



CENTER CHURCH
The First Church of Christ in Hartford

NEWS

Volume XXVIII, No. 4

July/August, 2012

**THE FIRST CHURCH
OF CHRIST IN
HARTFORD**

A member of the United
Church of Christ (UCC)

CENTER CHURCH
60 Gold Street
Hartford, CT 06103

Church Office Hours:
Monday thru Friday,
8:30 am to 4:00 pm

Summer Office Hours:
Monday thru Friday,
9:00 am to 3:00 pm
(July thru Friday before Labor Day)

Phone: (860) 249-5631
FAX: (860) 246-3915

www.centerchurchhartford.org

Sunday Worship Service:
10:30am

Summer Worship Service:
10:00am
(Early June through the
Sunday before Labor Day)

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Beginning July 1, and continuing through Labor Day, Worship will be held at 10:00am in the Church House's air-conditioned Second-Floor Parlor. The Center Church Staff wishes you and your loved ones a happy and relaxing summer season!



From the Church Moderator

The week of June 17, 2012, was an eventful one for Center Church. On Sunday, the Congregation voted unanimously to approve the "Designated Term Ministry" process as the way to proceed in filling our pastoral ministry vacancy here at the First Church of Christ in Hartford. A document provided by our Regional Conference Minister, The Rev. Ineke Mitchell, was circulated and discussed prior to the vote. That document (**DESIGNATED TERM MINISTRY**) is now available on the Center Church website. The pertinent passage for us refers to "a church where the regular search & call process may have occurred in the recent past, but where circumstances unfolded in the immediate aftermath (within the first two years of the call/installation of the departing pastor) where the energy needed to invest in another lengthy process may be detrimental to the health and welfare of the mission of the congregation." It is apparent that this passage fits our situation at Center Church. In such a situation, the document notes, "the designated term pastor could continue as the settled pastor after the designated term is completed" and "the church, at the end of the designated (three year) term, will determine whether to:

- a. enter into the regular search and call process...;
- b. extend to the designated term pastor the call to be the settled pastor;
- c. renew the designated term call to the current pastor, or
- d. seek another designated term pastor.

Since a designated term ministry is a called position, the responsibilities of the Association (Hartford) and Conference (Connecticut) are the same as they would be for authorization for ministry in any other situation."

We are embarking upon a totally new path at the First Church of Christ in Hartford. To facilitate this course of action, a second motion was voted, again unanimously, to authorize a Transitional Committee to work out an Agreement of Call, in collaboration with the Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ, and Hartford Association, through its Committee on Credentials and Ministerial Standing. Our guide and resource in this work will be our Regional Conference Minister, The Rev. Ineke Mitchell. The persons elected to serve on this Transition Committee are Ileia Belton, Dectora Jeffers, Richard Markham, Edward Turner, Jr., Deborah Tuthill, and William Warner-Prouty. The major task of this committee will be to seek and extend a "Call" to a person recommended through the offices of the Connecticut Conference to serve as pastor for a designated period of three years, with, as the above document suggests, the option of continuing the relationship for an indefinite period of time.

The work of your Transition Committee is well under way. On Tuesday evening, June 19, we held an open meeting with a consultant, The Rev. Russ Crabtree (made available to us through our Connecticut Conference) to learn about various approaches to a time of transition in the life of a congregation. Rev. Crabtree shared methods designed to enable us to build upon the Rev. Paulo Franca's ministry, learn from his exit interview held on May 22, and extend a call to a pastor. With a new pastor, we can look upon the next three years as a time for us to continue to learn, acknowledge the "shadow side" of our experience as a congregation, grow as a community of faith, and further seek to realize our Guiding Principles---

'seeking to be a community of service and caring, opening our buildings to ministry and sanctuary, while embracing the diversity of the city in all its richness of human expression' and remembering that 'as an open community, we seek to connect with people through worship and outreach. Honoring our heritage of responding to the challenging needs of the city of Hartford we can celebrate God's presence among us.'

I believe "God is still speaking" through the First Church of Christ in Hartford, so, stay tuned. I expect that new possibilities will be unfolding during the next couple of months at Center Church. It has been a difficult spring, but spring is yet a time of growth toward summer harvest.

