



# SPRINGBOARD

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

## From the Interim Senior Pastor

### Reflections on Purpose, Growth and Change

Many churches will tell you they want to grow, by which they mean bringing in more members. By which they mean increasing the financial base. By which they mean relieving what may well be their uncomfortable inability or unwillingness to fund their current ministries with the membership they've already got. Many churches, when they speak in the language of "growth," mean something institutional and quantifiable, something like what the business world means when it talks about growth. And while it's entirely understandable that we would fall into that, given the culture we're in, to me there is something lamentable for the Body of Christ if we see nothing deeper than that when we think about what the most important kinds of growing are for a church, since a church has a nature and purpose no other institution in the culture has.

I've learned in many years of ministry, and in various settings for ministry, the value of keeping the question of *purpose* in front of us when we are trying to talk about how a particular congregation wants to move forward. Can we ever really say "what" or "how" if we do not know "why"? *Why* is this church here? *Why* is any church here? To put it as simply as possible, *What are churches for? What essential purpose would go unfulfilled if there weren't any?*

I've also learned that it's helpful and important to distinguish between functions and purpose. Functions are the things we do as a church. Purpose is why we do them. Our Church Council recently read and discussed an article called "Who Owns a Congregation?" (Dan Hotchkiss, Alban Institute) which helpfully states a premise that churches exist for the purpose of *changing lives*, i.e., for the purpose of *transformation* -- equipping people to be disciples, to incarnate Christ in the world. Or, to put it another way, churches exist to equip us to "live like natives in God's realm." All the various things we do – worship, teach, serve, extend care inside and outside the congregation, bond through fellowship – are for the sake of realizing that core purpose of transformation, of ourselves and our world. They are *functions*, in support of a single *purpose*. Functions can be adapted this way or that, over time. Functions can shift and change as times and needs evolve. Functions are often what congregations find themselves having discussions over and making decisions about. But the central *purpose* never changes. The church is the one and only institution in society whose job is our spiritual formation and transformation. Other organizations bring people together, other bodies teach, other groups provide fellowship, community, and good charitable work. We do all these things too, as the church, but we do them for a purpose and an end that no one else has. We do them for the sake of being transformed into greater Christ-likeness, day by day. If we are being a church instead of a club, we will shape our functions, and all that follows from them, in light of that purpose. That makes us not just another good civic organization in town. That makes us the Body of Christ.

When we gather in upcoming weeks for several all-church discussions about identity, mission, purpose and future at Spring Glen Church, we'll be talking about these things. We'll be reflecting together about where this congregation can see itself going next, with what kind of leadership, in light of what fundamental sense of purpose. And while an interim period can, I know, feel unsettling in some ways, it is also true that interim times in the church are often the most open and productive times for such deepening of awareness and consciousness; there is something about the vulnerability of transition that opens us up. We ask such questions now, because we have to. We need to know from each other what we are thinking and dreaming. We need to know how we are seeing, what we are hoping for, and what we mean if we should say we want to "grow."

I encourage you to come and be part of these discussions, with the chance to hear not only from your long-time friends in the church, whose views you may know well, but also from those you may know less well, who are also your fellow travelers in the household of faith. *What are churches for?* Aren't you curious to know how everybody else would answer that question? And don't you think they would like to hear from you?!

Faithfully,

Rev. Brenda

## Worship in March

Mar. 4	Taize Service 6:45 pm in Sanctuary
Mar. 7	Third Sunday in Lent; Communion Rev. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka preaching
Mar. 14	Fourth Sunday in Lent Preacher: TBA
Mar. 21	Fifth Sunday in Lent Rev. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka preaching
Mar. 28	Palm Sunday – Beginning of Holy Week Rev. Nancy W. Strickland preaching

### *Holy Week Services:*

*April 1, 5:45 p.m. Soup and Bread Meal, 6:30 p.m., Maundy Thursday Service*

*April 2, 5:00 p.m., Good Friday Service*

*April 4, 6:00 a.m. Sunrise Service at Edgerton Park in partnership with Christian Tabernacle Baptist Church*

*9:00 & 11:00 a.m., Easter Services*

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### **Interim Process and Preparation for the Pastoral Search:**

#### **All-Church Discussions Coming Up**

The all-church gatherings will be held as follows. Programs are being planned for children during the meeting times, to help make it possible for parents to attend.

