

## A New Year in Christ Begins!

Our **DNA & Discipleship** “series” has ended, but that was only the beginning! We are excited to be making discipleship part of our very DNA—both as individuals and as a church. We

can’t wait to see what God will do in us and through us in A.D. 2011, while we move forward as **a community of Jesus followers who love God, love one another, and make disciples.**

### 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.

#### JANUARY 2

#### SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

#### **Anna, a Disciple with Devotion**

Message by Deryk Richenburg

Text: Luke 2:26-38

With Holy Communion

*She did not depart from the temple, worshipping with fasting and prayer night and day.*

—Luke 12:37b (ESV)

#### JANUARY 9

#### EPIPHANY SUNDAY

#### **Listening to God in Hard Times**

Message by Deryk Richenburg

Text: 2 Chronicles 20

*“Thus says the LORD to you, ‘Do not be afraid, and do not be dismayed...for the battle is not yours but God’s.’”*

—2 Chronicles 20:15b (ESV)

#### JANUARY 16

#### **Weapons of Righteousness**

Message by Tessa Afshar

Text: 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

*The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.* —2 Corinthians 10:4 (NIV)

#### JANUARY 23

#### FAMILY SUNDAY

#### **Discipleship: Go the Distance!**

Message by Michael McDowell

Text: Jude 1:17-25

*But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.*

—Jude 1:20-21 (ESV)



### FROM THE SENIOR MINISTER

#### Days after Jesus

As I look back on the past year, I see all of the blessings God has bestowed on me through your love and His grace. Yet as I look at the year I realize that this disciple needs to go deeper in devotion for Jesus. My family needs me to go deeper. You need me to go deeper. And I desperately want to go deeper.

Not only do I need to go deeper, but I also want to do a better job of expressing that deepness to others. There have been people in my life who have motivated me to go deeper with Jesus by showing me their devotion. I want to be such a person.

**My prayer for you this year is that you would plunge into the depths of God’s love.** Let this devotion for God fuel every aspect of your walk. Go hard

us this about her in 2:37: **She did not depart from the temple, worshipping with fasting and prayer night and day.**

What would drive a woman to stay in the temple so long? She stayed there in the temple for years and never wanted to leave. Why?

**I believe it was her devotion to God that kept her there.** She was in love with God and did not want to spend one moment away from Him. Her devotion propelled her to do remarkable things.

**I believe this devotion drives a disciple.** It is the fire that keeps the train moving. This devotion moves someone to please God and penetrate barriers in life. It pushes them to go hard after God and to follow His commands to love others and make disciples. Devotion to God is what motivated Anna, and it should drive all of us.

We are beginning a new calendar year. **This year I believe Anna’s hunger and devotion for God should be our goal.**



after Him. Seek Him through His Word and through prayer. Pursue Him in your relationships with others.

**Anna’s devotion for God drove her to do remarkable things.** God also rewarded her devotion. He gave her the best gift any disciple can receive. She met Jesus. God came to her.

**Imagine what God can do in our lives if we pursue Him with the same devotion!** I believe God has great things in store for us. I believe He wants to bless us with the incredible gift of Himself.

**Happy New Year!**

—Pastor Deryk

# DNA & Discipleship **YOUTH FOCUS**

[Jesus] entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried and came

down and received Him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

—Luke 19:1-10 (ESV)

**If we desire to carry out Jesus' command to make disciples, we need to begin by paying closer attention to the lives of those around us.**

## ENGAGEMENT

**ONE OF THE MANY THINGS** I love about Jesus is that **He initiates relationship.** I often share John 4:19 with those I am investing my life in, which says, ***We love because he first loved us.*** When you read these words, or the story of Jesus and Zacchaeus (above), do you find yourself struck with a feeling of awe, wonder, and joy? In these words we encounter the Good News of Jesus. God is not absent or distant. In fact, God is on the move, and He is seeking out His lost children. The Creator of the universe is aware of each and every one of us and is active in our lives.

