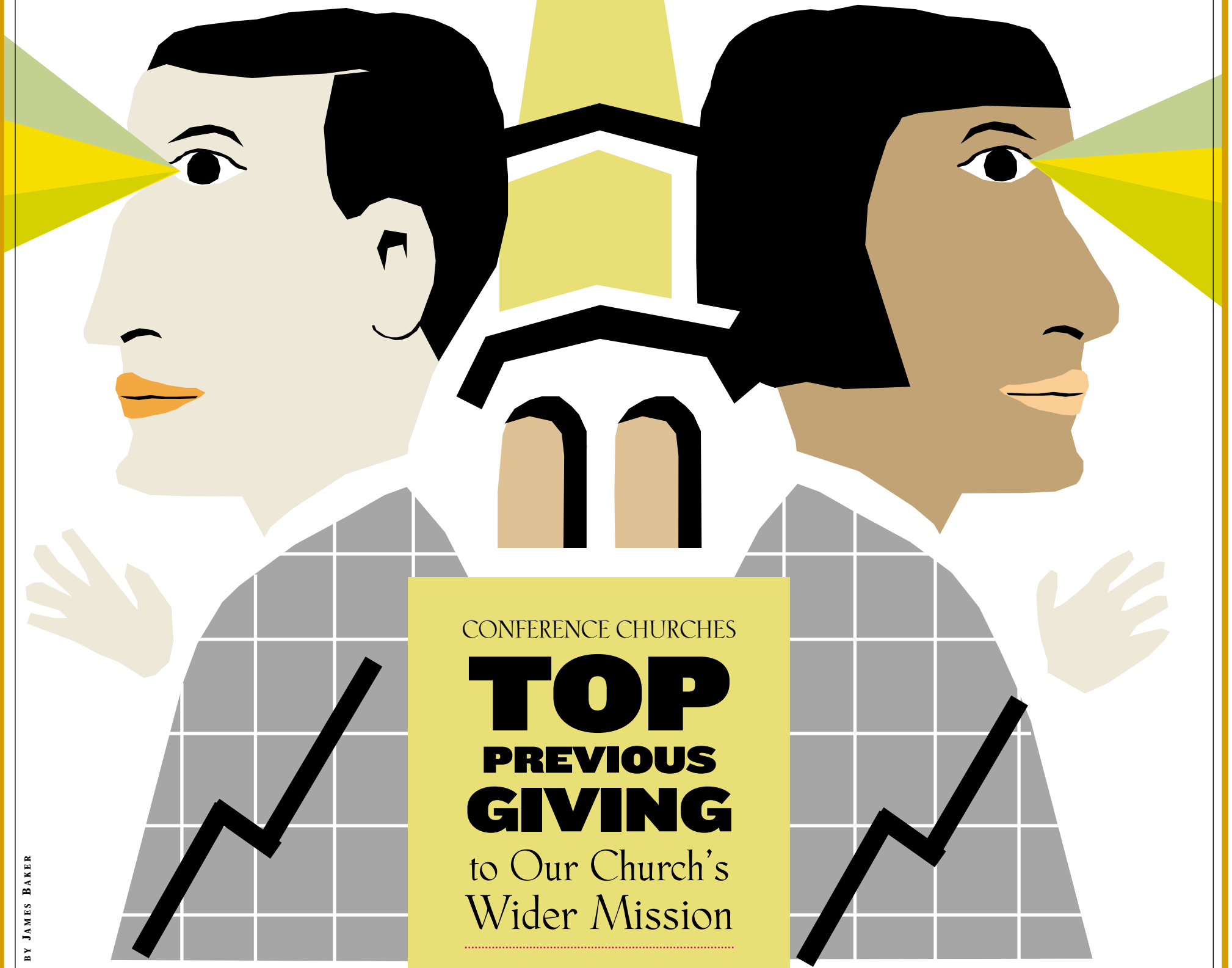


# ConnTact

United  
Church  
News



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CONFERENCE CHURCHES

## TOP PREVIOUS GIVING

to Our Church's  
Wider Mission

3

ILLUSTRATION BY JAMES BAKER

# Belief Matters



The Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree, Conference Minister

It really does matter what you believe.

