

## Ravi Zacharias to Speak at First Church!

*Is Christianity Still Relevant?* • Evenings of October 9 and 10

**RAVI ZACHARIAS**, world-renowned theologian and award-winning author, will speak in the Meetinghouse at **7:00 p.m.** on **Saturday and Sunday, October 9 and 10**. His topic for this two-part series will be: ***Christ, Christianity and the Culture of Our Time: Is Christianity Still Relevant?***

This leading Christian spokesman of our time is in high demand and draws very large audiences. Don't miss his much-anticipated appearances at our own church! Doors open at 6:30 both nights,

and *early arrival is recommended* for best seating. In addition, his talks will be simulcast to overflow areas, where he will make brief personal appearances.

Dr. Zacharias is widely known as a Christian apologist in the mold of C. S. Lewis, offering rational arguments for faith in a loving God and challenging the assertions of prominent atheists. He is president of Ravi Zacharias International Ministries (RZIM), headquartered in Atlanta, with additional offices in Canada, India,

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## 'DNA & Discipleship' to Begin!



FROM THE SENIOR MINISTER

### A Churchwide Emphasis

**IF I COULD GO BACK IN TIME** and witness some of the events of Jesus, there are a few that I would especially love to see. Perhaps you

would want to see them as well: the feeding of the 5000, Jesus walking on water, Jesus on the Cross, and, of course, His Resurrection.

One other event captures my attention, though. It is when Jesus was transfigured before the disciples on the mountain. If you remember the story—Jesus takes Peter, James and John up on the mountain, and Peter says, in 2 Peter 1:16, “we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.” Can you imagine seeing Jesus in all of His glory? Then they heard the voice of the Father from heaven (Mark 9:7), “This is my beloved Son; listen to Him.”

I can imagine at this point the disciples were waiting for Him to say something. What would the command be? I am willing to bet the disciples would have been ready to do anything. Wouldn't

you be, if you saw Jesus in His majestic glory and then heard the Father's voice from heaven? Surely the disciples were bursting with anticipation of what Jesus would say.

Jesus then spoke clearly, but not with words. He spoke with actions. He left the mountain and went down into the valley, and they followed Him—wouldn't you? He left the mountaintop and went to be with people so that He could love them. What a clear message! **Worship and listen to Jesus, and together follow Him into the mission of loving people, so that they may see Him.**

**We have waited so long** to share this message with you and go deeper with it. We are to worship and listen to Jesus, and together follow Him into the mission of loving people, so that they may see Him. We have tried to clarify what this mission means for First Church: ***We are a community of Jesus followers who love God, love one another, and make disciples.***

**Starting in mid-October**, we are going to expound our mission. As I just mentioned, we have waited a long time

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SERMON SERIES • ALL SERVICES

### *How Great Is Our God*

**Oct. 3 — *An Ever-Present Help***  
Tessa Afshar — Psalm 46

**Oct. 10 — *A Great God to Follow***  
Deryk Richenburg — Matthew 8:18-27

### *DNA & Discipleship*

**Oct. 17 — *Jesus Called Disciples***  
Deryk Richenburg — Mark 1:16-20

**Oct. 24 — *A Disciple Loves God***  
Deryk Richenburg — Matthew 22:34-40  
Family Sunday

**Oct. 31 — *Disciples Love One Another***  
Deryk Richenburg — John 13:31-35

**Nov. 7 — *A Disciple Makes Other Disciples***  
Deryk Richenburg — Matthew 28:16-20

**Nov. 14 — *The Disciple's Way of Life***  
Deryk Richenburg — Deuteronomy 6:1-9

**Nov. 21 — *The Disciple's Relational Life***  
Deryk Richenburg — John 14:1-7

**Nov. 28 — *The Disciple's Worship***  
Deryk Richenburg — Romans 12:1-2

**Dec. 5 — *The Disciple's Community***  
Deryk Richenburg — Acts 2:42-47

**Dec. 12 — *The Disciple's Mission***  
Deryk Richenburg — Luke 10:1-12



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to do this. The journey to adopt this mission began almost three years ago when the Servant Leadership Team met with Vision New England. I was introduced to this journey on a separate path a few months later. Almost a year ago I joined the Servant Leadership team, and we have walked this journey with Jesus together, striving to worship and listen to Him, and follow Him on His mission. **It is a mission toward discipleship and a discovery of our DNA.**

Right from the beginning, Jesus called people to follow Him. That is what those twelve and others did—they followed Jesus and became His disciples. Jesus taught them how to live. In a very real sense, He and the Father with the Holy Spirit changed their very DNA and formed them into a community who loved God,

loved each other, and made disciples.

