



SPRINGBOARD

Monthly Newsletter of Spring Glen Church – United Church of Christ
May 2010

From the Interim Senior Pastor

Dying, Rising, and Being Patient About It

Someone once said that “The world fears a new experience more than it fears anything else. Because a new experience displaces so many old ones.” I think this is true with life in general. I know it is true in churches. What is so often the hardest about change for congregations is not so much the change itself, not so much the new thing that arrives, but the sense of loss that comes with the former time being gone. Change, in other words, is a death experience: we are aware of something passing, and even when we understand all the good reasons for it, we still experience it as a loss.

But if ever there is a time in the Christian year when we put dying (of anything) in its largest and deepest context, it would be now – Easter season. From death comes life, and in that which is ending is already the seed of that which is being born. Dying and rising, ending and becoming, are all part of the sacred cycle, and the rhythm within which we know God. Yes, change is a death experience. But, as I once heard someone add to that, “It just depends on how you feel about resurrection.”

The season of renewal, rebirth and change is in full bloom at Spring Glen Church. We’ve been working through some interim conversations about hopes and commitments, in all-church gatherings. And now the work of your Pastoral Search Committee has begun. I know you may be tempted to ask of its members, at some point, what is taking them so long. Please be patient with them, and with the rest of this process. There is a lot to it, especially if you mean to do it right. Your committee will work diligently and thoughtfully on your behalf. It will be their intention to move as quickly as possible but not too quickly to ensure a right process and a good outcome. They will need to know that you believe in their work and therefore will be understanding of the time it takes. They will, in other words, need to know how you feel about resurrection!

When it comes to matters of growth, new life, and how long it takes, I don’t know if there is a better reflection than this:

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Call to Annual Meeting of The Spring Glen Church Sunday, May 16, 2010 immediately following the worship service

- Review of the January 17, 2010 Annual Meeting minutes
 - Acceptance of the Annual Report
- Presentation of nominations for 2009-2010 boards and committees
 - Senior Pastor Search Committee update
 - Vision Committee report
- Capital Campaign Endowment status and funds allocation vote
- There will be a time for other business that may come before the congregation

Above all, trust in the slow work of the Spirit.

We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. We should like to skip the intermediate stages.

We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new.

And yet it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability, and that it may take a very long time.

Give yourself the benefit of believing that the Spirit is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955)

Faithfully,

Rev. Brenda

Worship in May

Sunday services at 10 a.m.

May 2 Fifth Sunday of Easter; Communion
The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka preaching.

Thurs., Taize Worship, Sanctuary
May 6, 6:45 p.m.

May 9 Sixth Sunday of Easter; Confirmation Sunday
The Rev. Nancy W. Strickland preaching.

May 16 Seventh Sunday of Easter
The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka preaching.

May 23 Pentecost Sunday; Reception of New Members
The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka preaching.

May 30 First Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Nancy W. Strickland preaching.

PARISH JOYS AND CONCERNS

Our sympathy to Tom Barker on the death of his mother.

Also our sympathy to the family of Helen Mertens. She passed away on March 23rd, and to the family of Elsie Churchill who passed away on April 26th.

Thank you, church family! What a joy and privilege it is to be part of such a loving group. My recent hospitalization gave me a chance to appreciate all of you even more, with your wonderful cards, flowers, very helpful and delicious food, pastoral visits and general concerns and prayers. I feel so blessed.

Nancy Elliott

The extended Johnson clan offers our heartfelt thanks to our Spring Glen Church Family for your cards, visits, prayers, meals that heal, flowers, hugs, and loving words and deeds in this time of mourning the passing of Dot Johnson. Thanks to Pastor Nancy, Pastor Brenda, Ron and Mary Offutt, Dr. Terese Gemme, the Choir and all who came to the Memorial Service. Thanks to Gayle Logan, and to Barbara Hobbs and all the reception contributors. We give thanks for the loving ministry of the church members that surrounds us. We are lifted up by your prayers and memories. Dot is smiling on us all. Many thanks, *Curt Johnson*

Dear Friends,

On Sunday May 9, we will welcome 11 Confirmands into full membership of Spring Glen Church, UCC. These students have worked hard over a two-year period, attending worship and going to class until 12:45 each Sunday. As a class they have taken on mission projects including packing grocery bags for Christian Community Action, making Valentines bags for New Haven Home Recovery, cooking for Columbus House, and collecting canned goods for Christian Community Action. Thank you for your support of these activities. They have memorized the 23rd Psalm and the Ten Commandments. April 30-May 1 the class will be on an overnight retreat. A mix of games, hikes, and serious conversations about relating faith to issues of daily life will quickly fill our 24 hours away.