Not only do I love the fact that Jesus initiates relationship, **I also love His style.** In the story of Zacchaeus, Jesus is not hindered by the fact that there is a large crowd pressing against Him. He knows what the Father is doing, and with precision He makes it happen.

I can envision Jesus weaving through the crowd with his eyes fixed firmly on Zacchaeus. When He draws close enough to speak to him, His words to this curious little man are, ***"Come down, for I must stay at your house today."*** Jesus wants to share life with Zacchaeus. Can you imagine the looks on people's faces as they heard these words come from the mouth of Jesus, the rabbi? It's clear from the text that they disapproved, as they questioned Jesus' intent to be the guest of a "sinner."

**My favorite part of the story is Jesus' closing words.** He welcomes Zacchaeus back into the family, saying, ***"He also is a son of Abraham."*** I can only imagine what it must have meant for Zacchaeus to hear these words. Here he was, a broken, disconnected man who had grown rich by

oppressing his own people. Based on his response to Jesus, it seems to me that this was not the life he wanted for himself.



Somehow he became stuck in the life he was living. Jesus' invitation to fellowship disrupts the pattern Zacchaeus's life had fallen into. Jesus gives him a way out.

Jesus was aware of Zacchaeus's situation. Jesus initiated relationship. This is the way God engages with his lost children. We see it in the Exodus story. In Exodus 3:7-12 we are told that Yahweh, our God, sees the affliction of His people, hears their cries, knows their sufferings, and comes down to deliver them, to bring them out of slavery and into a land of freedom. This is the way in which God operates. We see it in the Old Testament. We see it in the life of Jesus.

**So what does this mean for our community here at First Church?** We desire to become a community of Jesus' disciples who love God, love others, and make disciples. Let's sit at the feet of our Rabbi Jesus and learn from Him.

If we desire to carry out Jesus' command to make disciples, we need to be-

gin by paying closer attention to the lives of those around us. We need to grow in our awareness of what God is doing. We become aware through prayer and a lot of listening. **God will speak to us and direct our steps—if only we will listen.**

**We also need to learn how to engage with others the way Jesus did.** He doesn't attempt to "fix" Zacchaeus. He doesn't give Zacchaeus a list of 10 steps for becoming a better person. He doesn't give Zacchaeus a clever pamphlet that explains who He is. He doesn't even make Zacchaeus repeat a prayer after Him. Instead, He says, "I want to spend some quality time with you. I want to eat at your table and I want to

stay at your place." Why? Because Jesus is ridiculously in love with Zacchaeus. And that is the good news for Zacchaeus just as it is the good news for you and me. **The Gospel is a message of restoration.** The primary thing that we are restored to is a relationship; a relationship with God Himself. God wants to dine at our table and stay in our house.

**What do you think would happen if more of us began to initiate relationships with both those within and outside our congregation?** What would happen if you invited that person that God keeps putting on your heart for a cup of coffee? What would happen if you treated for that cup of coffee, and during your time together you simply listened to that person's life?

If we begin to engage with others in these ways while simultaneously focusing on deepening our own relationship with Jesus, I know that God will move.

—Pastor Todd

## Living as a Daughter of Promise Women's Retreat



**Ladies**, don't forget to save the dates of **Friday to Sunday, April 1 to 3**, for another amazing retreat.

We are thrilled to bring you **Christine Wyrzten**, an internationally known speaker and singer with a syndicated radio show of her own. Christine's teachings on **Living as a Daughter of Promise** are breathtakingly powerful.

You can attend this year's retreat at a savings of \$49 over last year. Also, the price of \$192 for two nights includes five meals instead of four. With this combination of quality and value, many are going to want to attend this retreat. But our space at Wisdom House Retreat Center in Litchfield is very limited.

Retreat brochures will be available in early January. Please register as soon as possible, and call **Marilyn Danielson** at 860-529-1575, ext. 213, with any questions.

## Bible Reading Plan Is Expanded

Through 2010, many of us have been blessed by following Pastor Deryk's **Yearly Bible Reading Plan**, a journey through the New Testament and Psalms. His **2011** version, **now available on tables** at the church, has an additional column with the rest of the Old Testament, giving you more than one option for the coming year.

