

## A Memorable Summer Begins!

In everyone's life, certain summers stand out as being turning points or milestones or special times of renewal and growth. The Summer of '11 at First Church promises to be such a time.

Christian recording artist **Robin Mark** will be in concert here. **Pastor Deryk** will lead a Wednesday Bible study on the Book of **James**—at the same time as Children's Ministries offers a

James study for children. An exciting and relevant **Ephesians** sermon series—**Family 2.0**—begins. Plus a great new **Vacation Bible Camp**, and a special DVD series entitled **God Provides**.

In addition, you will be introduced to our new **sister church** in **Peru**, with opportunities for real relationships and ways to interact that will yield much fruit for both congregations.

### Sunday Worship Services

#### SUMMER SERVICE TIMES — Starting June 19

Traditional Service: 10:00 a.m.

Wind Contemporary Service: 10:00 a.m.

#### *A Partnership*

**JUNE 19 — Both Services**  
Message by **Deryk Richenburg**  
Text: Philippians 1:3-8

#### *A Fox on the Wall*

**JUNE 26 — Traditional Service**  
and **JULY 3 — Wind Service**  
Message by **Tessa Afshar**  
Text: Nehemiah 4:1-17



### FAMILY 2.0 GOD'S UPGRADE

#### Ephesians Sermon Series

This sin-destroyed world has torn the family apart. As God's children, we have rebelled against our Heavenly Father, and then turned on each other. In **Ephesians**, Paul reveals to us the glorious way that God is restoring His family.

#### **Ephesians 1:1-14**

**JUNE 26 — Wind Service** and  
**JULY 3 — Traditional Service**  
Message by **Deryk Richenburg**

#### **Ephesians 1:3-6**

**JULY 10 — Both Services**  
Message by **Deryk Richenburg**

#### Ephesians Sermon Series

*Continued*

#### **Ephesians 1:7-12**

**JULY 17 — Both Services**  
Message by **Todd Willard**

#### **Ephesians 1:13-14**

**JULY 24 — Both Services**  
Message by **Deryk Richenburg**

#### **Ephesians 1:15-19**

**JULY 31 and AUGUST 7**  
(alternate services)  
Message by **Tessa Afshar**

#### **Ephesians 1:19-23**

**JULY 31 and AUGUST 7**  
(alternate services)  
Message by **Deryk Richenburg**

#### **Ephesians 2:1-3**

**August 14 — Both Services**  
Message by **Tessa Afshar**

#### **Ephesians 2:4-10**

**August 21 — Both Services**  
Message by **Todd Willard**

#### **Ephesians 2:11-15**

**August 28 — Both Services**  
Message by **Deryk Richenburg**

#### **Ephesians 2:16-22**

**September 4 — Both Services**  
Message by **Deryk Richenburg**



#### Several months ago

I was introduced to a new combination—two things that some might say should never be put together. I'm not talking about peanut butter and jelly, but *chocolate and jalapeño peppers*. As I think about that rather start-

ling mix, I think about this summer.

This summer we have the opportunity to look at two letters from the New Testament, **James** and **Ephesians**, one in a Bible study, and the other as our *Family 2.0* sermon series.

**Ephesians** was written by Paul from prison. Paul fills his letter with the blessings God has bestowed on us. **James** was written by Jesus' brother. James was the head of the church in Jerusalem, and his letter is filled with practical words of wisdom.

At first glance, the two do not seem to go together. They are something like the pairing of chocolate and jalapeño peppers. Paul is talking to a church without any controversy, while James is dealing with some very real, harmful issues. Paul is concerned with what *God* is doing in our lives, while James is thinking about *our* part. **Ephesians** calls us to ponder and rejoice; James tells us to get out there.

I believe that when we bring these two separate letters together, something beautiful will be made. It will be better than chocolate and jalapeño (not that that is so hard to do).

God is doing something very special here. He is calling us to go deeper with Him and meditate on the great things He is doing for us, but then He is also calling us to go out and live like Jesus. That's a really great combination. That's what disciples are to be and to do.

—**Pastor Deryk**

## Vicki, Marcia, and the Future Of Children's Ministries

I want to take some time to publicly thank **Vicki Huffman** for all that she has done for this church. I don't need to tell you that her enthusiasm for Jesus and for children is infectious. She has grown the children's program and we have all been blessed through her. Personally, I have benefited—and will continue to benefit—from her friendship.

As a Dad, I believe it is vital that we do our utmost to provide a program that helps our children to become faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. We want our children to embrace what we have embraced. We want them to be faithful followers of Jesus who love God, love others and make disciples.

