**Keep posted on special events and CE opportunities by checking out our bulletin boards near the classrooms and at the top of the stairs from the Fellowship Hall.**

### Story Time for Little Ones at First Church

Rev. Ashley invites little ones to Story Time in the **Church Library**: Wednesdays at 9:30 AM, throughout the season of Lent (last day is March 31).

Accompany your little one for songs and stories. This Lenten Offering for the youngest among us will open them to some of our Children's selections and give parents a chance to see what is offered for them among the devotionals, reference books, biographies, etc. in our Church Library.

Speak to Rev. Ashley if you have questions or if you would like the high honor of being a story teller!

**9:30 AM**

**Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31**



## Lenten Prayer Tree

Lent is a good time to begin a habit of prayer, and a prayer tree—that you can make at home—serves as both a reminder and a focus for your prayers. The Sunday School has begun growing a prayer tree in the Fellowship Hall—(thanks in great part to Roger Brockett). Members and Friends of First Church are invited to add your own prayers and prayer requests to the branches. You will find Lenten symbols to cut out beside the tree. Write your prayer concerns on the cutouts and tie them to the tree. Your church family will be holding up these prayer concerns over the coming weeks.



## Lenten Creative Lunches

Bring your lunch and join Rev. Ashley in Fellowship Hall:

- Tuesday, Mar 2 at Noon for hands-on pretzel making & baking with Sue Palmer
- Tuesday, Mar 16 at Noon to create a painted mosaic cross

Sign up in Front Office for either or both events.

## CONFIRMATION I & II

**Confirmation I** meets Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 5pm in the Library for worship planning; please bring your journals. We also meet Sunday, March 28 at 4pm for worship rehearsal and preparation for the Good Friday Service & activities. Confirmation should arrive by 9:30 AM on Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Confirmation II** meets Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup> and March 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 pm and Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm for Sunrise Service planning. Sunrise Service Dress Rehearsal will be on Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 am and the Sunrise Service is on Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 am. Deacon Interviews will take place on Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.



## EASTER EGG HUNT 10:30 AM Easter Day

On Easter morning, between the 9 AM and 11 AM services, children 5<sup>th</sup> Grade and younger are invited to our Easter Egg Hunt on the Plymouth Lawn. Parents, we ask you to bring a bag of individually wrapped Easter surprises to your child's Sunday School Class on Palm Sunday, March 28. On April 4 children should bring a basket or bag for the HUNT! Volunteers are needed to hide eggs; contact Ashley Grant if you are interested.

## VBS 2010: ALL of ME for U Save the Date: July 12-16, 2010

Space is limited, so register early!



This year's Vacation Bible School—"ALL OF ME for U!" will focus on Mark 12:30-31: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. And love your neighbor as yourself."

Register online: [www.firstchurchofmilford.org](http://www.firstchurchofmilford.org) by clicking on the church calendar and going to July.

We invite members and friends of First Church who are age 3 (potty trained) to 7<sup>th</sup> graders. There is no charge, but donations are welcome. A needs list will go out with the welcome letter.

Volunteers (8<sup>th</sup> grade and older) are indeed needed to make this week happen: teachers, crafters, games leaders, worship leaders, snack makers, nursery helpers, musicians, etc. Email or speak with Rev. Ashley if you will offer God and God's children your time and love this summer.

**Planning Meeting: Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup> 11:30 AM.**

**SUDAY SCHOOL LEADERS  
FOR 2010-2011!  
Pray about it.**

*Teacher and Helper Recruitment will soon begin. Listen and hear God's call for you. Speak with Rev. Ashley if you have questions or interest.*

**Confirmation II**

Thanks to everyone who participated in Confirmation 2's Souper Soup Sale as part of the Souper Bowl of Caring. Sue Palmer did much of the preparations and supervision of the soup mixing, and Ann Doolittle and Amy Arpino also helped get the youth ready to make the mixes. We sold over 80 mixes and will be donating over \$150 to Beth El Center's soup kitchen as a result. Just as importantly, the young adults in Confirmation 2 had a hands-on experience with preparing food and seeking to help people in need.

You may have also noticed that some young adults have participated in two significant Sunday morning ministries: assisting in Sunday school and ushering or greeting. This is part of their faith practice rotation, when they have the opportunity to embody the Christian faith through the ancient practices of service, hospitality, teaching and sacred community. On Easter morning, members of the class will get to lead worship at the Sunrise service (see below). We hope you can join them in the important practice of leading and participating in praising God.