However you decide to use the guide, immerse yourself in the daily readings and let God speak to you from them. Add the dimensions of prayer and praise. And be abundantly blessed!

**THE POWER OF HOPE** — Are you hoping for a new year of balanced health—physically, spiritually, emotionally, and mentally? Join our **First Place 4 Health** Bible study on **Wednesday nights**, from 6:30 to 8:00, **January 12** through **March 30**. Led by **Greg and Bonnie Ryan, Cindy McDowell**, and **Suzanne Edgardo**, this study offers support and great teaching on healthy living and growing closer to God. For registration details, go to [www.firstchurch.org](http://www.firstchurch.org) or pick up a brochure in the Wells Area. **Registration closes January 3**. Call **Suzanne** at 860-529-1575, ext. 212.

**EVENING STUDY FOR MEN** — A new men's study—"Juggling Chainsaws on a Tightrope"—will begin at 7:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, January 11**, in Room 7. This 8-week study from NavPress's *Bringing Truth to Life* series is about men dealing with the stresses in their lives. Come, and learn the biblical approach to *thriving* under pressure! The book is \$7. Questions? Call **Bob Papertisian** at 860-257-7566.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP** — Join **Greg and Ellen Gilson Voth** for a time of study and fellowship in the Morgan House Chestnut Room at 9:15 a.m. on **Sundays**. All interested in group discus-

sion in a spirit of community are welcome. For details, including the new topic and January start date, call 860-563-7340 or email [egvoth@snet.net](mailto:egvoth@snet.net).

**A COUPLES CLASS**, led by **Lisa and Steve Peery**, is held **every Sunday morning** at 9:15, in the Morgan House Drawing Room. All couples are encouraged to join the group at any time.

**FAITHFUL FAMILIES** is an open group that welcomes married or single parents to join together in exploring God's Word. Spending time in prayer, study and discussion, we share the challenges and joys of parenthood. We meet **every Sunday** (except Family and Family Communion Sundays) at 9:15 a.m. in the Morgan House Birch Room. Questions? Contact **Behn Sikora** at [americanbehn@yahoo.com](mailto:americanbehn@yahoo.com).

**GENESIS** — This in-depth study of the Book of Genesis is led by **Dr. Glenn Sunshine**. Although the class goes verse by verse through some of the most important and controversial passages, for many of the stories, the focus is on historical

## February Spire to Be Skipped as Staff Builds New Website

First Church will soon have an all-new website with better-organized content and a new, dynamic design! Time is required for this project, so the *Spire* that would have covered January 30 through February 26 will not be issued. Staff members will focus instead on all aspects of our new site—ensuring that, from day one, all information and graphics will be accurate, appealing, and kept up-to-the-minute.

Meanwhile, please visit our existing website and see other publications for February information (when available). Our new website, using the same [firstchurch.org](http://firstchurch.org) address, will be inaugurated in late January!

## A Noteworthy Thank-You



On Sunday, December 12, our Helen L. Reinfrank Choral Cantata Christmas Concert was sung to a capacity audience. I am grateful to the choirs and orchestra for their wonderful work. I am also so grateful that the steady downpour was rain and not snow!

My other gratitude is to the Reinfrank family, whose underwriting of this concert made it all possible. This, in turn, gave us the opportunity to receive an offering for others. Handel was known for his support of the Foundling Hospital in London, and his *Messiah* was a fundraiser for the orphanage there and for other charitable projects as well. So, in the style of Handel, we were able to raise \$2,489.93, which is being sent to **Compassion International** and, specifically, to its Child Survival Program for infants at risk. I wish to thank everyone who came out in the rain to attend, and all who gave so generously!

Soli Deo Gloria! (To God alone be the glory!)  
**David Spicer**, Minister of Music and the Arts

## Beta: Learning to Apply God's Word to Your Life

Studying the Bible can seem overwhelming, especially if you don't have any experience. On **Tuesday, January 25**, from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m., **Tessa Afshar** will kick off a six-week study of the Bible, based on a book written by **Nicky Gumbel**, the beloved pioneer of Alpha.