We are called to do the same. We are called by the same loving Father. We are transformed by the same Holy Spirit. We are led by the same Savior, Jesus. We have seen His greatness, we have experienced His greatness, and we have heard His greatness. His greatness is calling us to follow Jesus and be His disciples—just like the first disciples.

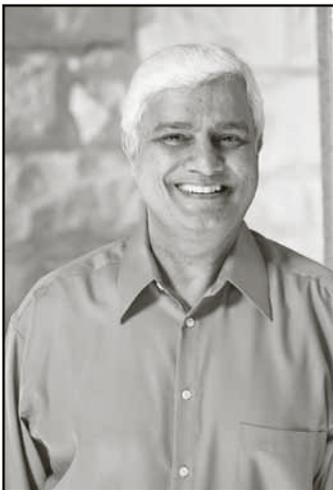
There is one more thing I want to see. Not something in the past but something in the future. I can't wait to see what God does in us and through us as we worship and listen to Him and together follow Him into the mission of loving people so that they may see Him. Could He call some of our friends or family members to Himself? Could He be working in us to bring us deeper than ever before? I can't wait to see! —**Pastor Deryk**

## DNA & DISCIPLESHIP GROWTH GROUPS

...will meet for eight weeks, beginning the **week of October 17**. First Church Growth Groups (about 10 to 12 members each) meet regularly for about two hours, usually in participants' homes, for fellowship, Bible study, sharing and prayer. For details, please call **Arlene** at 860-529-1575, ext. 211, or contact Associate Minister **Michael McDowell** at ext. 201 or at michaelm@first-church.org.

## Ravi Zacharias

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Singapore, the United Kingdom, and the United Arab Emirates. His weekly radio program "**Let My People Think**" is broadcast by 1,700 outlets worldwide (locally on WIHS, 104.9 FM, Saturdays, 9:00 p.m.; and his weekday program "**Just Thinking**" has aired since 2004 (WIHS, Mondays through Fridays, 10:15 p.m.).

Dr. Zacharias has spoken around the world, including appearances at Harvard, Princeton, and Oxford universities. At the invitation of **Billy Graham**, he was a plenary speaker at the International Conference for Itinerant Evangelists in Amsterdam in 1983, 1986 and 2000.

In addition, he has addressed writers of the peace accord in South Africa, President Fujimori's cabinet and parliament in Peru, and military officers at the Lenin Military Academy and the Center for Geopolitical Strategy in Moscow. He has given the main address at the National Day of Prayer in Washington, D.C., and has spoken at the Annual Prayer Breakfast at the United Nations in New York.

Dr. Zacharias's recent books include **The Grand Weaver** and **Walking from East to West: God in the Shadows**, a riveting account of his upbringing in India and personal journey to faith. His first book was updated and republished in 2004 as **The Real Face of Atheism**. His second book, **Can Man Live Without God**, was awarded the Gold Medallion for best book in the category of doctrine and theology. (*The Grand Weaver* will be discussed at our own Brown Baggers Book Club on October 4; see Page 6.) A large selection of his books will be available in the Wells Area on both nights of the Edwards Forum.

The presentations are free and open to the public. An offering to support RZIM will be received. Spread the word! Informational cards are available at the church for you to give to anyone interested.

## Destiny Africa Returns!



Join us for an evening of hope and inspiration featuring the **Destiny Africa Children's Choir** from Kampala, Uganda, as they return to the Meetinghouse on their second annual USA tour.

This extraordinary choir is comprised of orphaned Ugandan children, ages 9 to 18, rescued from horrific and desperate situations and conditions that exist in their country. Because of the power of love, their lives have been transformed and given meaning with new hope and a new start at the Kampala Children's Centre.

With voices of hope and faces bright with joy, the choir tells an extraordinary story—one that serves as inspiration for their glorious music. Dressed in their colorful garb, these bright, beautiful children present a lively mix of traditional and contemporary music, songs, dances, stories, and amazing drumming!

Experience their passion, their story, and their talent on **Friday, October 29**, at 7:00 p.m. in the Meetinghouse. No tickets are required. A free-will offering will be taken to support the work of the Kampala Children's Centre.

If you cannot attend, donations are gladly being accepted through Partners in Transformation, P.O. Box 2181, South Burlington, VT 05407. Visit their websites: [www.destinyafrica.org](http://www.destinyafrica.org) and [www.kampalachildren.com](http://www.kampalachildren.com).