Yours in faith,

Bill Warner-Prouty, Moderator



JULY BIRTHDAYS

7/2 Amy Salls
7/2 Douglas Lombardi
7/4 Obed Fonder
7/5 Peter Piatti-Rios
7/8 Theodore Vietzke
7/11 Bradley Boisvert
7/18 Luciano Valles
7/19 Lita Rathnam
7/19 Elena Sanderson
7/21 Gordon Smith
7/24 Beverlee Sipes
7/25 Gertrude Tatro
7/26 John Chen
7/28 Samuel Chen
7/28 Joseph Lopez
7/29 Brendan St. Amant
7/31 Vanessa Nieves

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/1 Earl Sanderson
8/2 Tina Bobbitt
8/4 Patricia Anderson
8/12 Richard Markham
8/13 Xaniyah Sanders
8/16 Donald Gourlie
8/19 Erda Koehn
8/20 Steven Lombardi
8/24 Lisa Thomas
8/28 Rose Kalajian
8/28 Lesley Morgan-Thompson
8/29 Jim Oliver
8/30 William Wurts
8/31 Anthony Sanders



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

7/10 Nilsalynn Wagan
7/15 Suzanne Thomas
7/24 George & Gladys Hernandez

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

8/13 Susan & Patrick Hayes
8/15 James & Mary Ellen Jacobs
8/16 J. Alan & Joan McLean
8/18 William & Kathleen Gourlie



*Allen Ackerman, Mary BeBisio, Carolyn Bidwell, Hulon Geter,
George & Gladys Hernandez, Robert Irving, Cecelia Jackson,
William Jackson, Pamela Libby, Janice Lombardi,
Christine MacDonald, Diana Mateo-Perez, Pat Renfro,
Madeline Simonson, Gabriela Smith-Rosario,
Norman Stanley, Jeffrey Thomas, Dana Geter-Walker,
The City of Hartford, The Connecticut Conference of
The United Church of Christ, Center Church,
and the State of Connecticut*

EMERGENCY PASTORAL CARE

We have engaged Reverend Linda Huff to serve as our pastoral care professional from now through Labor Day. Reverend Linda is on-call for pastoral care emergencies only. Pastoral care emergencies are defined as serious hospitalizations, or severe illness or death of a member of Center Church. To contact Reverend Linda, please call the Church Office at (860) 249-5631.

CHURCH MEMBERS & FAMILY NEWS

BULLETIN BOARD

Births & New Members: None.

Deaths: Elsie Kosovich (June 14)

Baptisms: Sandra French (May 13)

Weddings (church members):

Brendan St. Amant & Shirley Hwang (May 19)

Christopher Maclean & Catherine Thompson (May 26)



MUSICAL NOTES

By Jason Charneski



This issue's column is a bit of a hodge-podge. Please read on and mark your calendars or make notes!

Our Music and the Arts programs continue **this summer** with a full complement of performers slated for the **Wednesday noontime "Play It on the Portico" series** (please see flyer elsewhere in this newsletter for the listing of dates and artists). These FREE lunchtime events, performed outdoors, on the Meeting House's portico, are a wonderful way to offer some cultural life to the city and demonstrate our commitment to diversity. Please plan to stop by and offer yourself, through your presence, as a witness to the good things we are doing! Invite your friends, too!

I'm pleased to announce a **long-lasting follow-up to and memento** of our Two Choirs concert this past April, this being a **CD of the concert** that will go into production later this summer, after the mechanical licenses (per copyrights) have been secured. This project, like the concert itself, is a joint venture of Music and the Arts at Center Church and The Music Series at South Church. We aim to have this new CD, titled "Jubilate Deo: Canticles for Choirs," **available for purchase in September**. Our goal is to make it affordable (in the range of \$10 per copy), akin to our Center Church Choir-only CD that we released last September. You might consider this to be a good Christmas gift idea...

Please remember our **Warburton Choral Scholars** program! If you know of a college student who attends a school in the area and might be interested in singing with the Center Church Choir this next season, please have them contact me. *Important: they need not be a music major; rather, we seek students with musical ensemble experience and the ability to read music.*

We look ahead to the **2012-2013 season of Music and the Arts at Center Church**

Sunday, October 28, 2012, at 3:00 p.m.

An All-Baroque program for flute and harpsichord

Douglas Worthen, flute; Maryse Carlin, harpsichord

Dr. Worthen is on the faculty of Southern Illinois University. Ms. Carlin is a member of the faculty of Washington University in Saint Louis and performs with the Saint Louis-based Kingsbury Ensemble.

Suggested donations received at the door.