Following that first night, Beta will switch to meeting in a small-group format. You can attend either on **Tuesdays** from 7:00 to 8:15 (2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22, 2/31) or on **Wednesdays** from 6:45 to 8:00 (2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23, 3/2.) Small groups will be led by trained leaders. This is an opportunity for people who have very little to no experience of the Bible to gain some tools in studying God's living Word with confidence and discover its relevance and power for today. For details or to sign up, call **Suzanne** at 529-1575, ext. 212.

context, theological themes, and the role Genesis plays in laying the foundation for the rest of Scripture. This weekly class resumes on **Sunday, January 9**, in the Fireside Room, 9:15 to 10:30 a.m.

## M&Ms' Clothing and Book Swap

Ladies, we have an exciting new adventure planned for you. A clothing swap is an opportunity to share your clothes that are still in good shape but perhaps no longer fit your needs. Bring as many items as you like. You do not need to take an equal number of items back. You can also take as many pieces as you wish without contributing anything.

Come and hang out with friends, share a few giggles, clean out your closet, fill it with new treasures, and participate in a fun game or two while you are at it—all at **no cost**—while taking care of God's creation. *Items that do not find a home will be donated to the Salvation Army.*

**Where**.....Keith Jones Hall

**When**.....7:00 p.m. on **Friday, January 21**

- Only women's clothes, please (and no shoes). Also, no children's toys or clothes.
- Please make sure all items are clean and presentable.
- Appropriate books, CDs and DVDs in good working order are also welcome.
- If you can no longer fit into your costume jewelry, feel free to bring some!
- Please also bring a couple of extra empty bags to share.

## GriefShare — From Mourning to Joy

If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, we want you to know about GriefShare.

A new 13-week session will begin **Monday, January 17**, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., in the Morgan House. This biblical, Christ-centered program is non-denominational and international. It focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one.

Each week, the group will watch a 35-minute DVD followed by a time of discussion, which promotes healing, so the participant can begin the journey from mourning to joy. This confidential program—with people who understand what you are going through—will provide encouragement, comfort, and help in grieving the death of a family member or friend.

Our facilitator is **Betty Metcalf**. The only charge is \$13 (for the workbook). To register, or for more information, please call Car-ing Ministries at 860-529-1575, ext. 210. All are welcome.

## D. R. Mission Trip Team Meeting

The **2011 Dominican Republic mission trip** will take place from **July 8** through **July 16**. The **first team meeting** will be on **Sunday, January 9**, at 12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Trip space is limited and filling up fast! A deposit of \$100 reserves your spot. For more information, please contact **Dana Crompton** at 860-635-1530 or [dcrompton@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dcrompton@sbcglobal.net).

# Making a Difference, Near and Far

### ANGEL TREE

The 19th Annual First Church **Angel Tree** Christmas party, held on Saturday, December 4, was a huge success, due to the generosity and help of First Church members. Together our congregation brightened the Christmas of 200 children of prisoners in Hartford, New Britain, Wethersfield, East Hartford, Glastonbury, Manchester, Middletown, Meriden, and West Hartford.

We are grateful to all who purchased gifts, helped wrap and/or sort gifts, worked at the party, and delivered gifts to children who could not attend.

### HELP FOR THE HOMELESS

Formerly known as "Hats for the Homeless," this dedicated group of **knitters and crocheters** is making a very real difference in the greater Hartford area. By Christmas, they had made 300 winter hats and a variety of scarves and socks to be distributed to area shelters by their sister group at Saint James Church in Rocky Hill, with whom they are partnering.

Our **Help for the Homeless** group meets occasionally; its members do most of their creative work at home. In addition, they are collecting **your donations of gently used winter clothing for men**; please leave items in the "Coats for the Homeless" carton in the Main Street entrance vestibule.