## NEW STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING CLASS

# Serve God, Serve Others

Have you prayed lately and asked God how He would have you use your gifts and talents? And if you have, where is He leading you?

Jesus told His disciples in John 13:34-35: **A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.**

One way that we love one another is by learning to be present with someone: it's listening, and sometimes it's letting another person express what they are really feeling and not trying to "fix" them.

Part of the truth of life is that it can be tough. But love sticks with a person, even when everyone else has moved on. It doesn't mean that the pain is gone, but love sticks around and proves itself patient and kind. *Love walks side-by-side with a person through the darkness.*

If this sounds like the kind of love you want to share with others, please consider our new **Stephen Ministry** training class. Stephen Ministry will help equip you and walk beside you as together we learn to minister to those who have lost a loved one or are experiencing some other painful loss or crisis.



*We love because He first loved us.*

—1 John 4:19 (ESV)

It's easy to walk beside someone in the good times, but who will be there when the road gets rough? In Psalm 23, we read:

***Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me.*** It's a great comfort to know that God will walk through the valley with us, and I believe He calls His people to be there with Him in the flesh, because sometimes it's hard to see God in our shadows.

If you would like more information about this one-on-one ministry, you can attend an **information session one of the next two Sundays—October 4 or 11**—in the Caring Concerns Room (behind Reception), after the 9:15 or 11:00 a.m. service. Or you can pick up an info packet in the Caring Corner (the northeast corner of the Wells Area).

I would also love to speak with you about this ministry, or you may simply ask any Stephen Minister what they think! (You can identify a Stephen Minister by their Stephen Ministry name tag.)

*If God is calling, it's best to answer the call!*

**Wayne Luman**

Director of Caring Ministries  
860-529-1575, ext. 203

## KICKING OFF OUR THIRD YEAR!

# Celebrate Recovery

We are celebrating as we mark the start of our third year of **Celebrate Recovery** here at First Church! We have had the privilege of seeing the beauty and gentleness of God touch wounded lives. We get a front row seat to witness the power of God to free people from guilt and shame, loneliness and pain, and the chains of addictions. And the most exciting part of it all is that **we are just beginning!**

### Is **Celebrate Recovery** for you?

- *Is there something you're afraid to face, or that you're hiding?*
- *Can you share the history on your computer with your spouse?*
- *Are you living with the scars of past abuse, and is that shame and guilt interfering with your relationships today?*
- *Do you keep getting involved in unhealthy relationships?*
- *Have you become addicted to pain medication?*
- *Does alcohol or a chemical have more control over you than you want?*
- *Have you been looking for a different result and yet continue doing the same thing over and over again?*
- *Are you just sick and tired of being sick and tired?*

Ask yourself this question: What is the price of true freedom—what's it worth? At **Celebrate Recovery** we've been there and done that, and together we are walking into a new freedom and happiness that we had only dreamed of in the past.

- Come join us **Thursday evening, October 7, or any Thursday evening.** *Celebrate Recovery* is always open to newcomers.
- Dinner is at 5:30, worship and testimonies at 6:30, and small-group discussion at 7:30.
- *Celebrate Recovery* strives to be a safe place. We highly regard confidentiality, and our discussion groups are gender specific.
- You are not alone.

### New Step Study groups to begin!

*Celebrate Recovery* will be starting new men's and women's **Step Study** groups on **Monday, October 4**, meeting weekly. The Step Study class offers a safe, confidential support group, allowing us the space we need to grow together in amazing ways.

I have witnessed incredible spiritual growth in these Step Studies, and I am sure these new groups will also produce powerful testimonies of freedom and deliverance. Our Step Study groups will remain open for new members through the month of October.

### For more information...

If you would like to know more about *Celebrate Recovery*, check out the info area in the Caring Corner (the northeast corner of the Wells Area), or call Wayne at 860-529-1575, ext. 203, for a confidential discussion.

Walking in His Light,  
**Wayne Luman**  
Director of Caring Ministries

## A Word from Minister Emeritus Donald Morgan



**MAY I SAY** how delighted and thrilled I am with our new senior minister, **Deryk Richenburg!** As a preacher, he is certainly one of the best in all New England, if not the best. His sermons are engaging and inspiring. As a pastor, he is warm and genuinely caring. Under his leadership, we have undoubtedly entered a new and wonderful era in the life of First Church.