I have heard so many people say, "It doesn't matter what you believe, as long as you believe something." Hogwash!

It matters a lot if you believe that your religious way is the only way. It matters if you are convinced that God rewards the righteous with wealth. It certainly matters if your vision of the

world is fraught with images of dominance.

On the other hand, it makes a difference if you believe that others have wisdom to offer, from which you might learn. And if you are convinced that God judges us by what we do with our wealth to establish justice for the poor. And if your vision

of the world is filled with images of peace, then you will live with hope, and perhaps a measure of joy each day.

So I find myself wondering these days what the former executives of Enron believe. Are they people of faith? Some of them must be. How did they reconcile their actions with their faith? Did they even try?

It is, unfortunately, easy to segment our lives in the context of this culture. So not only the executives

of Enron, but also millions of others, attend religious services on the weekend but do not apply the teachings during the week. It is not easy to do, but in our understanding of the Christian faith, it is required of us. Faithfulness to God's call

requires that we always conduct our daily work with integrity and honesty, with concern for the impact of our decisions on the poor and the disen-

franchised. To do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God, that is our call. And not just on Sundays.

If you have been to our Conference Annual Meeting over the past four years, you've seen some wonderful, positive examples of people who are living out our UCC ethos. The Laity Award each year lifts up a person or persons who have gone out of their way to make a difference in God's world.

In recent years, the Laity Award has gone to Cameron Staples, Robbins and Meg Barstow, the Cloud family, Chris Cox, and last year to Samantha Leathers.

Do you know someone who exemplifies their faith in their daily life? If so, please write to the Conference Board of Directors (at 125 Sherman Street, Hartford, CT 06105) to nominate her or him

for the 2002 Laity Award.

It matters what you believe. And how you live it.

**What (did) the former executives of Enron believe? Are they people of faith? Some of them must be. How did they reconcile their actions with their faith? Did they even try?**

# Iconoclasm Revisited

Have you ever noticed that in most Congregational UCC churches, the cross – if there is one – doesn't usually dominate the meetinghouse landscape? There is a good explanation for this, going back to the Reformation. In their zeal the reformers were dramatically (and literally) iconoclastic: they destroyed what they perceived as idolatrous images that were being venerated by worshippers. Not only were crucifixes banned, but stained glass was shattered, ornate paintings were excised from sanctuaries, the altar was eliminated, and entire cathedrals were razed. The theological basis was that people had begun to treat objects as idols.

That is the reason we have a communion table, not an altar; 18th-century meetinghouses that are simple and rectangular, not cruciform; clergy in academic robes, not clerical vestments.

I find splendid beauty in the simplicity of a white clapboard meetinghouse with clear panes of glass, which enable us to look out to God's world. Some will say that our Puritan and Separatist forbears went too far, and I agree. When I was a student at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland – a town alive with the history of the Scottish Reformation – I often walked through the ruins of St. Andrews Cathedral, which had been the largest north of the Alps when it was built. Architectural and artistic

heritage was diverted when reformers scrapped it.

When the Taliban destroyed the immense statues of the Buddha in Afghanistan, I could not help but think of our own tradition's elimination of anything that smelled like "popery."

That said, I also strongly support our Reformed heritage that invites lay participation in communion; invests administrative power in the people; looks out to the world, asking what we might do to help bring in the kingdom here and now. Above my desk hangs a large poster of an icon, celebrating a thousand years of Christianity in Russia. I appreciate it as art, and I can feel the love and faith that its "writer" projects. But for me, it isn't an object of veneration.

It was less than a hundred years ago that Episcopal priests faced away from the congregation when celebrating communion. And I've noticed on several occasions in our UCC churches that some of our clergy sometimes show reverence to the cross at the front of the chancel. It might be at the beginning of worship, when clergy pause before the cross (and even bow, as if reserved sacrament was kept in a tabernacle, as it is in Catholic churches) or during the singing of the doxology when they turn and look at the cross. I confess that it bothers me. (I'm getting in touch with my "Inner New Englander," and I know I'm going to get some angry letters.) We are proclaiming glory to the Creator, the Christ, and the Spirit: not to the cross.