As a community of faith we will be enriched by their gifts, by their enthusiasm, and energy. On May 9 as we will welcome them in worship with the laying on of hands in the rite of Confirmation and together seek the Holy Spirit's blessings and our blessings to be upon them. Perhaps we too will receive a blessing as we worship together. As John O'Donohue puts it so well in his book, To Bless the Space Between Us, "A blessing is a circle of light drawn around a person to protect, heal, and strengthen. Life is a constant flow of emergence. The beauty of blessing is its belief that it can affect what unfolds." Come be part of the circle!

In Faith,

Pastor Nancy

Confirmation Class News

The Confirmation Class Family Potluck will be on Wednesday May 5 at 6:30 pm in Great Hall. 7th and 8th graders, their parents, siblings and mentors are all invited. Please rsvp to Pastor Nancy at nwstrickland@snet.net to let her know if you will bring a salad, a casserole, or a dessert.

There will be a rehearsal for Confirmation Sunday for the 8th graders only at 5:30 pm. on Wednesday May 5 in the church sanctuary.

Confirmation Sunday is May 9th. The 7th graders will be the greeters and should be at the church by 9:45. The 8th graders will gather at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Room for photographs.

New Members Classes

If you have been considering formally joining Spring Glen Church, there is an opportunity to do so in May. There will be new member classes Sunday May 2 from 11:30-12:30 and Thursday May 13 from 7-8:30pm. Child care will be provided. New member joining Sunday is May 23. Becoming a member enables you to serve on committees as well as vote on important issues before the congregation. This coming year will be particularly important for our congregation as we will vote on a new senior pastor. If you are interested in membership, please contact Rev. Brenda or Pastor Nancy.

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION CT CHAPTER SPEAKER MAY 23

Lay caregivers and all interested in knowing more about Alzheimer's are welcome in the Fellowship Room at 11:30 after church on May 23 to learn more about this disease. There will be a presentation given by Maria Tomasetti as well as time for questions. All are welcome.

ADULT EDUCATION FOR SPRING

THE SCANDALOUS GOSPEL OF JESUS

What's so Good About the Good News?

By Peter J. Gomes

Tuesdays May 18, 25, June 1, 8, 15

7:30- 9 p.m. Fellowship Room

Come discuss this interesting book with others on five Tuesday nights this spring. With his unique blend of eloquence and insight, Peter J. Gomes, Minister of Harvard Memorial Chapel, invites us to hear anew the radical nature of Jesus' message of hope and change. His book, The Scandalous Gospel of Jesus shows us why the good news is every bit as relevant today as when it was first preached. Pastor Nancy will facilitate the discussions.

BOOK DISCUSSION JUNE 13 FROM 4-5:30 P.M. FELLOWSHIP ROOM

The Christian Education Committee is offering a book discussion in June for those who would like to discuss Greg Mortenson's book Three Cups of Tea, about *one man's mission to promote peace one school at a time*. Arnie and Carolyn Cary will facilitate the discussion. Books can be ordered online, purchased through local book dealers, or taken out from the local library.

CELEBRATE 25 YEARS OF ONA WITH THE UCC COALITION

Join the UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns to celebrate 25 years of the Open and Affirming process July. Representatives will come together at the Coalition's *National Gathering 2010: Any Body, Everybody, Christ's Body*. Visit the conference website for additional details about speakers, sessions and related activities: <http://www.uccoalition.org/programs/gathering/>.

Gathering will take place in San Diego, July 14-17, 2010. And San Diego's renowned Gay Pride Festival takes place on July 17-18 just a short cab ride from the conference hotel. Advance registration is available for a limited time for just \$119 per person. Register now at <http://www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=810884>. The ONA process began on a national level in 1985 when the Fifteenth General Synod adopted the resolution, *Calling on United Church of Christ Congregations to Declare Themselves Open and Affirming*. The Planning Committee for National Gathering hopes that each ONA congregation will send at least one delegate to San Diego to join in celebrating this milestone. Come to reconnect with friends from across the country or to meet new ones. Come and experience the deep, meaningful worship services. Come and learn how to be a better advocate, steps you can take to encourage other congregations in your area to consider the ONA process and things your church can do to more fully live out God's extravagant welcome. Come and celebrate the United Church of Christ's commitment to the inclusion of all God's children at God's table.