## Monday Prayer: Two Who Care

On Mondays, from 1:15 to 2:15 p.m., **Warren Viele** and **Charlotte Howson** get together in the Chapel to pray, as they are led, for God's Kingdom to expand and prosper. They are certain there are more who would be available most Mondays at that time who would love to join them in this powerful time of intercessory prayer.

They pray for awakenings and revival around the world. They pray for First Church—for its ministries and staff, for guests and visitors among us, and for more committed disciples. They pray for great vision and for one soul at a time. Warren and Charlotte will be thrilled to tell you more. Please call Warren at 203-634-3511 or Charlotte at 860-521-1818.



## MOPS Begins Season on October 7

**MOPS** (Mothers of Preschoolers)—Fireside Room, 9:15 to 11:15 a.m., **Thursday, October 7**—will discuss “Momology: The Art & Science of Mothering” and enjoy food, fun and fellowship! Details/registration: **Maria Zematis**, mszematis@yahoo.com.

## Women's Fellowship Luncheon

**WOMEN OF ALL AGES** are warmly invited to join us in the Fireside Room at noon on **Wednesday, October 13**. After the luncheon, catered by **Judy Carson**, we will enjoy a special program. For reservations, call **Judy Tatters** at 860-529-5362 by Monday, October 11. Suggested donation for the luncheon is \$6.

## Hospital Lifeline

Should you find yourself in the hospital, whether planned or unexpectedly, please be aware of this—members of our Hospital Visitation Care Team would love to visit with you and offer comfort through a listening ear, Scripture, and prayer. We would also like to include our pastor's confidential prayer line and/or the church's prayer chain in praying for any concerns you have or praise you report. The type of visit (phone or personal), the frequency, and any information that is shared are entirely up to you. We want to be there to meet your needs and requests.

If you know that a hospital visit is in your future, please let Caring Ministries know your wishes. On weekends you may leave a message on the confidential prayer line (ext. 210). If you end up in the hospital unexpectedly, have someone notify us—we want to be there with you. When you register at Hartford Hospital, mention you are a First Church member, and they will put your name under our code, C24. At Saint Francis Hospital, our code is H85. We call to check in each morning with the hospitals.

## The 2010-2011 First Church of Christ Concert Series

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29** ❖ 7 PM

### *Destiny Africa Children's Choir*

Orphaned Ugandan children share their exhilarating music and inspiring story. *Please see Page 2.*

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14** ❖ 4 PM

### *Festival of Hymns II*

The second annual Festival of Hymns of the Church will feature David Spicer at our Austin pipe organ, plus brass, percussion, choirs and soloists. Included will be hymns for all in attendance to sing.

This is the first time to experience the 375th-anniversary anthem, *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord!*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12** ❖ 4 PM

### *The Helen L. Reinfrank Choral Cantata Series Christmas Concert*

*Fantasia on Christmas Carols* by Ralph Vaughan Williams  
*Messiah*, Part I, by George Frideric Handel  
Organ and orchestra, directed by David Spicer

Soloists:

Nancy Andersen	Anne Graczyk-Druce
Stewart Battle	Linda Henderson
Christopher Dukes	Charity Lowell-Clark

Carols for all to sing!

Pre-concert music: Wethersfield High School Choralaires  
Directed by Scott Rioux

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 30** ❖ 4 PM

### *Super Bell XIX Concert*

The five handbell choirs of First Church of Christ

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27** ❖ 4 PM

### *A Concert of Spirituals*

The Alfred E. White Chorale • G. Ingrid Faniel, Director  
Affiliated with Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church, Hartford  
Choirs of First Church of Christ • David Spicer, Director

**SUNDAY, MARCH 20** ❖ 4 PM

### *The King of Instruments*

First Church's Austin pipe organ, IV/62, Opus 2403  
David Spicer, Organist

- Symbolism in the Music of Johann Sebastian Bach*
- And That's Final!* — The last movements of works by Charles-Marie Widor, Alexandre Guilmant, and Théodore Dubois
- Grande Pièce Symphonique* by César Franck

**FRIDAY, APRIL 22** ❖ 7 PM

### *Good Friday Memorial Concert*

*Messiah*, Parts II and III, by George Frideric Handel  
Choirs of First Church of Christ

**SUNDAY, JUNE 12** ❖ 7 PM

### *ASOF Winners' Concert*

Winners of the 2010 Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival  
First Place in the High School Division:  
Christopher Holman of Thomasboro, Illinois  
First Place in the Young Professional Division:  
Simon Thomas Jacobs of Greenwich, Connecticut

*All concerts are open to the public.*

*There is no admission charge; a free-will offering is received.*

*Childcare is available for those age 8 and under.*

*A reception will follow, except on October 29 and April 22.*

To.....Members of First Church of Christ  
From.... Your Church Board

***And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you  
will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.***

Philippians 1:6 (ESV)

A few weeks ago, the Board met together for a day of prayer and spiritual growth on our annual retreat. What a joy it was to hear how God was doing good works in our personal lives and as a church! And we believe, with Paul, that God will bring them to completion.