Like all symbols, the cross is endowed with a "surplus of meaning," in the words of philosopher Paul Ricoeur. To you, the cross might suggest crucifixion, or death, or capital punishment, or oppression. To me it might mean resurrection, or new life, or

release, or liberation. In our tradition, we use the cross as a symbol, we have access to its power as a sign that points beyond itself to profound truths. It is neither an icon nor an idol.

## • United Church News •

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# Connecticut Churches Top Previous OCWM Giving

Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) is the program that enables you as a local church member to extend your reach and support the mission and ministry of the United Church of Christ beyond the local church.

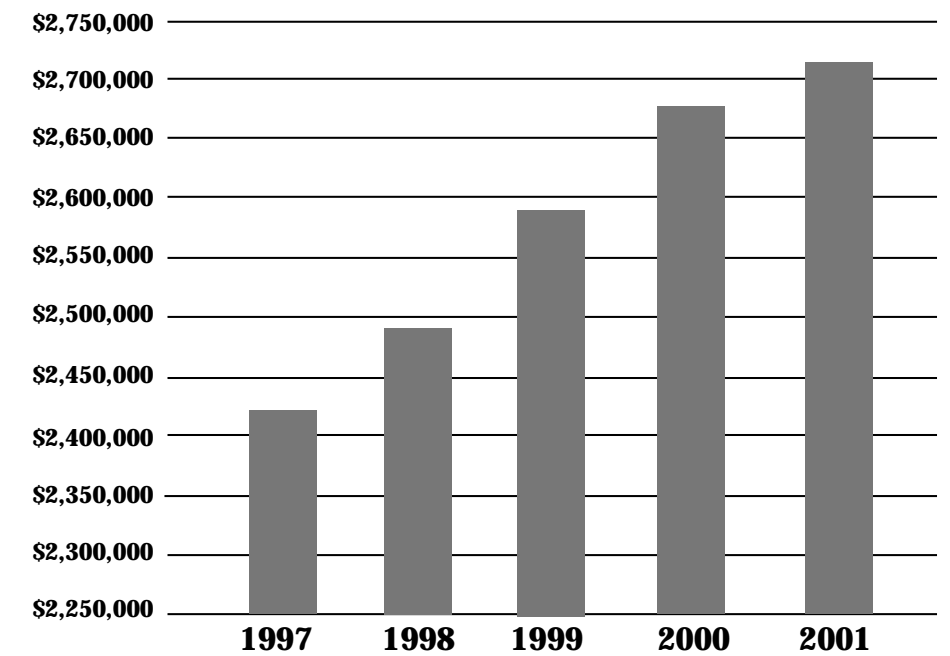
Your congregation's giving to Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support is the primary means of supporting your denomination; there are no mandated fees to be part of the United Church of Christ, as there are in other churches.

Our Church's Wider Mission is at work on your behalf throughout the state, across the nation, and around the globe. Missionaries are at work on your behalf around the world as local church pastors, teachers, and healthcare workers. Because of your gifts to OCWM, three new missionaries from the UCC/Disciples Global Ministries are working in South Africa educating people about AIDS prevention.

The churches of the Connecticut Conference in 2001 gave more than \$2.7 million to Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support – the program that enables mission and ministry here in Connecticut, across the nation, and around the globe. Of that total, 63 percent has been sent to support the UCC nationally and globally, while 37 percent is at work here in Connecticut.

"We missed our goal by less than one percent," says the Rev. Hal Chorpenning, Assoc. Conference Minister for Wider Church Ministries, "but at the same time, congregations increased overall giving by roughly \$30,000. What's more, designated mission giving grew by more than \$200,000 last year, to over \$800,000 – primarily to Hope from the Rubble and the Afghan Appeal. 2001 was an unusual year in many ways, and I give thanks to our churches for responding so faithfully."

## OCWM Giving 1997–2001



When the Conference helped start the First Korean UCC in West Hartford, your reach was extended to help. In only two years, the congregation has grown from 0 to 40 members. When your congregation discovers a new UCC Sunday School curriculum or calls a new pastor or sends deacons to a training event or sends kids to Silver Lake or reads Contact, you can see your reach being extended through Our Church's Wider Mission. Without you, none of it would be possible.