Would you like to join the group or help in any way? Please call **Betty Hartinger** at 860-571-8888.

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

**Operation Christmas Child (OCC)**, a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, delivers shoeboxes, individually hand-packed with

small gifts, to millions of needy children around the world each year.

Christmas 2010's First Church participation is truly a loaves-and-fishes story of multiplication. We delivered a total of 681 shoeboxes to the Wintonbury Baptist Church (OCC drop-off location) in Bloomfield, far exceeding all expectations! It is thought that Livia Satterfield's heartwarming story (which appeared in the November *Spire*) inspired many people to participate. We thank each and every one of you!

Special thanks go to **David French**, who arranged for participation at the state office from which he recently retired. His final contribution to the 681 figure was an amazing 90 boxes.

### ST. ELIZABETH HOUSE and SOUTH PARK INN

**Many thanks to all** whose donations of various goods made a vital difference in 2010 for **area homeless shelters**—St. Elizabeth House (Wethersfield Avenue, Hartford) and South Park Inn (Main Street, Hartford). Use the blue bin in the Main Street entrance vestibule to leave contributions of hygiene items (shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, etc.) and small houseware items (glassware, dishes, towels, pillowcases, tablecloths, etc.). There is also a great need for men's shoes. No toys or other clothing at this time, please. For more information, please call **Myra and Howard Miner** at 860-563-0943. Howard has been making deliveries for 20 years!

### SERVING AT SOUTH PARK INN

Would you be interested in leading a small group to help feed the homeless?

Your help is needed! Open weekend dates in 2011 are March 5, June 5, July 3, Sept. 3, Sept. 4, and Dec. 4. We thank current team leaders **Jacque Bennett, Matt Cooper, Janine Hewitt, Russ Morin, Debbie Moser, Sally Nyren, and Karen Shannon**—and all of their wonderful volunteers.

Please contact coordinator **Paul McCann**, at 860-523-8797 or [pcann@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pcann@sbcglobal.net), if you would like to help in this vital way on any of those dates.

### WETHERSFIELD FOOD BANK

The **Wethersfield Food Bank** serves many who are in dire need. Donations of **nonperishable food items** may be left with the church receptionist.

**Financial contributions** are also highly appreciated. They help to obtain the most-needed items. Simply place them in the Offering plate on Sundays—in cash, or a check payable to First Church of Christ with the memo "Food Bank." For more information, please call **Howard Page** at 860-563-3275.

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The pecans and pistachios offered by **Women's Fellowship** before Christmas were a very popular way for First Church members and friends to support the group's various outreach projects. They may have to increase their order for 2011!

Women's Fellowship is pleased to support **First Church's youth mission trips, Habitat for Humanity, Heifer Project, Church World Service, the Wethersfield Human Services Department, Campcare for Handicapped Children**, and Hartford homeless shelters **South Park Inn** and **St. Elizabeth House**. Thank you, one and all!

# Generosity: The Big Point

**Authentic generosity means we freely give of ourselves, our lives and our possessions, without counting the cost.**

—from *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*

In the first three articles of this **Financial Stewardship** series, we talked about money being a blessing from God. Clearly, money is not the goal—God's intent is that it be used to bless our family, the Church, and others. **Love people; use money.**

We are also given guidelines on how to use it. One verse in six, in the first three Gospels, relates either directly or indirectly to money. Jesus talks about it more than heaven and hell combined. Why do we need so much guidance on this topic?

I believe that God hard-wired us with two strong emotions. They are easily seen in young children. Every parent has heard:

**"Watch me, Mommy! Watch me, Daddy!"** This is the desire for recognition.

**"That's my toy!"** This is the desire for ownership.

These two emotions push us to accumulate, hoard, and "keep up with the Joneses." Our tendency is to confuse the gifts of real security and happiness that can only come from our Lord with the pleasure and satisfaction we get from ownership and recognition. Paul knew this and told Timothy to warn his congregation:

**As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.**

—1 Timothy 6:17 (ESV)

There is nothing new under the sun. Our enemy sets a trap for us, trying to get us to corrupt a blessing from God into something that separates us from Him. So how do we avoid this trap? How

do we keep from turning something God created for us to enjoy into something that hurts us?