Thus, I am excited to announce **Marcia McCann** as the interim director of our Children's and Family Ministries.

Marcia has faithfully served our ministry for 13 years and has been one of the prime reasons that we have a great program. She and **Debbie Hertle** did a fabulous job while Vicki was on sabbatical. I believe that God will do great things through Marcia, moving forward.

—*Pastor Deryk*

## Children's Ministries Summer Intern



We are excited to introduce **Paige Wetzel**, who has just finished her sophomore year at Eastern Nazarene College, studying Children and Youth Ministries. Campus ministry groups she is involved in include "The Plunge" and the "Open Hand, Open Heart" homeless ministry.

Paige resides in Windsor Locks and has enjoyed teaching Sunday School classes at her church, Poquonock Community Church. She is an honor student, athletic scholar, and accomplished singer. Please welcome her!

## Children's Summer Sundays

**Children's Church School** will be offered at 10:00 a.m. for ages 2 through completed kindergarten, **June 19** through **September 4**. Elementary-aged students will attend services with their families.

**Preschoolers** will be using the *Read and Share* Bible curriculum—13 Old Testament stories that will surely capture the attention of little ones and help them see the big picture of God's story—with puppets, skits, music and animated video!

**PARENTS!** We need your help! Please sign up in the Wells Fellowship Area for one Sunday to help with this awesome program. Do it soon for best choice. *Thank you so much!*

## Vacation Bible Camp: Pandamania!

This summer, **VBC** will be held **July 18 to 22**, with the theme **Pandamania: Where God Is Wild About You!** Save the dates on your calendar and be a part of this amazing week.

Registration forms are available in the Wells Fellowship Area, or on the church's website at [www.firstchurch.org/vbc](http://www.firstchurch.org/vbc). Register soon—our T-shirt order will be submitted on July 1. If you would like to help (completed grade 6 to adult), please complete the volunteer section of the form.

## Youth Ministries Summer Intern



Please welcome our Youth Ministries intern **Logan Singerman**, fresh from his sophomore year at Messiah College.

This past semester, after a sad farewell to his graphing calculator (much sadder for the calculator), he made the switch from engineering to Christian Ministries. Now he is excited to see how these two months of learning and helping in the Youth Room will unite with his past four months in the classroom. "May we learn to see God less like the first day of school and more like the first day of summer." So let the summer begin!

## Camp Hope Opportunity

**Middle- and high-schoolers!** Sign up for our amazing summer getaway at **Camp Hope** in Litchfield, **July 31 to August 6**. This week is designed to bring you closer to one another and to Jesus Christ, and Camp Hope has an awesome assortment of activities. Information and registration forms are available through Youth or Children's Ministries and their pages on our website.

## Summer Hours

Starting on **Father's Day, June 19**, summer worship for both the **traditional service** (in the Meetinghouse) and the **Wind contemporary service** (in Keith Jones Hall) will be at **10:00 a.m.**

Starting **Monday, June 20**, weekday office hours will be 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Starting **June 17**, through **August 12**, the offices will be **closed every other Friday**.

The church will resume its regular schedule on **Rally Sunday, September 11**.

## Affiliation Vote

At our Annual Financial Meeting on June 5, the 2011-12 budget was discussed and accepted unanimously. Also, a vote was taken on whether or not to become affiliated with one or both of two organizations; neither passed, so First Church will remain unaffiliated. The Evangelical Assoc. of Reformed & Congregational Christian Church-

es received 80 Yes votes, 255 No votes, and 7 Abstentions. The Conservative Congregational Christian Conference received 64 Yes votes, 272 No votes, and 4 Abstentions.

## Summer Singing

You are cordially (*chord-ially*) invited to join the **Summer Ensemble**. From **July 3** through **August 14**, we will sing for the 10:00 a.m. traditional service, gathering at 9:00 a.m. in the choir loft. We sing easily attainable music (at least one anthem and several responses), and some past experience in choral singing would be helpful.

## Wayne Pierce's Symphony

On Saturday, May 7, I had the honor of attending the world premiere of **Symphony No. 1: Psalms and Dances** by our church member **Wayne Pierce**. Dr. Pierce was commissioned by the Farmington Symphony Orchestra to compose a work for

their thirtieth-anniversary celebration. Their conductor, **John Eels**, directed the orchestra and a combined chorus of several institutions. **David Baker**, who grew up in our church, was the tenor soloist, and **Louise Fauteux**, who has sung for our summer services, was the soprano soloist. The vocal part contained many scriptural passages from the Psalms. Congratulations, Wayne!