#### **NOTE DATE CHANGE:**

#### **Sun., Mar. 7, 11:30 – 1:00**

*What is our story and how do we feel about it?*

*Children's programming: Puppet show and puppet-making with Dick Smith*

#### **Sun., Mar. 21, 11:30 – 1:00**

*What is our sense of future? Our hopes & dreams for what comes next?*

*Children's programming: to be announced*

#### **Sun., Apr. 25, 11:30 – 1:00**

*What kind of leadership do we need to be with us in that future?*

*Children's programming: to be announced*

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### **PARISH JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**C**ondolences to Martha Newton and family on the death of Martha's husband Robert, who passed away on January 30<sup>th</sup>. A memorial service was held on February 6<sup>th</sup> at Spring Glen Church.

**O**ur sympathy to the extended Johnson family on the death of Dot Johnson on February 19, 2010. A memorial service will be held at Spring Glen Church on March 27<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m.

Dear Friends,

The forty days of Lent have begun. The time between now and Easter morning is full of possibilities for each of us; the opportunity for reflection and prayer can make this a time of spiritual formation for us. All we need to do is grasp it with both hands and make room for God's spirit to guide us. We are in good company as we enter these forty days as many of our biblical ancestors experienced transformation and challenge in forty day time segments: Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness of temptation before his public ministry began, Noah experienced forty days and nights of rain in the flood, the Israelites journeyed for forty years in the wilderness after leaving the slavery of Egypt in search of the promised land. With this great cloud of witnesses before us, what might this Lenten forty days look like for each of us?

As we navigate the days ahead, there is the opportunity to participate in various Lenten Bible studies as well as enter into sacred conversation on race through the "Race as an Illusion" film series. There are opportunities for thinking together about what lies ahead for Spring Glen Church as we prepare to call a new Senior Pastor. There are Lenten booklets for personal prayer time. Why not approach this season with personal resolve to take time each day to spend time reading scripture and praying? Perhaps making space for holy silence in your day will allow you to draw closer to God. Bring heightened awareness to everything you do by taking time to notice the beauty of creation around you. May this season of the church year be more than days marked on a calendar, may these Lenten days be filled with God's spirit and love as we support each other on the way.

In Faith,

Pastor Nancy

### **Confirmation Class News**

- March 7 Worship and Class: The Story of Our Church
- March 14 Worship and Class: Eternal Life
- March 21 Worship and class to meet in Noah's Chapel: What kind of leadership does the church need?  
The students will join **mentors** in Great Hall by 12 noon.
- March 24 Wednesday night 6-7:30 p.m. Church Kitchen to bake casseroles for Columbus House
- March 28 Palm Sunday Jesus Christ, Crucified and Resurrected

### **CANNED FOOD DRIVE SPONSORED BY CONFIRMATION CLASS**

During the month of March the Confirmation Class is sponsoring a canned food drive to benefit Christian Community Action in New Haven. Each Sunday in March please bring your canned goods to the entry to participate. We will be part of the Alan Shawn Feinstein challenge to address hunger nationwide. Alan Feinstein, a philanthropist from Rhode Island, will divide \$1 million among hunger agencies nationwide who participate in raising funds and contributions to alleviate hunger during March and April. The Confirmation Class invites Spring Glen Church friends and members to participate in this challenge to help the hungry.

## **Lenten Offerings 2010**

### Scripture Study Opportunities with Rev. Brenda

*Weekly Bible Study* -- Mondays, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m., at the home of Dotey Noyce. Text is the Gospel of Luke, the predominant gospel in the current lectionary year.

*Downtown Thursdays* – Mar. 4, 11 and 25. 12:00 – 1:00 lunchtime gathering in New Haven, open to all but especially for those who work near the green. Location is library of the Parish House of Center Church on the Green, 311 Temple St. Focus will be text coming up in the following Sunday's worship.