SCSU CONCERT AT SPRING GLEN CHURCH, MONDAY MAY 3 AT 7:45 PM.

"Somewhere....a Musical Journey" A one-hour concert presented by the Southern Connecticut State University Choir and Chamber Choir including music from "Camelot," "The Wizard of Oz," "Oliver," selections by Aaron Copland, Leonard Bernstein, Moses Hogan, and the well-known pieces "The Prayer," "Prayer of the Children," and "We Are The World." All proceeds will be donated for UCC Haiti Relief Fund.



NOTARY SERVICES AVAILABLE

Notary services are available in the church office from 9-3 every day and are free of charge. Please contact Gayle Logan for more information.



OPEN DOOR

On May 5th, Open Door will meet at noon at New Haven Country Club for their annual luncheon. This is a wonderful way to bring their 40th year to a close.



NEEDLEARTS GROUP

The Needlearts Group will meet on May 6th at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Bernadette Welsh, 35 Watson Avenue, North Haven for a potluck dinner. Come and celebrate our end of the season. For more information, please contact Connie Rogers at 248-2629 or crogers403@yahoo.com.

TOOLS OF HOPE/BLANKET SUNDAY IS MAY 9TH

Through Church World Service, we have an opportunity to help families in need by providing blankets for warmth or shelter and tools to build a home or plant a garden. Tools and Blanket gift cards, appropriate for Mother's Day, Father's Day or other special occasions, will be available in the entry before church and in the Great Hall during coffee hour on May 2 (to accommodate Mother's Day) and May 9. Your \$5.00 donation will help a struggling family on the road to self-sufficiency.



SAVE THE DATE! INTERFAITH BLOOD DRIVE AT TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM, JUNE 9TH

There will be an Interfaith Blood Drive on Wednesday, June 9th at Temple Beth Sholom from 1:45 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or visit: www.givelife.org.

A MESSAGE FROM NEW HAVEN HOME RECOVERY

Sonja's Story

Through the Martha's Place and CareWays shelters at New Haven Home Recovery, we help single women or female heads of households and their children experiencing homelessness due to an exacerbation of existing mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence, financial crisis, or other chronic stressors. NHHR provides temporary safe shelter along with individualized services that promote the independence and self-sufficiency of women and children served at the shelters in a safe, supportive environment. No woman or child is required to line up for admission daily, nor are they required to leave during the day. Here is just one of many cases where we've turned homelessness into hope:

Sonja found herself homeless because of a bed-bug infestation where she was living. She was also struggling with severe depression and substance abuse issues. Like many people in today's tough economic climate, her only source of income was unemployment benefits. Upon admission to Martha's Place, Sonja received a basic needs assessment and a bio-psycho-social evaluation. She worked with her case manager to obtain housing. Her case manager referred her to the Community Services Network for enrollment into a Transitional Housing Program and Sojourner's Place accepted her. She also worked with our Wellness Counselor who provided Behavioral Therapy to address Sonja's depression. At the time of her discharge, she reported a significant reduction in the symptoms. This is just one example of how New Haven Home Recovery's individualized services help close the revolving door of homelessness in our community by connecting women with the services they so desperately need.



A RIDE TO FIGHT PARKINSON'S

Hello Friends,

I'm soliciting your donation to the Michael J. Fox Foundation that is working hard to find a cure for Parkinson's Disease (PD). Last year, a dear friend of ours, Gaylord Noyce, died of complications from PD. I had the pleasure of knowing and learning from him for twenty years and would like to honor this wonderful man by raising funds to help find a cure for the disease that took his life.

On Sunday, May 2nd, I'm dedicating my ride in the annual 42-mile, New York City, 5 Borough Bike Event, to Gaylord Noyce. Please cut and paste the web link below and donate what you can to help find a cure for this disease. You may also send Ron a check with your donation payable to the Michael J. Fox Foundation. Ron's home address is 120 Ridgewood Avenue, North Haven, CT 06473.