**Covenant to Care "Thanks"**

Reggie Jackson, our social worker, has sent a BIG thank you to us not only for the White Gifts but also for the coats and clothes that were donated for the kids. He and his fellow social workers appreciate our generosity. As you do your spring cleaning this year, please keep the DCF children in mind if you have any gently used clothes (infant thru teen, young adult). Also, they always have a need for duffle bags to help move the children as they transition to new homes. If you have any donations, please contact either Pam Trotto (203-877-8157) or Karen Davoli (203-877-2472). Thank you!

Thanks for your help!  
Pam

**Senior Pilgrim Fellowship**

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Senior P.F. Boosters' Dance a hit and a helpful fundraiser for our June mission trip to New Orleans. Dick Furanna's band played through the evening while church members and friends danced and enjoyed the music, some wearing jerseys from their favorite teams. The Yankees and Red Sox fans even got along with each other! The silent auction, raffle and 50/50 raffle helped us raise \$2,900 for our mission trip, so thanks again!

On Valentine's weekend, ten youth and a few adults—Debra Groppuso, Ray Gilbert, Rev. Adam and Jay Brothers—gathered in the church kitchen to make meals as part of the church's Pot of Grace ministry. Debra worked with youth on cooking of yummy chicken cacciatore and baking some bread while Adam oversaw making tortilla and curly soups (two soups whose mixes we sold for the Souper Soup Sale). We were able to share food with some of the same people for whom we caroled in December—a nice way to touch base with great people in our community!

As winter draws to a close, Senior P.F. will spend much of March and early April serving food at the Gulf Coast Dinner and Easter Breakfast (see below).

**UPCOMING SENIOR P.F. SCHEDULE**

Sun., March 7	6:30-8:00 PM	Regular Meeting
Sat., March 13	Afternoon	Gulf Coast Dinner Prep. (Kitchen)
Sun., March 14	Noon-8:30 PM	Gulf Coast Dinner (see p. 14)
Sun., March 21	6:30-8:00 PM	Mission Trip Meeting
Sun., March 28	6:30-8:00 PM	Regular Meeting
Sat., April 3	Morning	Easter Breakfast preparations (Kitchen)
Sun., April 4	6:00 AM	Sunrise Service (Front Plymouth Lawn)

## Impact Parenting

**Sunday, March 7—6:30-8:00 PM—Fellowship Hall**

Trying to figure out how to set rules and consequences in your role as parent or guardian? Jen and Jay Brothers will lead a short, free workshop on impact parenting on March 7<sup>th</sup>. At the workshop, participants will review basic communication and behavior issues and consider the potential benefits of setting up a behavioral agreement with children/youth so that expectations and consequences are clear. Please RSVP by contacting Adam at seniorpf@msn.com.

## Gulf Coast Dinner

**Sunday, March 14—Seatings at 5:00 and 6:30 PM  
in Fellowship Hall**

Love Cajun cooking or never tried it and always wanted to? Here's your chance to enjoy some authentic Gulf Coast cuisine while supporting Senior PF's June 2010 mission trip to New Orleans.

Enjoy the atmosphere and fellowship while eating a traditional New Orleans chicken dish (not too spicy!), red beans and rice, corn pudding or hush puppies and salad for dinner and King cake or brownie for dessert.

Sign ups will begin on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> at coffee hour or RSVP by calling 877-4277.

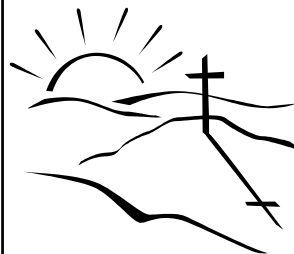
Cost: \$15 per adult  
\$10 per senior (65 and up) or child (4-12) having Gulf Coast dish  
\$5 for kids to have PBJ dinner, supervised in childcare room while watching cartoons



## A Note From Your Treasurer

Our pledges are off to a good start in January. For the month our pledges were \$2,000 ahead of last year and ahead of our monthly budget. Thanks to everyone for your support which is so important to the life and ministries of First Church.