*One-evening Bible Study* – Tuesday, Mar. 23, 7 p.m., Fellowship Room  
“The Easter Stories: What Do They Say?”  
A comparative look at the four different gospel accounts of the resurrection of Jesus.

### **Race: The Power of an Illusion**

The acclaimed PBS series on race

**7-9 p.m. in the Fellowship Room**

**Tuesday, March 2**

**Episode 1: The Story We Tell**

Did you know that the concept of race is a recent invention?

**Tuesday, March 9**

**Episode 2: The Difference Between Us**

Is there a biological basis for race?

**Tuesday, March 16**

**Episode 3: The House We Live In**

How do our institutions advantage whites at the expense of other groups?

Each week there will be an hour-long film, followed  
By group discussion facilitated by Lee Laster and Pastor Nancy



## PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 20! This will be the date for this year's Progressive Dinner. Appetizers will be served at various houses starting at 5:00 PM. At 6:15, people will go to different homes for the soup and salad course. At 7:30, people will move on for the main course at other homes, and then we will all meet at the church at 8:45 for dessert and coffee.

Please sign up in the church entryway to host one of these courses at your home, or for dessert at the church. You will host approximately eight people in your home, including yourself. Singles and/or couples may sign up, and singles may be paired with other singles. Your invitation will go out by email, probably the Sunday or Monday before the event, letting you know whom you will host, and where you will be going for the other courses.

It's a fun event, a great way to meet and get to know others from the church, and experience foods that you won't be cooking. If you have any questions, please contact Carolyn Paul at [carolynvanepspaul@yahoo.com](mailto:carolynvanepspaul@yahoo.com), or at 203-248-3581.

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## VALENTINES FOR HAITI RELIEF

The Benevolence Committee would like to thank everyone who supported their sale of valentines for Haiti relief. The outpouring of generosity was amazing, and they raised a total of \$1215.00. The money will go to UCC's Haiti Relief Earthquake Fund.

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## LOST AND FOUND

Please check the lost and found box found under the table in the entryway opposite the Great Hall stairs. We will be in the process of donating all unclaimed items very shortly.



## OPEN DOOR

Open Door's program on March 3<sup>rd</sup> will have Beverly Kidder of SCCT Area on Aging present "50 Great Things about Growing Older". This is an opportunity you won't want to miss. Lunch begins at 12:15 p.m. followed by the program. All are welcome.

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## A NOTE FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Anyone coming into the church for church business, to do repairs, or anything else should check in with the church office so that we know you are here. We want to continue to be a safe church. Thank you.

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## NEEDLEARTS GROUP

The Needlearts Group will meet on March 4<sup>th</sup> at the home of Jean Davis, 1261 Ridge Road, North Haven. For more information, please contact Connie Rogers at 248-2629 or [crogers403@yahoo.com](mailto:crogers403@yahoo.com). This group is open to all who do any needlework or craft or want to learn. Come for fellowship and fun.

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## SUCCESSFUL BLOOD DRIVE

One hundred twenty-two people signed up to donate blood on February 9<sup>th</sup> at our Interfaith Blood Drive. Eighty-five people actually registered, resulting in sixty-seven viable pints of blood. Even though this is a good number, I would like to see many more people commit to this cause and sign up for the next blood drive. The day ran very smoothly with plenty of staff, wonderfully helpful volunteers, and lots of congeniality. Special thanks to Spring Glen donors: Lynn Andrewsen, Rosemary Baue, Hugh Davis, Teresa DelVecchio, Jennifer Heath, Gabe Johnson, Roger Johnson, Ruth Resnick Johnson, Linda Katz, Bobbie Kraus, Joan Moore, Phil Notaro, and Ron Offutt. We also couldn't do without our workers: Laurie and Abigail Bleickhardt, Mary Colwell, Mary Cameron, Jean Davis, Jennifer Hanrahan, Hannah and Jaime Terrazino, Arleen Kelly, Caroline Kranyak, Gayle Logan, Lauren Pinto, Paula Reagan, Ruth Resnick Johnson, and Dick Shank. I hope to see even more of you on June 9<sup>th</sup> at our next Interfaith Drive at Temple Beth Shalom.