How much should your church give? That's up to you. As a guideline, in 1994, local church delegates to the Connecticut Conference Annual Meeting suggested that each local church should give a minimum of ten percent of its annual operating expenses to support the ministry and mission of the church through Our Church's Wider Mission. Thanks to you, and thanks be to God for all the gifts we receive and share.

# First Church Middletown Becomes First Colombia Partnership Church

BY DEBORAH BLOOD

Howard Thody had no idea that attending the Connecticut Conference Annual Meeting in Waterbury would change his life and lead his church into a new adventure in mission, but it did. His church, the First Church of Christ, Congregational, in Middletown, recently voted to become a partner church in the Connecticut Conference Partnership with the Mennonite Church in Colombia, South America. They are the first Connecticut congregation to answer the call into relationship with our Colombian sisters and brothers – and they have accepted the challenge of paving the way for others.

Colombia. Esquivia spoke of decades of civil war that have resulted in the displacement of more than 2 million people from their homes – of herbicide spraying intended for coca crops that instead kills the food crops meant to support families – of violence that permeates the lives of vast numbers of campesinos (peasants) throughout the country. And he also spoke of the wishes and hopes for peace and justice that are fostered by the Mennonite Church in Colombia.

What Thody did was drive from Waterbury in tears to his minister's (Rev. Sandra Olsen) home, unable to understand what was happening to him, but knowing that he "had to do something" about the situation in Colombia. Through Hal Chorpenning and Kent Siladi, Thody

contacted Witness for Peace, an agency that leads trips to Colombia and other Latin American countries, and advocates for changes in US policies in the Americas. He was a member of a 100 person fact-finding delegation to Colombia in March 2001. Thody reports that the First Church of Christ was a tremendous support to him in making the decision to embark on such an adventure. Once its members understood the strength of his call to become involved, the congregation provided both financial and personal resources, including much prayer.

According to members of First Church, Thody came back a changed person. His passion for justice and for working in solidarity with our Colombian sisters and brothers has inspired many. Although Witness for Peace urged a political approach to advocacy, Thody realized that he had been nurtured and nourished from childhood by the congregation at First Church, and that his loyalty is to the church that gave him the opportunity to answer the call to go to Colombia.

First Church is very committed to mission work, but the Colombian Partnership will extend their experi-

ence into the international arena. Their Colombian Partnership Committee is comprised of seven members: Rev. Sandra Olsen, Susan Brown, Jennifer Jasenski, Wally Many, Robert Hickcox, Lyn Shaw, and Howard Thody, Chair. Some have worked on local peace and justice issues before. Some have traveled or lived in Latin America. Some speak Spanish. None of them has extensive knowledge about Colombia, but all said "yes" without hesitation when asked to serve. There is a distinct sense of purpose among the members of this fledgling committee, even as they begin to learn about the Colombian political situation and become educated about the lives of our Colombian friends. At a recent meeting, Wally Many spoke for the whole group when he said that theology and faith must be acted out in the world. It is clear that the members of the First Church of Christ, Congregational are ready to act on their beliefs.

If you would like more information on the Colombian Partnership, contact Deborah Blood, the intern for the Partnership at [deborahb@ctucc.org](mailto:deborahb@ctucc.org) or at 860.233.5564 x 707.

# Reflection

BY AMY ALBRECHT

would interfere greatly with our plans for that night. However, we immediately and unanimously decided that we should visit the World Trade Center Site regardless. It wasn't exactly that we wanted to go, but we felt we needed to go.

Saturday night we walked toward the site and found the end of the line – five blocks away from the viewing platform. When I first heard that they were building a platform and using tickets I was shocked because it seemed like destruction was being turned into a show to see. However, it isn't as much about seeing as it is about being there, about being. A line of people, five blocks long, filled the sidewalk to be there, to make their peace.

As we got closer to the site there was a church with a black iron fence all the way

On Saturday morning we went to get tickets for viewing the World Trade Center site, only to discover that the time available to us

City. The journey started when we each learned about the attack. The hope was that at the site, that it would come to some sort of end.