In recent months, the issue of denominational affiliation has come to the forefront with the completion of the report of the Denominational Affiliation Subcommittee and the subsequent acceptance of that report by your Church Board. *The report is available for viewing in the church library.*

As was reported in the midsummer *Update*, the Board voted to take no action on this report. The Board, in its vote, did not infer that the issue was killed, but that the timing and the process were major factors. Some of the reasons were mentioned in that article. Now, additional explanation is both possible and necessary. Because our concepts of timing and action may have been misinterpreted by some, we wish to clarify our intent. We regret if there was any interpretation of our action that caused feelings of upset or confusion.

There are three major reasons the Board felt that this is not the time to bring the issue of affiliation/non-affiliation to you all, and we can now share these reasons with you. When we wrote for the *Update* in July, much of the following was not yet ready to be specifically outlined:

- 1. We as a congregation are excited about embarking on our mission of being “a community of Jesus followers who love God, love one another, and make disciples.”**
- 2. For several months, we have been educated in the new Stewardship emphasis. This has been difficult for some folks to understand, and it will still be unfolding over the next year or more.**
- 3. The prospective renovation of the Marsh Building has come forward, and feasibility studies have been recently underway. This plan also encompasses a new access into the church building and a planned gathering area, all in keeping with the plan of growing “community” within our church family. Studies to determine the feasibility of this added concept have been initiated.**

This is a lot for us as a congregation to absorb, and we believe that the added issue of affiliation has the potential, at this time, to distract from these pressing and exciting items.

**All this being said, at the last meeting of your Church Board, which was held on Tuesday, September 21, 2010, several members of the congregation who would like to see the Final Report brought to the congregation for educational process now, presented a letter as such. After discussion and feedback, the Board then voted to “start the educational process on the Denominational Affiliation Committee’s recommendation at a time to be determined by the Board.” While some people might feel that this is a change in direction, we believe this is fully consistent with our feelings around the first vote.**

As we move forward, we hope you will join in our excitement as to the things going on in our church. More importantly, we ask that you would join us in prayer. We understand there is a variety of personal opinions surrounding the matter of affiliation. Let us together seek God’s wisdom and direction. And let us pray for God’s protection from divisiveness. We believe that God can strengthen us so that we may be able to handle complex subjects with respect and love for one another.

Finally, we are humbled and honored by the responsibility you have placed on us. We hope you will come to us personally if you have any questions. We thank you for your trust and we covet your prayers.

May God bless us all as we work together for His Kingdom.

*Heather Begina, Dana Crompton, Brian Darius, Suzanne Edgardo, Judy Franzen,  
Alice Goodrich, Chris Jagel, Anneli Johnson, Walter Kelly, Steve Peery,  
Deryk Richenburg, Sam Rodriguez, Joyce Senn, Jon Vining*



**THE OUTREACH GIFT SHOP** is in its 29th year of operation, under the leadership of **Judy Tatters** (right) and **Pat Burns** (center), who has just replaced outgoing co-chairperson **Pam Wilson** (left) after eight years. The shop features international handcrafts from third-world countries, with new items available seasonally—a continually changing inventory. This past year, items from Haiti were highlighted in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake there.

Our main focus is to help artisans in third-world countries develop and market their products. It is a non-profit, mission-oriented shop, staffed by volunteers, in cooperation with the Outreach Department of First Church.

The shop is in the Marsh Building—first door on the left (next to the Chapel) as you enter from the Connector—and is open **Sunday mornings** after each worship service and some **Wednesday evenings** (during Advent and Lent), and with other special events (such as concerts) as requested.

## Lisa Beaty at Seniors' Luncheon



**THE PRIME-TIMERS POTLUCK** is held four times a year and includes an enriching talk by a guest speaker. The presentations are designed to inform, inspire, and challenge.

Join us at 12:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, October 20**, in Keith Jones Hall. First Church member **Lisa Beaty** will share some of her amazing missionary experiences. Hear about her numerous trips overseas to bring the love and hope of Christ to people in some of the world's most desperate situations. Bring a dish to share or plan to pay \$6 at the door. To make reservations, please call **Bea Avery** at 860-529-0298.