Sunday, December 16, 2012, at 4:00 p.m.

A Festival of Lessons and Carols with the Center Church Choir

Freewill offering to help support ministries that feed the hungry and clothe the naked.

Sunday, April 21, 2013, at 4:00 p.m.

CANTUS -- the Minneapolis-based all-male professional chamber choir

A concert program titled "ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS"

This will be a ticketed event -- details to be published later this summer.

Two other events that I hope you'll plan to attend:

- 1) We look to have the Center Church Choir offer a concert the evening of Wednesday, May 1, 2013.
- 2) We will welcome the Sundance Trio (oboe, bassoon, and piano) the evening of Thursday, May 23, 2013. This ensemble, based at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, approached us about use of the Meeting House, having heard – somehow (who knows how reputations spread!) – about the glories of the space. This concert will enable us to raise some funds for our music programs!

NEW ITEMS NEEDED at Hands on Hartford's MANNA PROGRAM!

- pasta
- spaghetti sauce
- tuna
- peanut butter
- canned tuna
- cereal
- canned beans
- canned ravioli
- toiletries (especially shampoo, toothpaste, & bar soap)



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

Ancient Burying Ground Youth Tours Summer, 2012

The Ancient Burying Ground Youth Group, led by Andrea Ader, is again offering tours of the Ancient Burying Ground during the summer. We are providing space in the Church House through July 27 for the group to meet and “cool off” between tours. The teens are always fascinated by Center Church’s incredible history. We look forward to another great summer with them!



STAFF SUMMER VACATION SCHEDULES

Jason Charneski will be away July 2-6 attending the AGO National Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. Jason will be on vacation July 9-18, and August 19-September 3.

Marie Ferrantino will on vacation July 30-August 10. She will return to the office on Monday, August 13.

STAFFING ASSESSMENT TASK FORCE (SATF) REPORT TO PRUDENTIAL

On June 5, the SATF presented its report and recommendations to Prudential. The reactions and comments were favorable, and the report was received with appreciation. It was noted that there is much work to do, with several open positions. Search mechanisms are being established for each one. Members who would like to receive a copy of the report may contact the Church Office.

CENTER CHURCH T-SHIRTS NOW AVAILABLE!

Help our church school raise money for Heifer International! Be the fashion plate of downtown Hartford, and show your Center Church spirit! All orders to be received by July 29. Please pick up an order form after Worship, or call the Church Office to have one mailed to you.



CHURCH OFFICE SUMMER SCHEDULE

The Church Office will observe a summer schedule from July 1st through September 7th. The office will be open Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

With Special Thanks...

Thank you for the opportunity to meet and worship with you all. May God's light that dwells within each of you be a source of strength and guidance.

Blessings,
David Fish
Former Warburton Resident

TESTIMONIAL TO BEES

Bees attend to their work,
which is to pollinate.
In the spring and summer
they show up

in gardens and berry patches,
fertilizing blossoms
of every variety, including
those on apple trees,
tomato plants, squash vines
and various kinds of flowers.

When I went out to the
blueberry bushes,
the musical buzzing
of all those bees
reminded me they were
making it possible for
berries to emerge.

Not being a beekeeper and
having no hives
I wonder where these bees live.
Perhaps in the trunk of a tree?

But what a barren place
this would be, if these particular
insects weren't around!

They work long hours,
only taking time off when it rains.

~ Van Parker,
June, 2012



Share Your Talent!

Do you have a creative side, such as writing or drawing? If so, considering sharing your gift with the Center Church community! Send submissions to Marie in the Church Office at marie@centerchurchhartford.org.

CENTER CHURCH

Summer 2012

PLAY IT ON THE PORTICO

Wednesdays

12:15-12:45 p.m.

Musicians and more offer programs
from Center Church's Main Street portico.

Yes! music outside at lunchtime. Stop by to listen!

July 11

Four Bridges (Bluegrass)

July 18

AC'CENT (Salsa & Latin)

July 25

The Jolly Beggars (Celtic)

August 1 & 8

The Hall High Alumni
Jazz Ensemble

August 15

Kimberley
Parsons-Whitaker, soprano
(Broadway)

No program on August 22

August 29

Sankofa Kuumba Cultural
Arts Consortium
(African drumming and
dance)

*In the event of inclement weather,
the program will be given inside the Meeting House.*

www.centerchurchhartford.org

Phone: 860-249-5631