When we reached the top of the platform many people were around me, but in the moment that I looked over the edge of the railing I felt alone. I was surprised to see that there were no heaps of rubble or piles of steel and concrete. Instead, there was just an empty space surrounded by tall buildings and a hovering crane. Until this point I have called it the World Trade Center site, because it wasn't until I stood there that I understood what Ground Zero meant. Nothingness. It was almost unreal how the other buildings formed walls and towered over this space. It didn't make sense to me how this space could be so empty. It isn't easy to explain, but I couldn't grasp it. The space had birthed pain and hate; we had just been told that 21 bodies had been found in the past two days. I couldn't imagine that two of the world's largest buildings had been there. I remembered the night at youth group meeting where I learned that we had bombed Afghanistan. This space looked like the hole I felt in my heart at that moment. But then, I suddenly realized that this wasn't an empty hole at all. It was a bowl: like two cupped hands holding God's love. I stepped away from the platform.

Later, as I thought about this and wrote about this experience, the words of a song by George Harrison floated through my head and heart:

*Little Darling, it's been a long, cold, lonely winter*

*Little Darling, it feels like years since it's been here.*

*Here comes the sun. Here comes the sun, and I say, it's alright.*

*Little Darling, the smiles returning to their faces,*

*Little Darling, it seems like years since it's been here.*

*Here comes the sun. Here comes the sun and I say, it's alright...*

*Little Darling, I feel that ice is slowly melting,*

*Little Darling, it seems like years since it's been clear.*

*Here comes the sun. Here comes the sun and I say, it's alright.*

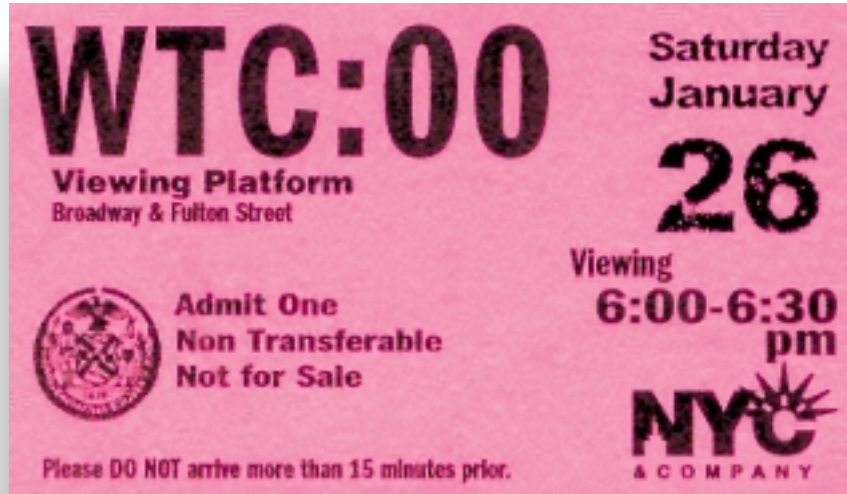
*Here comes the sun.*

*It's alright.*

*It's alright.*

*Amy Albrecht is a 17-year-old high school student and a member of the Center Congregational Church of Manchester, Conn. With the Rev. Susan Murtha-Smith, Amy traveled to Ground Zero with other young people from the church, and she wrote this reflection for Sunday worship at Center Church in February.*

around the yard. The fence was entirely covered with pictures, tributes, flowers, banners, prayers, and memories. After more than four months, this wall of love has remained. Walking along this wall and up the ramp to the platform was the final length of our road to the site. However, the path we had taken there wasn't just in that distance – the path wasn't in the last five blocks or the subway ride to lower Manhattan or even the road from Manchester Connecticut to New York



## The Public Education Advocacy Group of the Connecticut Conference UCC presents a Consultation on Religious Expression and Public Schools

### Keynote speaker: Barry Lynn

Executive Director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State

**Date:** Sunday, April 28, 2002 2-6 PM

**Cost:** \$10 including supper

**Host:** North Haven Congregational Church  
28 Church Street

### Breakout Sessions:

- Vouchers and the Cleveland Case—Barry Lynn
- Religion in Public Schools—A Primer—Marsha Moses, Esq. and Rabbi Eric Polokoff representing The Connecticut Interfaith Coalition on Religious Freedom
- Financing of Public Education as a Justice/Religious Issue – Janice Resseger, Minister for Public Education and Witness, United Church of Christ
- Faith Communities and Public Schools: Creative Coexistence Rev. Richard Griffis, recent Interim Director of the Capitol Region Conference of Churches and Rev. William Warner-Prouty, Teacher and Social Studies Coordinator at Sage Park Middle School in Windsor