*Thank you, Barbara Hobbs*



## **COME MEET “MY SISTER EILEEN”**

The Theater Arts Ministry invites you to come to a Greenwich Village basement apartment and meet Ruth Sherwood, her sister, Eileen and all the other inhabitants of the village in the early fifties. You will meet police, kids, dogs, wanna-be artists, athletes, businessmen, soda jerks, reporters, and half of the Brazilian Navy. This show is coming to a theater near you (the Great Hall) on April 15, 16 and 17.

The show is being directed by Clay Delaney, and the cast includes Keith Corbino, Susie Hawthorne, Jennifer McCleery, Chuck Paul, Jake Houston, Danny Baker, Thom Kolesar, Al May, Christian Andrewsen, Roger Johnson, Leslie Hawthorne, Nick Appleby, Eric Summerer, Bernadette Welsh, Carolyn Paul, Phil Ross, Shelly Carriero, Marilyn Hauck, Cam Butler, Enrique Baker, and Dick Smith. Karlee Etter is the stage manager. The set designed by Dick Smith and Phil Ross is being constructed by Jay Hirsch, Rick Brownell, and Jeff Hoffmann.

“My Sister Eileen” is a three-act comedy by Joseph Fields and Jerome Chodorov, adapted from the New Yorker Magazine stories by Ruth McKenny. It opened at the Biltmore Theater in New York in December 1940 and ran for 864 performances. It starred Shirley Booth and was directed by George S. Kaufman. It later became the basis for a radio program entitled, “My Friend, Irma.” It is the story of the two Sherwood sisters, Ruth and Eileen, who have come to New York from Columbus, Ohio in search of fame and fortune as a writer and an actress. In 1942, a film version starred Rosalind Russell. In 1953, there was a musical adaptation of the play titled “Wonderful Town”.

Save the dates. Tickets will go on sale in March.

*...I was a stranger and you invited Me in” (Matt. 25:35)*



During the week of February 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, Spring Glen Church’s Great Hall became a shelter for 12 homeless men. In opening our doors, we gained a glimpse of the beloved community God desires. Women and men who were strangers sat together, sharing...sharing a meal, talking about their day, attending the Ash Wednesday service together, serving one another. This would not have been possible if it weren’t for the outpouring of support from our Spring Glen Family and our brothers and sisters from Christian Tabernacle Baptist Church and Congregation B'nai Jacob. Thank you to the 50+ volunteers that helped to make Abraham’s Tent a huge success by providing safety, meals, camaraderie, and staying overnight.

*Alice White, Carolyn Cary and Sue Spight*

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## WELLNESS MINISTRY UPDATE

### FIRST AID BOXES

The Wellness Ministry has quietly been working behind the scenes making lists, comparing prices and purchasing band-aids and the like, all in preparation of updating the First Aid Boxes in SGC. These boxes can be found in the church office, one each in the Fellowship Room and Great Hall kitchens and in the main hall of the Sunday School.

Each box is labeled *FIRST AID BOX* in red letters and has a list of contents on the top and First Aid Basics printed on the inside lid. There are also 2 additional boxes that can be used for off-site events (i.e. hikes, service projects...). For questions or additional information call Michele Backus 203-265-3876, or leave a message in the Wellness Ministry mailbox in the church office . Be well. Be safe.

## JANUARY 2010 TREASURER'S REPORT

The January Treasurer's Report is attached. I'm pleased to say we had a good month, thanks to the special appeal. Income exceeded expenses by over \$24,000 resulting in a month ending balance of nearly \$22,000. Expenses have been at expected levels, although snow removal for mid-December through mid-January was over \$2200. And it should also be noted that through January 30, members of our congregation have generously donated \$2615 toward the Haitian relief effort, and a check has been sent to Missionary Society of CT for that amount.



So 2010 has begun on a very positive note from a financial standpoint! If there are any questions about this report, please email me at work ([suew@ctucc.org](mailto:suew@ctucc.org)) and I will be happy to answer them for you.

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.