## Sunrise Service & Easter Breakfast Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>



Celebrate the Son's rising with the sunrise at 6:00 am on Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. We'll gather on the front Plymouth lawn (or go into the chapel if it's too cold) and thank God for the resurrection through prayer and music. The sunrise service will be led by members of the Confirmation 2 class and dedicated musicians.

At 7:00 a.m., Senior P.F. will host the Easter Breakfast in Fellowship Hall. Quiche, ham, bacon, hard boiled eggs, French toast, fruit salad, pastries, bagels and cereal will be served. The cost is \$6 per person (\$3 for children five and under). Proceeds go toward Senior PF's New Orleans mission trip.

## Super Savings For Suppers

First Church has joined Restaurant Depot, a wholesale supplier to restaurants and non profit organizations. It is located at 181 Marsh Hill Road in Orange, just a little way beyond where Stew Lenoard's was going to build.

If your committee or group is having a dinner for a large number of people, which furthers the mission of the church, a trip to Restaurant Depot may save you a great deal of money.

The church has 1 membership card that Debi Mastroni-Kenyon has in the office. You must sign for the card when you take it, and bring it back as soon as possible.

The membership card must be swiped upon arrival. Payment can be made by cash or your own credit card. A Church check is not necessary.

Lastly, it is very cold in the Depot, and you should wear warm clothes, hats, gloves, no matter what time of year that you visit.

# FEED MY SHEEP ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

## **The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be received on Sunday March 21<sup>st</sup>**

In John 21:15-17 Jesus asked Peter, “Do you love me?” When Peter answered, “yes,” Jesus told him, “Feed my sheep.” This message from Jesus holds true today as we are called to care for those in need. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering helps us to pool our resources so that they can do the most good to help house, educate, clothe and . Through Our Church’s Wider Mission ministries this collection is channeled to programs that support health, education and agricultural development and refugee assistance.

You may use the enclosed calendar page to stimulate conversation and start your giving. You may elect to use one of the available fish banks with those specific funds headed to Heifer International. Either method of giving is a phenomenal way to positively impact the world without ever leaving Milford!!

**We invite you to bring your  
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering/Fish Banks  
forward on March 21.**



### **Susan B. Tweedie Memorial Scholarship**

Applications for the Susan B. Tweedie Scholarship are now being accepted. The Tweedie Scholarship is for High School Seniors who are members of the church.

The scholarship is given by the Tweedie Family in memory of Mrs. Tweedie, who was a long time member of First Church.

Applications will be accepted until Sunday, May 2, 2010. If you wish to apply, please check the Church Office for the forms. There will be no extensions granted and the recipients will receive their grants on Senior Day on Sunday, June 13, 2010.

Evelyn Merwin would like to thank everyone for all the lovely cards and notes she has received since she has been in Pennsylvania and she is looking forward to moving to her new home with Linc and Julie!

Her new address as of February 20th is:

**90 Steeplechase Drive  
Doylestown, PA 18901**



### NEWS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

#### **In Memoriam**

*Shirley Townsend*

### PARISH POST SPONSORS

*This issue of the Parish Post is being sponsored by the following businesses and individuals. We thank them for their ongoing support of our Church programs and ministries.*

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**Stacie Plaut** Travel Time – full service Travel Agency,  
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#### **Bob and Ann Sabo**

**Smith & Sefcik Funeral Home and Cremation Services,**  
135 Broad Street, Milford 06460 (874-2588)

If you would like to sponsor the Parish Post and have your name or business listed here, please contact Debi Mastroni-Kenyon in the Church Office at 877-4277.

# From the Historian

## The Reverends Ferguson and Morse

At the end of many brief biographies in Rev. Houghton's 1945 Manuel of the Church are comments that speak to the character of the pastor. The first sentence of this commentary for Rev. Henry Harvey Morse states, "His pastorate began when the Church was in a seriously disturbed state." I wondered why that was. In 1889 the Church and town had celebrated the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their founding. The booklet filled with historical articles, the dedication of the six plaques honoring early pastors, and information about the church did not hint at any problems. A dignified photograph of Rev. Ferguson was in the front piece. Although he declined to give a Historical Sermon due to his "recent acceptance of the pastoral office," he did give an address on "The Present Condition of the Church."