For more information contact Cecile Gilson 860/233-5564 ext. 120 or [cecileg@ctucc.org](mailto:cecileg@ctucc.org)

# Tears, Touch, Taste: Fairfield Clergy Revisit Loss



From left: Dr. Joe Neville, Regional Conference Minister, Western Region, CT Conference UCC; Rev. Ute Molitor, Community of Hope UCC Madison, VT and Dr. Mark Burrows, Professor of the History of Christianity, Andover Newton Theological School

BY SUZI TOWNSLEY

"Do you ever read the last page of a book to find out how it will end?" Mark Burrows, Professor of the History of Christianity at Andover Newton Theological School, suggested that we might prepare for Lent and Easter by reading the end first. "Not the end at the cross, not even the empty tomb, but the resurrection stories at the end."

At an event held for the clergy of the Fairfield East and West Associations, and initiated by Regional Minister Joe Neville, participants were invited into a time of exploration. Though not explicitly geared toward the losses of September 11, an undercurrent of those events could be sensed.

In the soft, golden, stained-glass-filtered light of First Church Fairfield's historic Webb Room, about thirty UCC pastors and students-in-care considered three resurrection stories at the end of John's gospel, stories of tears (20:11-18), of touching (20:19-29) and of tasting (21:1-14).

Burrows encourages a close reading of these stories to work against the "culture of trance that anesthetizes us to the world. If we loose the depths we loose the heights."

Burrows considers the soul the place where we embody desire. "Where we lead our body shows our desire." And in these stories the desire is seen in the tears, touching, and tasting.

"It is a modern problem to figure out how a body can carry God." Burrows commented. "Not just how Jesus' body carried God, but how our own bodies carry God or carry us to God." In these stories, the tears, the touching, and the tasting become the portals of connection between the human and the divine.

The Rev. Heather Hopkins was struck by the ancient image of tears as a sign of prayer. "I've heard pastoral prayers that never name pain or suffering or loss." Hopkins commented.

Burrows brought poets words to mingle with the scripture texts, reading from Archibald MacLeish, William Stafford, and Denise Levertov. These words of Wendell Berry gave company to the desires and pain uncovered in the resurrection stories:

"For parents, the only way/is hard. We who give life/give pain. There is no help./ Yet we who give pain/ give love; by pain we learn/ the extremity of love."

Susie Wagner, who has been Burrows's student at Andover Newton, was impressed with how he geared the presentation to parish ministry. "Mark is so rooted in poetry and the mystics, but he always brings it back to the scripture and to our lives of faith. It's not just an intellectual exercise with him; it touches your heart."

"Lent is a time to think about, not what we have to give up, but what we have to give." Burrows remarked. Participants were left to reflect on how tears, touch, and taste are among what we have to give.

*The Rev. Suzi Townsley lives in Norwalk and is a frequent contributor to Contact.*

## News From Connecticut Women of the United Church of Christ

### "VINE OF LIFE, BRANCHES OF SPIRIT"

It's not too late to register for CELEBRATION VI, "VINE OF LIFE BRANCHES OF SPIRIT". This inspirational conference for women will be held in Burlington, VT at the Sheraton Conference Center from March 15-17, 2002. Thought provoking keynoters, exciting workshops, inspirational luncheons & breakfasts and time to meet old friends and join new friends in fellowship are planned. A bus will transport women from CT and total expected cost is less than \$300.00. Call the CT Women secretary, Pam DiDio for a registration form or for more information at 1-866-367-2822, ext. 101. Do it now, we want YOU to join in this worthwhile experience!

### CT WOMEN WEB PAGE

NEWS FLASH!!!! Connecticut Women of the United Church of Christ now have a web page! Those of you who have web access can find us at [www.ctucc.org/people/CTWomen](http://www.ctucc.org/people/CTWomen). Mission Statement, State Board Members, and other points of interest are found there. We hope to establish an "Events Listing" soon on our web page. We would like to thank Eric Anderson for this addition to our publicity roster. Other ways for women to get information about CT Women include calling the CT Conference toll free number, 866-367-2822. Secretary, Pam DiDio can be reached at ext. 101 and CT Women President, Susan Waldron can be reached at ext. 118.