## Women of Faith Returns to Hartford!

Ladies, mark your calendars! **Women of Faith** is back with "**Over the Top**"! Plan now to join us **November 19-20** at the XL Center for an unforgettable weekend. Among the featured speakers are **Patsy Clairmont**, **Sandi Patty** and **Lisa Whelchel**, as well as musical guests **Mary Beth and Steven Curtis Chapman**. First Church has reserved a group of tickets at the discounted price of \$89, which covers the conference and two lunches. *Note: The deadline for this special rate has been extended to **October 21**.* For details, contact **Kathy Rodriguez** at 860-301-6263 or k.rodriguez@comcast.net.

## Autism Parent Support Groups

**FOR PARENTS OF KIDS** (ages 1 through 12) on the autism spectrum — A group meets on the **first Thursday** of each month at 7:00 p.m., at First Church of Christ in **Glastonbury** (2183 Main Street). Parents from several towns attend. Come receive resources, guidance and support, and network with others facing similar challenges. For more information, contact **Jennifer Ureta** at 860-657-2155 or asrcparentgroup@gmail.com.

**FOR PARENTS OF TEENS** on the autism spectrum — This support group meets on the **third Monday** of each month, 7:15 to 9:00 p.m., at First Church of Christ in **Wethersfield**. The next scheduled meetings are **October 18**, **November 15**, and **December 20**. This is a valuable resource for parents/guardians from several towns to receive guidance and support, and to network with others facing similar challenges. For details, contact **Carol Barans** at 860-965-2053 or cbb58@comcast.net.

**EXTENDED COMMUNION OFFERED** — First Church offers Extended Communion on **Sunday, October 3**, to church members who are homebound or living in a nursing home or other extended care facility. If you would like someone to bring Communion to you, please contact **Eileen** in Caring Ministries, at 860-529-1575, ext. 210.

**GLENN SUNSHINE'S RADIO INTERVIEW** about our upcoming **Ravi Zacharias** forums will be broadcast on WIHS (104.9 FM) **Monday and Tuesday, October 4 and 5**, at 3:15 a.m., 12:13 p.m. and 5:49 p.m. both days. Or listen online through WIHSradio.org (click on "Listen to WIHS Online").

**BROWN BAGGERS BOOK CLUB** — On **Monday, October 4**, we will gather for a lively discussion of *The Grand Weaver: How God Shapes Us Through the Events of Our Lives*, an illuminating and highly encouraging book by **Ravi Zacharias**. Just a

few days later—on October 9 and 10—Dr. Zacharias will speak in our Meetinghouse (see Page 1)! Questions? Call **Linda Papertisian** at 860-257-7566.

**GRIEFSHARE** — Facilitated by **Betty Metcalf**, this Christ-centered seminar/support group focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. Find encouragement, comfort and help for **13 Mondays, starting October 4**, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Morgan house. Workbook: \$13. Registration/details: 860-529-1575, ext. 210.

**ART ENJOYMENT CLASS** meets Tuesday mornings at 10:00, in the Worship Room. All are welcome! **October 5: Bob Hance** on the Santa Fe Art Colony; **October 12: Howard Miner** on the amazingly meticulous American artist Ivan Albright (1897-1983); **October 19: Gayle Baldwin** on Marsden Hartley (1877-1943), an American Modernist whose late work, on the Maine

coast, was his most original and powerful; **October 26: Jan MacKessan** on *Secrets of Egypt—2000 B.C.*

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** — The power of a simple gift—with an eternal message—begins with people just like you! It's not too early to think about OCC, a unique opportunity for you to share Christ's love by using a simple shoe box. Watch for additional information on **Sunday, October 24**, as we kick off our 13th year of participation in this vital Samaritan's Purse project.

**USHERS ARE NEEDED** — Join an usher team and serve once a month at a Sunday morning worship service—8:00, 9:15, or 11:00. Training is available from our usher chief, **Perry Chilberg**. Call Perry at 860-644-3806 after 6:00 p.m., email him at per-rychilberg@gmail.com, or speak to one of our current ushers who greet you as you enter the Meetinghouse.

# Money as a Tool

*A feast is made for laughter, and wine makes life merry, but money is the answer for everything.* —Ecclesiastes 10:19 (NIV)

How many of you knew that the second-wisest man who ever lived said that? It's shocking until we look closer at the Scriptures. Solomon is not suggesting that you put food and money before God—the entire book is a warning about our tendency to put faith in the wrong things. But in this passage, Solomon is talking about how earthly resources, in the hands of a man or woman with a heart for God, are a great blessing to all of us.