A search of the meeting records that were copied by the Connecticut Library and sent back to the church with white print on black paper and not easy to read showed a gap in the records between 1885 and 1909. I was ready to give up when I saw a brown journal marked "Records." There they were: annual meeting reports 1885-1909. Somehow this journal had escaped copying and the writing was very legible.

On May 28, 1888, it was voted to employ Rev. Frank Ferguson for \$1800 plus the use of the parsonage for one year. Either party could give two months notice to terminate. On May 1, 1889 a motion to give notice to Rev. Ferguson that his engagement be terminated July 1, 1889, was "laid on the table." On July 14, 1890, a motion to call a council to install Rev. Ferguson as pastor was made. This was followed by a motion to postpone this motion indefinitely. That passed by a vote of 29 to 28. This is the last mention of Rev. Ferguson in the reports. According to Rev. Houghton's biography he became Head of Chadron Academy in Chadron, Nebraska in 1890.

On Feb. 16, 1891, the church extended a call to Rev. Henry Harvey Morse to be pastor. He was "invited to continue his labors and if after a period of three months the society and parties agree he

would be installed as pastor with a salary of \$1500 and rent of a comfortable house or \$200 in lieu." This was passed unanimously. On June 8, 1892, he was voted as a member of the Society Committee and on Dec. 18, 1893, his salary was raised by \$300. Later he became the chairman of the First Ecclesiastical Society.

The church fell on hard financial times. At the Jan. 3, 1898, annual meeting the Ecclesiastical Society asked the congregation for more liberal contributions. They had to borrow \$500 to pay the pastor and voted that he be paid properly each month. By 1898 his salary was \$1975. In the annual meeting report of Dec. 19, 1898, there is a vote of thanks for the "help he has given along financial lines." His salary was listed as \$1525 in 1899 and then \$1500 for the remainder of his time as pastor of First Church.

On Dec. 18, 1906, Rev. Morse's resignation was accepted with "our appreciation of him as preacher, teacher, and pastor." The report continues for two pages praising and thanking Rev. Morse and his wife.

Rev. Houghton ends the commentary on Rev. Morse, "His conciliatory temperament enabled it (the church) to enjoy a period of quiet prosperity. He was a rare comforter in illness and sorrow, a pastor whose ministrations in the home were faithful and highly valued."

Next issue I'll continue with more information about Rev. Morse and the interesting events that occurred during his ministry at First Church from 1891 through 1906.

Ardienne Damcicis, Church Historian

## 2010 Listing of Officers, Ministries, and Committees

### OFFICERS

**Moderator:** Mike Tylutki  
**Vice Moderator:** Bob Macklin  
**Clerk:** Allison Britting  
**Treasurer:** Jim Sparks

### ASSISTANTS TO THE OFFICERS AND OTHERS

**Asst. Clerk:** Linda Whittaker  
**Financial Secretary:** Nancy Macklin  
**Asst. Treasurer:** Don Crowell  
**Member-at-large (1):** Caitlin Mundy  
**Member-at-large (2):** Patti Rutherford  
**Historian:** Ardienne Damicis

### MINISTRIES AND COMMITTEES

#### Deacons

**Term expires 2011:** Stacie Plaut (2nd Term and co-chair), Pam Trotto, Amy Pinto  
**Term expires 2012:** Andrea Mullen, Dean Aliberti, Lesley Darling, Becky Tylutki, Ray Gilbert, Denis Haley (2nd Term), Karen Helene (2nd Term and co-chair), Lloyd Jacobs (2nd Term), Joe Jeffery (2nd Term)  
**Term expires 2013:** Peggy Furanna (2nd Term), Mel Fenn (2nd Term), Joan Canavan, Judy Haley, Tom Stuart

#### Christian Education

**Term expires 2011:** Trish Cobain (2nd Term), Cheryl Woodman-see, Robin Fenn (2nd Term)  
**Term expires 2012:** Rick Jurzyk, Bernadette Shoumlin, Jen Bihary (2nd Term), Joy Craig (2nd Term), Sue Bernor  
**Term expires 2013:** Laura Jarvis (2nd Term), Lara Edmondson (2nd Term and Chair), Celine Sandor, Jennifer Brothers, Samantha Gilbert, Mathewe Schofield