With my sincere gratitude,
Ron Offutt

<http://www.teamfox.org/siteapps/personalpage/ShowPage.aspx?c=pjJ0J8MHioE&b=5594023&sid=ddJOJVMrFaIGLNPKgHE>

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

A big thank you to all who contributed to the success of the Wheeler School Handbell Concert - to those who provided housing (there was actually an overabundance of housing volunteers - how wonderful!), to those who provided refreshments for the reception, to those who attended the concert, and especially to Nancy Whitney who took on the advertising responsibility. Dan Moore, their director, shared the following the day following the concert:

"I can't begin to thank you enough for last evening. The kids certainly sensed that they were in friendly territory and they really played their hearts out. Please extend our gratitude (again) to all our hosts! Hamden was a cool placed to begin; the kids were very comfortable and felt welcomed and most well cared for by people who had a sense of what they were coping with."

Our church truly showed this group the "extravagant welcome" that we are known for and it was a fantastic opening night to their spring tour. Thanks again to anyone who contributed in any way to the overwhelming success of this event.

SPRING GLEN CHURCH WOMEN

The Spring Glen Church Women's Fellowship will meet on Tuesday, May 18th. The meeting will again be held at 12 noon in the Great Hall. Reverend Brenda will join the group and share some thoughts on her call to ministry. Bring a sandwich. Dessert and beverage will be provided.



FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS

The following families are scheduled to cover Fellowship Hour during **May**. Contact Debra Tangarone at 815-0579 or friend7434@yahoo.com with any questions. **May 2** – Curt Johnson and Nancy Dittes, Charlie and Eunyoung Yang and Cathie Marrandino – **May 9** – Tom and Anne Dembinski, Doug and Kristine Roberts and Marian Page– **May 16** – No Coffee Hour – Annual Meeting – **May 23** – Confirmation Sunday – **May 30** – Amanda Meyer, Eric and Stefanie Summerer and Debra Tangarone.



ECO-CHALLENGE

1. Keep your freezer's temperature at 0 degrees and your refrigerator between 35 and 38 degrees. This can cut energy use by 20 percent.
2. Eat meat-free once a week because producing one pound of beef consumes 145 times more fossil fuels than a pound of potatoes.
3. Leave bar soap by the sink because most liquid soaps come in packaging that is nonrenewable. Substituting one bottle with a bar would keep 2.5 million pounds of plastic out of landfills.

MARCH 2010 TREASURER'S REPORT

Details of the March Treasurer's Report are summarized below. Expenses exceeded income during month by just over \$2000, so this drops our operations balance down to \$24142.94.



Some details:

- Current year pledges are slightly less than what they were at this time last year by about \$5000.
- Unpledged income is up significantly from what it was at the same time last year.
- Plate offering and miscellaneous income are both almost exactly identical to where they were at this time last year.
- Expenses seem to be on target, with some areas slightly over where they should be (25%) at this point in the year.

Please remember that a copy of the detailed Treasurer's Report is always available in the church office for anyone to review; copies can also be emailed by contacting Sue Wilber. If there are specific questions regarding the church's financial health, please contact Sue Wilber, Treasurer or Chuck Paul, Senior Trustee.

Mar-2010	
Income	
Pledges	\$ 26,323.40
All other income	\$ 3,205.89
Total Income	\$ 29,529.29
Expenses	
Ministry/Staff	\$ 17,826.48
Christian Education	\$ 1,142.18
Music	\$ -
Office	\$ 1,410.69
Building Maintenance	\$ 7,341.27
Deacons	\$ 26.74
Church Organizations	\$ 64.19
Other Expenses	\$ 3,774.75
Total Expenses	\$ 31,586.30
Net Profit or (Loss)	\$ (2,057.01)

FUNDS RAISED FOR HAITI RELIEF EFFORT

We want to share with you the results our recent fund raising efforts. Our congregation raised \$4,415.00 for the Haiti Relief Effort. This amount represents the incredible generosity of our congregation and its responsiveness to the needs of others. Thank you all for your donations.

The Benevolence Committee

A NOTE FROM THE MEMORIAL GARDEN COMMITTEE

The Memorial Garden Committee, a subgroup of the House Committee, would like to thank whoever it is that has been pruning, planting, and otherwise investing energy in our Memorial Garden during the past year. Because we do have in essence a "master plan" for the garden, it would help us if we knew who you are and could coordinate our efforts. Please feel free to contact any one of us to make suggestions or offer assistance. We look forward to continuing to work together to make our garden a place of peaceful and respectful reflection.