I am so grateful that God gave someone the idea of money. What a great idea! Could you imagine what a pain it was to bring your lamb to the temple for your offering? Or bushels of grain? Money was just as handy in the ancient world as it is today.

Money is an exceptional tool, a demanding mistress, and a ruthless god. Money has been all these things to me over my life, and I can tell you that once it becomes something besides a tool, a whole host of problems crop up. Scripture tells us this, too:

*For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.* —1 Timothy 6:10 (ESV)

Did you know that money is the second most talked about thing in the Bible? Only prayer is talked about more in Scripture. Fifteen percent of what Jesus talked about is related to money—more

than Heaven and Hell combined. Sixteen of our Lord's forty-four parables deal with the use or misuse of money. How we handle money is important to God.

Money doesn't ruin character, it reveals it. If we recognize that money is only a tool, then we must also realize that a tool is only as good as the hand that uses it. Tools are morally neutral, and what we do with a tool tells a lot about ourselves.

One of the biographers of the Duke of Wellington had a big advantage over all the others: he found a ledger that showed how the duke had spent his money, which was far more revealing about what was truly important to him than any of his letters or speeches. Author Heidi Husted asks: "If someone wrote your biography on the basis of your checkbook or your income-tax return, what might it say about you, your loyalties, your focus, and about whom you serve?"

I believe that money is a blessing from God. He gives us money not only to take care of ourselves and our families, but to give us the opportunity to bless others through it. It is one of the tools granted us by the Creator that allows us to extend the joy and generosity in our hearts into the world.

In the next article, we will talk about what the Bible says about how to manage money. God never gives a tool without also giving instructions on how to use it—and following those instructions provides the most outstanding results!

—Anton Hertle



MESHAL ALAWADHI

## FROM THE PROPERTY DIVISION

# Going Green Cuts Costs

Early this summer, First Church of Christ invested in the installation of a new air conditioning chiller that services the Meetinghouse and the Wells Fellowship Area. The old unit had been in service for over 38 years and was in need of a major component.

Instead of just fixing the old one, the Property Division voted to install a new, energy-efficient model. In doing so, we received support from Connecticut Light & Power through the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund. We also replaced a cooling coil that services the office level of the Cadwell Building, allowing the air conditioning system to not work quite so hard there.

In addition, the property staff has completed switch-outs of 90% of our interior incandescent lighting to a more energy-efficient CFL lamp, wherever possible.

Our next project consists of replacing 86 units of T-12 fluorescent lights with

newer (again, more energy-efficient) T-8s. This will qualify us for a rebate from CL&P and CEEF for approximately one half the costs. The older (T-12) fixtures and replacement components (ballasts, bulbs) are being phased out per order of the U. S. Department of Energy, and the rebate program is only a short-term one.

In an effort to reduce our expenditures on natural gas for heating, 24 new storm windows were installed on portions of the Morgan House and the lower level of the Cadwell Building where there were none before. This was identified by an audit performed on First Church two years ago, and we are sure it will make a big difference.

The Property Division is working hard to balance the comfort levels and the cost considerations for our facility. We welcome any proposals from our members that might further assist us.

—Bob Keleher



Our new, energy-efficient "chiller" is an example of our continuing focus on conservation and savings.

## BOOK OF LIFE

### ENTERED ETERNAL LIFE

John Truscio, August 30, 2010

Carolyn (Beardsley) Macdonough,  
September 12, 2010

T. Martin "Marty" DeLuca,  
September 18, 2010

*Our Church unites  
in an expression of  
heartfelt sympathy  
to their families.*

### UNITED IN MARRIAGE

Gilbert Phillips and Marion Decesar,  
August 29, 2010

Kevin Kratzer and Katherine Bernardi,  
September 3, 2010

Timothy Ryan Golas and Tiffany Ann Greco,  
September 10, 2010

## First Church

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN WETHERSFIELD

CONGREGATIONAL

860-529-1575 • Fax: 860-721-7861  
250 Main Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109  
Website: [www.firstchurch.org](http://www.firstchurch.org)  
Email: [fcw@firstchurch.org](mailto:fcw@firstchurch.org)

### Sunday Worship

Traditional Services in the Meetinghouse:  
8:00, 9:15 and 11:00 a.m.

Wind Contemporary Service  
in Keith Jones Hall: 11:00 a.m.