Jan-2010	
<b>Income</b>	
Pledges	\$ 52,836.34
All other income	\$ 6,119.59
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 58,955.93</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Ministry/Staff	\$ 24,478.44
Christian Education	\$ 275.08
Music	\$ -
Office	\$ 1,612.01
Building Maintenance	\$ 7,011.27
Deacons	\$ 244.66
Church Organizations	\$ 860.00
Other Expenses	\$ 413.35
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 34,894.81</b>
<b>Net Profit or (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 24,061.12</b>



## **SPRING GLEN CHURCH WOMEN**

The next meeting of Spring Glen Church Women will be held on Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon in the Great Hall. Rosemary and Arthur Baue will talk about their experiences at the Hôpital Albert Schweitzer in Haiti. This was postponed from last month. Bring a sandwich. Dessert and beverages will be provided. All men of the church are invited as well.



## FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS

The following families are scheduled to cover Fellowship Hour during **March**. Contact Debra Tangarone at 815-0579 or [friend7434@yahoo.com](mailto:friend7434@yahoo.com) with any questions. **Mar. 7th** – Rick and Pam Brownell, Jo Rondestvedt and Belinda Legere – **Mar. 14** – Richard Davis and Rita McCleary and Cathie Marrandino– **Mar. 21** – Peg Limbacher, Richard and Muriel Smith and Debra Tangarone – **Mar. 28** – Geoff and Debra Ramsey.

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## Eco-Challenge

The following are tips to reduce your environmental impact and save money:

1. Return wire hangers to the dry cleaner. More than 3.5 billion hangers reach landfills each year.
  2. Your gas cap should be tightened three times to prevent evaporation of gasoline into the atmosphere.
  3. Chose natural soy candles over petroleum based paraffin. Paraffin emits 11 toxins as opposed to soy candles which do not emit any.
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## A NOTE FROM NEW HAVEN HOME RECOVERY

Dear Friends,

On behalf of New Haven Home Recovery, we would like to thank the parishioners of Spring Glen Church for their generous responses to our past requests. We ask that you continue your generosity. The women and children in our shelters and supportive housing programs are currently in need of the following items: full sized bars of soap, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, toilet paper, paper towels, baby wipes, and diaper rash creams. These donations can be made directly to New Haven Home Recovery, Inc. at 153 East Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor in New Haven. Please visit our website at [www.nhhr.org](http://www.nhhr.org) for more information or directions. Together, we provide hope to women and children who have forgotten what hope looks like...and hope makes all the difference!

Sincerely,

Kellyann Day  
Executive Director

# THE CONCERT HANDBELL RINGERS OF THE WHEELER SCHOOL TO PERFORM AT SPRING GLEN CHURCH

As part of the Winter Music Series sponsored by the Music Committee, The Concert Handbell Ringers of the Wheeler School from Providence, RI, will perform at our church on Thursday, March 11, at 7:30 PM. This is the first concert in the ringers' annual spring tour, and their first appearance in Hamden. These 11 young men and women perform on six-and-a-half octaves of handbells and handchimes and will present a varied program of music composed early in the history of the instrument.



In their 30th year of performing under the direction of Daniel K. Moore, this auditioned ensemble has appeared throughout the US and Canada, performed opening concerts for regional and national handbell festivals, appeared on stage with the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra, recorded with the Empire Brass Quintet, and is currently working on a second solo CD.

The concert is free and open to the public, and there will be a reception following the performance. Please come out and support these young people as they begin their Spring Tour in Hamden!!

For further information contact Sue Wilber at 203-288-5847.

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## **CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMITTEE EASTER BASKETS**

The Christian Action Committee will have sign up sheets in the entryway for Easter baskets for children of various ages. The baskets will have to be brought in by March 21<sup>st</sup>. Please contact Bernadette Welsh at 203-234-0036 or [bwelsh@contessainsurance.com](mailto:bwelsh@contessainsurance.com) for more information.

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## **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME**

Don't forget Daylight Savings Time which begins on Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. Please remember to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night.

**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*  
*Barbara Butler, 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 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month.*  
Telephone (203) 288-3381 – Fax (203) 248-2070  
**Spring Glen Church Web Site:**  
[www.springglenchurch.org](http://www.springglenchurch.org)