The Memorial Garden Committee - Jean Davis, Barbara Hobbs, and Bess Chosak

Civic Orchestra of New Haven

Christopher James Hisey, Music Director

Spring Concert

**Please come join us
to celebrate our 70th year!**

Saturday, May 15, 2010 at 8 pm

Concert Program:

Beethoven Egmont Overture

Brahms Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor

Performed by pianist Assaff Weisman

Brahms Symphony No. 1 in C minor

Woolsey Hall

Located at the corner of Grove and
College Streets in New Haven

Suggested Contribution:

\$15 General Admission, \$10 Students/Seniors

For more information go to www.conh.org



FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

As members of the Search Committee, we want to express our gratitude for the trust you have placed in us. This past week we concluded our orientation meeting with Rev. Mike Penn-Strah, our Regional Minister who will work closely with us. The purpose of this letter is to share with you a brief summary of the Search and Call process in the United Church of Christ.

1. We will seek your perspectives through various means and will incorporate your ideas; as a result of this listening process, we will incorporate your ideas about new pastoral leadership into the “Local Church Profile” that we will develop.
2. Our vacancy will then be listed in “UCC Employment Opportunities.”
3. Persons who have been authorized to complete a UCC Ministerial Profile will submit profiles (resumes) for our committee to review through the CT Conference office.
4. We will share our Local Church Profile with candidates, and we will begin to follow up with persons in whom we have particular interest.
5. We will select a small number of candidates for personal interviews and further evaluation, including experiencing their preaching and worship leadership.
6. We will invite at least two candidates back for second interviews, following which we will seek God’s guidance and prayerfully make a decision on a candidate to recommend to the congregation.
7. If the candidate we recommend chooses to accept, compensation arrangements will be clarified, and a date for a “Candidating Sunday” will be established. You will have an opportunity to meet the candidate (and family) that weekend in an informal setting as well as at the formal worship service where the candidate will preach.
8. A congregational meeting following the worship service will offer each member of our church an opportunity to ask questions of the Search Committee, and to vote on the Call to our new pastor.

We will make every effort to keep you informed—on a regular basis—about our progress. While the work on the Local Church Profile requires the input of many in the congregation, the names of candidates are held in strict confidence within our committee; we ask you to respect the essential confidentiality of this process.

We are grateful during this time for the excellent interim leadership of Rev. Brenda. We profoundly trust that God will guide both our candidates and the members of our Search Committee. We ask you to pray for us regularly. We are blessed with a wonderful church community; with hard work and God’s guidance, we will be blessed with a wonderful pastor to guide us as we minister in the name of Jesus Christ in the years to come.

Blessings to you all,
Tom Dembinski and Sarah Libby, Search Committee Co-Chairs

Other members of the Committee are: Lynn Andrews, Tara Barrett, Bess Chosak, Doug Hawthorne, Lee Laster, Margie Liddell, Dotey Noyce, Mary Offutt, and John Schowalter.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE

The spring term is underway in our Sunday school program. While the adults are worshipping in the sanctuary, the young people of the congregation are busy learning and exploring their faith with the guidance of their Sunday school teachers. The spring term goes until June 20th. Meanwhile, the CE Committee is planning for the summer Sunday school program. If you are interested in helping out for summer Sunday school in any way, please let Jennifer McCleery know. There will be sign-up sheets in the entryway as the summer draws nearer. Please know that you are always invited to come down to the Sunday school area to see what the children are up to. If you haven't yet visited the renovated classrooms, they are worth a look. They are bright and cheerful and a nice place to learn.

SPRING GLEN CHURCH, UCC
1825 Whitney Avenue
Hamden, CT 06517

Spring Glen Church
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation

Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka, Interim Pastor
Rev. Nancy W. Strickland, Associate Pastor
Jennifer McCleery, Christian Education Coordinator
Dr. Terese Gemme, Organist and Choir Director
Rev. Kurt Shaffert, Chaplain, Veterans Affairs
West Haven Medical Center
Jeff Owens, Sexton
Gayle Logan, Office Manager

Worship and Sunday School 10 a.m.
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month.
Telephone (203) 288-3381 – Fax (203) 248-2070
Spring Glen Church Web Site:
www.springglenchurch.org