### First Church on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/FirstChurchPage](http://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchPage)  
[www.facebook.com/WindService](http://www.facebook.com/WindService)

### Dial-A-Message: 860-529-1785

Messages of Uplift

by Minister Emeritus Donald Morgan

### What will you leave behind?

Please remember First Church in your will.

**e-GIVING** reduces paperwork and helps keep track of your yearly pledge. For info about contributing electronically via a monthly automatic withdrawal from your bank account, call the Finance Office, 860-529-1575, ext. 218.

Alessa M. Afshar ..... Associate Minister  
Vicki A. Huffman ..... Director of Children's & Family Ministries  
Linda T. Jackson ..... Church Administrator  
Wayne E. Luman ..... Director of Caring Ministries  
T. Michael McDowell ..... Associate Minister  
Donald W. Morgan ..... Minister Emeritus  
Deryk P. Richenburg ..... Senior Minister  
David C. Spicer ..... Minister of Music & the Arts  
Todd E. Willard ..... Associate Minister

### OUR MISSION

*We are a community of Jesus  
followers who love God, love one  
another, and make disciples.*

### SPIRE DEADLINE

Material for the November issue of *The Spire*, which will be mailed October 27, must be submitted to Dave Gilbert by noon on Friday, October 15, at [daveg@firstchurch.org](mailto:daveg@firstchurch.org) or 860-529-1575, ext. 225.

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## FROM THE SENIOR MINISTER

# What's in a Logo?

Some of you have wondered about the cross that is part of our new logo (*shown at left and on the front page*).

Like most things in life, that specific cross did not come out of nowhere. There is a wonderful story behind it—a story of two crosses that came across our path and how they were wedded into one.

A number of months ago, a woman came to me with an exterior photograph of the front of the Meetinghouse. There was no way to determine the date of the print, but it was obviously at least several decades old. While looking at the faces in the picture, I began to notice that the sign next to the entrance was different than our present outdoor sign.

What caught my attention was not so much the information on the sign but the style of the cross at the top. At the time, I was working with Dave Gilbert and my wife, Christy, to come up with a meaningful logo for the church. And the sight of this cross caught my eye. I wondered why First Church had chosen that particular cross. Its design is often referred to as a type of St. George's cross. St. George was a Christian martyr. That cross was not what I had expected, but the more I looked at it, the more I liked it.

Thus began our search for a cross that could define us, and ultimately we were led to the **St. Cuthbert's cross**.

I love St. Cuthbert. Christy and I went to a church in Edinburgh that they claim he founded. Cuthbert lived in the 600s and was the one who brought the Gospel to north-

ern England and Scotland. Here was a man who had a deep devotion to God. His acts of prayer are legendary. He led the monastery of the Holy Island of Lindisfarne in northern England and strengthened the monks there. He was also one of the first, if not the first, to leave the monastery to take the Gospel to the people and minister to their spiritual needs. He was a man who had a deep devotion to God and His people, and he shared God's desire to spread the story of His glory.

Cuthbert was a man whose example I want to follow, and I hope First

Church shares his passion for God and His people.

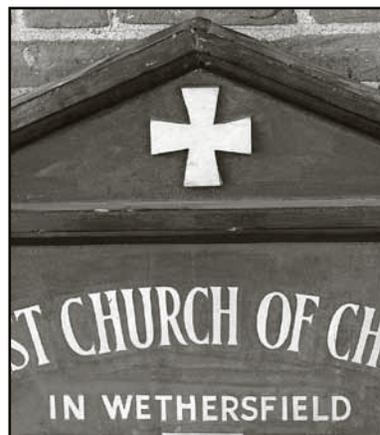
So here we had two crosses before us—a *cross that was taken from our history and a cross that defined our mission*. Christy and Dave started working through ideas and came up with a *cross that wedded the two styles*.

But there is more. On the Sunday after I saw the possibilities for the logo, I went into our Outreach Gift Shop, and God confirmed our choice. For there, hanging on the wall, was a cross made of stone

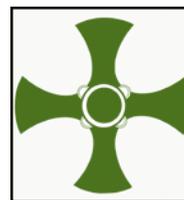
that was almost an exact replica of the cross that Dave and Christy had designed. That cross now hangs in my car.

This is the story of the cross in our logo. A story of how God led us to merge together our mission and our history. I hope that whenever you see it, you will be reminded of our mission of being a community of Jesus followers who love God, love one another, and make disciples.

—Pastor Deryk



Outdoor sign, removed circa 1970, now stored in First Church's archives.



St. Cuthbert's cross