—*David Spicer*

## Summer Reading

Not meeting in June, the **Brown Baggers Book Club** will reconvene on **Monday, September 12**, at 6:30 p.m. in the Morgan House. Have a great summer and plan to join us in September for a stimulating discussion of the acclaimed new biography **Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy** by Eric Metaxas, who spoke at First Church a few years ago. For more information, call **Linda Papertsian** at 860-257-7566. And be sure to visit [www.ericmetaxas.com](http://www.ericmetaxas.com).

# A Partnership of Incalculable Value

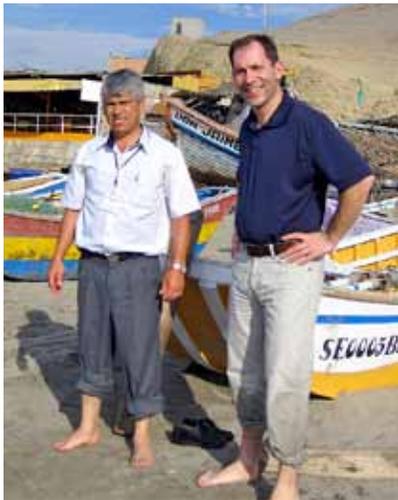
I remember the morning well. I was spending some time with God in the Scriptures when I started thinking about the day before me. Christy and I were in Peru and we were going to meet the church that morning. Questions swirled through my head: What would the church be like? What will the pastor be like? Will we agree on things? What surprises did God have in store?

The next day we left to come back home. As I said my good-byes, I knew I was saying goodbye to a new friend.

The church, **Iglesia Evangelica Pentecostal Misionera Templo Sión (Temple Zion)**, and its pastor, **Justiniano Rodas Cerna**, are in Barranca, Peru. Barranca is a three-hour drive north from Lima and is on the coast.

This church has a burning passion for Jesus and for the city. It was a joy to watch them worship. They give their lives to God and they trust He will provide. They wanted to reach out with the Gospel to the city. They discerned that the way God was leading them to do it was through children. Thus began their partnership with **Compassion**.

Compassion is an organization with a clear mission. In response to the Great Commission, Compassion International exists as an advocate for children, to release them from their spiritual, economic, social, and physical poverty and enable them to become responsible and fulfilled Christian adults.



Compassion is working alongside Temple Zion. Temple Zion has started an after-school program for more than 225 children. They teach the children about Jesus as well as important life skills.

One of the things I love about this church is how they have been good stewards of their God-given resources. They do not have much money, yet they gave sacrificially so that they could build another floor onto their

school building in order to reach more children. Even more than that, they have given of *themselves* toward this. The whole school is staffed by volunteers who work tirelessly for the children.



Some of you have asked me how we can partner with this church moving forward. One of the ways we can come alongside of them is by sponsoring some of the children that go to the school. Christy and I look forward to supporting some children and then seeing them in person. Also, we will have more trips to Peru so that we can spend time with Temple Zion and work alongside them for the Gospel.

I get excited when I think about what God could have in store for us in this relationship. He has told us in Ephesians that He can do far more abundantly than all we ask or think. Who knows what joyful surprises He has up His sleeve? —**Pastor Deryk**

For a very revealing article about this concept of relationship-based church partnerships, go to: [www.firstchurch.org/church2church](http://www.firstchurch.org/church2church). You will discover how God is changing lives and building His Kingdom worldwide in this remarkable way.

## Simultaneous Adult and Children's Classes On the Book of James, June 29 to August 31

### YOUTH AND ADULTS

What can we learn from a man nicknamed "Camel Knees" because of his love for being on his knees in prayer?

For one thing, a focus on the practical aspects of Christianity. Led by **Pastor Deryk**, join us this summer as we look at the letter written by Jesus' brother.

We will meet on **Wednesdays** in the Meetinghouse, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., from **June 29 to August 31**. To register for childcare (for those up to completed kindergarten), please call **Debbie Hertle** at 860-529-1575, ext. 303.

### CHILDREN

A children's Bible study, for those who have completed grade 1, 2, 3, or 4, will be held at the same time and dates as the adult study of James—6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays from June 29 through August 31—held in the CWC (Children's Worship Center) in the Marsh Building.

Guided by Kay Arthur's irresistible children's study of James entitled **Boy, Have I Got Problems!**, the Children's and Family Ministries team will lead this valuable class. And have your children bring their friends!

## 'God Provides' Video Series To Be Offered Twice

Through an engaging six-session video series featuring popular teacher Chip Ingram, participants will look at humankind's struggle with relying on God for their needs, and not themselves or the world. Entitled **God Provides**, the series uses biblical accounts to reveal God and His desire to be our ultimate provider. Following each video, there will be time for discussion.