**They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.**

—1 Timothy 6:18-19 (ESV)

**Generosity is the key.** The *great* news is that we are new in Christ Jesus. Praise God that He is doing a great work in us every day! We have a great opportunity to honor our Master by reflecting His generosity to us—by being generous to others.

You don't have to be a millionaire philanthropist. A little generosity can make a real difference. Be generous in everyday things—things like overtipping your server in a restaurant, sharing a meal with another, or helping someone do what they otherwise could not. **Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.** That is preaching the Gospel in a way that can have more impact than words.

Does being generous mean that we have to give away everything we own, as Jesus suggested to the rich young man in Matthew 19? I don't think so. Reading the whole passage, I think that Jesus challenged him because money was his god. He had fallen for the trap. **Jesus wants everyone to put the Living God at the top of our priority list—not ourselves or our things.**

By remembering Jesus' generosity and His assurance to care for us in ways beyond what we could hope or imagine, it is easier to do more for others than we do for ourselves. And that is really the big point.

—Anton Hertle

## Shout for joy

to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His Name. For the LORD is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations.

—Psalm 100 (NIV)



**Our wonderful third-graders** received Bibles on Sunday, November 21, presented by their parents, as a gift from First Church. Shown are (**large photo, front row**) Adam Franzen, Brynn Sherry, Jacob Liz, Ethan Arcata, Nicolas Rodriguez, Amina Shakeel, (**middle row**) Bethany Ostergren, Abby Darius, John Rumley, Damon Hangland, Thomas Lucca, Sophia Davillier, (**back row**) teacher Chris Darius, teacher Linda Papertsian, Jillian Gray, Juliana McKee, teacher Patti Morin, teacher Philip Shattuck, (**small photo, front row**) Milai Lauray, Olivia Augeri, (**back row**) Audrey Mainville, Sarah Ritter, and Samantha Ritter. **Not shown** are Brandon Bukowski, Katherine McNally, and Bailey Savery. They recited Psalm 100 from memory together as a group!

## BOOK OF LIFE

### ENTERED ETERNAL LIFE

James Hart Kennedy, November 22, 2010  
Harold H. Vail, December 6, 2010  
Arline Blinn West, December 9, 2010

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

### UNITED IN MARRIAGE

Sean Joseph Sterner and Allison Grant,  
December 4, 2010

# Love never ends.

1 Corinthians 13:8a (ESV)

## 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

There will be no February issue of *The Spire* (see article). Material for the March issue, which will be mailed February 23, must be submitted to Dave Gilbert by noon on Friday, February 11, at [daveg@firstchurch.org](mailto:daveg@firstchurch.org) or 860-529-1575, ext. 225.

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# Super Bell XIX: January 30

## Exquisite Ringing!

**THE FIVE HANDBELL CHOIRS** of First Church will present their 19th annual **Super Bell Concert at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 30.** This beautiful tintinnabulous event features ensemble and individual ringing by accomplished musicians of all ages.

Enjoy the gifted **Carol, Laudate, Campanella, Belles & Beaux** and **Soli Deo Gloria Handbell Choirs**, directed by **David Spicer, Marti Bernardi, and Linda Henderson**; and the **Kristal Bell Ringers**, directed by **Joan Hines**. A special feature will be a performance by the **Henderson quartet—David,**

**Linda, Andrea, and Benjamin.**

At this writing, it is likely that the Rev. **Glen Halvorsen** will return with his rare, vintage **Shaker Chimes** for a delightful and energetic performance!

You will hear six octaves of English White-chapel and American Malmark bells, three octaves of Petit & Fritsen bells from Holland, and three octaves of Malmark choir chimes. This ever-popular concert is open to the public. A reception will follow. A free-will offering will be received, and childcare is available for those age 8 and under.



SUPER BELL XVIII • JANUARY 24, 2010