#### Christian Outreach

**Term expires 2011:** Lori Lohmeyer, Ann Sabo  
**Term expires 2012:** Steve Perrett, Gretchen Perrett, Patricia LeBel-Lasse, Sue Pavelko (2<sup>nd</sup> Term), Marlene Sanchez (2<sup>nd</sup> Term, co-chair)  
**Term expires 2013:** Robbie Silver (2nd Term and co-chair), Bill Silver (2nd Term), Marilyn Cormack (2nd Term), Sharon Poole

## 2009 Listing of Officers, Ministries, and Committees

### Continued

#### Music

**Term expires 2011:** Tracy D'Anna, Alison Gottsegen  
**Term expires 2012:** Gary Becker (Chair)  
**Term expires 2013:** Edna Dineson (2nd Term), Judith Hunt (2nd Term), Ken Kienzle

#### Trustees

**Term expires 2011:** John Torento (2<sup>nd</sup> Term and Chair), Tim Cro-nin, Jeff Lohmeyer, John Doolittle  
**Term expires 2012:** Nora Jankovsky, Dan Tylutki, Joe Serapiglia, Mike Cobain (2<sup>nd</sup> Term)  
**Term expires 2013:** Tim Canavan (2nd Term), Kirk Shoumlin, Scott Kaminski

#### Stewardship

**Term expires 2011:**  
**Term expires 2012:** Linda Haas, Letty Corrado (2<sup>nd</sup> Term and Chair)  
**Term expires 2013:** Chuck Roy (2nd Term), Pam Pilla (2nd Term), John Haas (2nd Term), Eric Tashlien, Nina Kienzle

#### Memorials

**Term expires 2012:** Dana Rotman, Nancy Rotman, Catharine True-man  
**Term expires 2013:** Grace Lengyel (2nd Term), Gloria Robertson (2nd Term), Joy Stonier (2nd Term)

#### Personnel

**Elected in 2005:** Jeff Edmondson  
**Elected in 2006:** Charlie Haigh, Mary Haselkamp  
**Elected in 2009:** Marcia Cobain  
**Elected in 2010:** Carol LaBrake

#### Auditors

Bill Roots

#### Appointed Positions

**Funeral Coordinator:** Carol Arpino  
**Wedding Coordinator:** Carole Britting  
**Hospitality:** Ann Sabo and Ashley Tracy  
**Ushering Committee:** Deacons

## LILLIES OR MUSIC DONATIONS

This year you can donate a lily, make a contribution to the Organ Fund or make a contribution towards holiday music in honor or in memory of a loved one.

Please fill out the form below and return it to the Church Office, with your check, no later than **SUNDAY, MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup>**.

I would like to purchase a Lily (\$12.00 each).

In Memory/Honor of: (please circle one)

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to take my plant

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like my plant delivered to a shut-in

\_\_\_ I would like to make a donation in the amount of

\$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Organ Fund

\_\_\_ I would like to make a donation in the amount of

\$\_\_\_\_\_ for Holiday music

In Memory/Honor of:

\_\_\_\_\_

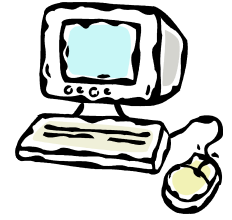
Given by:

\_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone number in case of questions: \_\_\_\_\_

**When mailing orders to the church, please put  
“ATTENTION DEBI” on the envelope.  
Thank you.**

## Receive the Parish Post and Other Church Notices via Email!



First UCC Milford continues to seek ways to save paper and money and to communicate clearly with you.

Below you can sign up to receive the Parish Post and/or a monthly email inviting you to sign up for specific volunteer opportunities (The Parish Post is now available on the church website [[www.firstchurchofmilford.org](http://www.firstchurchofmilford.org)]).

We will not disclose your email address to other people, and would limit our use of the email to the purposes you sign up for below (as well as any other previous permissions you have granted us). To sign up, just fill out the sheet, tear it out and put it in a box in the Narthex, Fellowship Hall or Church Office. Extra copies of this form will be available by the boxes.

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**My/Our Email Address(es)** [please write legibly]:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Please contact us with your new email address if it changes.*

- I would like to receive the Parish Post via email as a pdf file (viewed using Adobe Acrobat).
- Now that I'm going to receive the Parish Post via email, I no longer wish to receive a hard copy in the mail.
- I would like to receive monthly emails regarding upcoming volunteer opportunities (ushering, greeting, hosting coffee hour, etc).