Choose either **June 22 through July 27** or **August 3 through September 7**, meeting **Wednesday** nights in the Worship Room, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Study guides, though not required, are available for \$4.

For more information, please call **Marilyn** at 860-529-1575, ext. 213.

## BOOK OF LIFE

### ENTERED ETERNAL LIFE

Robert Travis Greer, June 1, 2011

Perry Hamlin Cornwall Jr., June 3, 2011

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

### BORN

Kristian Alfred Anderson, son of Erik and Sarah (Phillips) Anderson, April 20, 2011

Garrett Joseph Scalercio and Gavin Russell Scalercio, sons of Joseph and Kelly (Willard) Scalercio, May 12, 2011

### DEDICATED

Heather Joylin Voth, daughter of Greg A. and Ellen Gilson Voth, May 14, 2011

### UNITED IN MARRIAGE

Christopher David Emmens and Stephanie Christine Nagle, May 29, 2011

## 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: [info@firstchurch.org](mailto:info@firstchurch.org)

### Sunday Worship Summer Times

Traditional Service in the Meetinghouse:  
10:00 a.m.

Wind Contemporary Service  
in Keith Jones Hall: 10:00 a.m.

### First Church on Facebook

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

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

Uplifting Messages

Provided by Caring Ministries

### 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.

Atessa M. Afshar .....	Associate Minister
Linda T. Jackson.....	Church Administrator
Wayne E. Luman.....	Director of Caring Ministries
Marcia McCann .....	Interim Dir. of Children's & Family Min.
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 September issue of *The Spire*, which will be mailed/emailed on Sept. 7, must be submitted to Dave Gilbert by noon on Monday, Aug. 15, at [daveg@firstchurch.org](mailto:daveg@firstchurch.org) or 860-529-1575, ext. 225.

**DATED MATERIAL**  
Mailed June 15, 2011

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# Robin Mark In Concert

International Christian recording and concert artist **Robin Mark** will present a concert of worship and praise in our Meetinghouse at 7:00 p.m. on **Saturday, July 2**, accompanied by members of our Wind band. A widely acclaimed songwriter and worship leader, among his best-known songs are *Days of Elijah*, *Revival*, and *Not By Might*.

In addition, Mark will offer a full-day workshop—9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.—on the same day as the concert. His workshop will be of greatest interest to worship leaders, worship teams, and all who are interested in leading worship.

These are **ticketed events** and may sell out quickly. Concert tickets are \$20, workshop \$35, and a combination ticket is \$50, all available through the Ministry of Music and the Arts, at 860-529-1575, ext. 209.

Robin Mark is a man with a humble heart and a burning desire to use his gifts for the glory of God. He grew up in Northern Ireland and is still based in Belfast, where he attends Christian Fellowship Church.

Mark's 1999 live album *Revival in Belfast* became a worldwide bestseller. To date he has released 13 albums, with sales of over two million. In recognition of his global impact, he was presented the 2006 GMA Inter-



national Award before a large audience that included Stephen Curtis Chapman, Michael W. Smith, and Amy Grant.

Available for purchase at both events will be Mark's latest CDs, a special Belfast concert DVD, and his new book about the importance of worship, *Warrior Poets of the 21st Century*—which reveals how, through a deeper understanding of worship, each of us can make a vital difference in our society.

## Your Contact Info in Our Pictorial Directory

For our new pictorial directory, First Church will provide Olan Mills with information on members and on any non-members whose photos are included. **Our last directory** included names (or nicknames, if we had them on record), home phone numbers, home addresses, and the names of children in each household. **If you do not want parts of this information included in your entry, please call Marilyn, at 860-529-1575, ext. 213, by Wednesday, July 6.** Our plan is for these details to also be placed on a members-only page of our website, viewable only with a special password.

### NEW PHOTOGRAPHY DATES ADDED!

We have just added new appointment slots—for **Friday and Saturday, July 8 and 9**—which can be reserved in the Wells Area after services on June 19 or 26, or by contacting Olan Mills directly at 1-800-866-2263 or [www.signup.olanmills.com](http://www.signup.olanmills.com).

If you cannot work out an Olan Mills appointment, **Dave Gilbert** will be happy to take a casual directory photo for you. Meet him in the Parlor in the hour before or the hour after services on **June 26 or July 10**.

**Questions?** Please email our coordinator, **Anne Kelly**, at [annemkelly@mac.com](mailto:annemkelly@mac.com).