Messages left at either extension will be answered as soon as possible. In the future, we will be setting up a dial up phone number so anyone with telephone service can learn about up-coming events statewide, district wide or locally. Check us out, and make suggestions for additions to this valuable resource.

# Current Policies Threaten Faith-based Refugee Resettlement

BY LINDA CARLETON

One of the many casualties of September 11 has been the American refugee resettlement program. Refugee arrivals were halted on September 11, and President Bush did not sign the executive order to resume the program until the end of November.

At that time, he made a commitment to admit 70,000 refugees for resettlement in the United States during the current fiscal year. This number presents a 12 percent decline from FY 2001, but it now seems unlikely that the United States will admit even half of this number due to bureaucratic delays.

The Departments of State and Justice have pursued policies that, by their own admission, will result in fewer than 50,000 vulnerable people reaching

safe haven here. The revised security review of refugee cases approved prior to September 11 has already caused months of delay, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service has not yet resumed interviews and processing of new cases in most parts of the world. If processing does not begin immediately, it is unlikely that we will welcome even half the number to which President Bush has committed us.

The impact of this delay has been devastating. Refugees who have been approved for resettlement have been returned to camps, and hundreds of thousands await the chance to apply for admission to the United States. Furthermore, the refugee resettlement program that has been in place for over twenty years faces a serious threat.

The very survival of the Immigration and Refugee Program of Church World Service and the refugee resettlement program of the Wider Church Ministries of the UCC depends upon President Bush fulfilling his commitment. Should this infrastructure collapse, whatever refugee resettlement remains will likely be carried out through federal and state government bureaucracies. Faith-based refugee resettlement and church sponsorship, which provides support for so many vulnerable people, will end. If the number of refugee admissions stays permanently low, national and regional agencies will not be viable. No longer will we be able to fulfill our biblical mandate to welcome the stranger.

Interfaith Refugee Ministry, the Connecticut affiliate for the refugee program of the UCC Wider Church Ministries, is encouraging local UCC congregations to take a strong advocacy stand in behalf of resuming refugee resettlement. Although we are supportive of the need to implement reasonable security measures in this troublesome time, it is very important that the United States set an example for the rest of the world by maintaining an open door to those people fleeing persecution. We must keep in mind that refugees already go through the most stringent processing of any class of immigrants and that none of the known terrorists to date have been refugees. Indeed, refugees are people fleeing from the same terror that we oppose.

Unless the Departments of State and Justice resume refugee processing soon, many thousands of people will lose the chance to find freedom in America and faith-based refugee resettlement may suffer irreparable harm. Please demand that the Administration live up to the President's commitment. Interfaith Refugee Ministry can provide you with information, sample advocacy letters and speakers on this crucial issue.

*The Rev. Linda Carleton is an ordained UCC minister and member of the First Congregational Church of Guilford. You can reach her at 203.562.2095 or novadomus@aol.com.*

## PILGRIMS & PARISHES • EDITED BY JEAN HAMILTON

### Newtown

The Cornerstone Thrift Shop at Congregational Church recently celebrated their 10th year of service to the community. Over the ten years close to 150 people have volunteered their time, \$297,500 was contributed to the church's budget and countless people have been given a source of low cost, high quality clothing, housewares, linens, toys and other items.

### Trumbull

Congregational Church had a Twelfth Night Celebration that included tree burning, carol singing and refreshments. Everyone was invited to bring trees, greens, friends, relatives and neighbors to the event.

### Middletown

South Congregational Church had an exhibit entitled Cartoons for the New Century. Bob Englehart displayed some of his editorial cartoons and offered copies for sale to raise funds for the restoration of stained glass window in the chancel.

### Torrington

United Congregational Church was considering offering a course pertaining to the similarities and differences between congregationalism and the United Church of Christ. Some questions considered for discussion centered

around worship, authority, the assimilation of members of other traditions and the role of the minister.

### North Haven

Congregational Church offered an adult program in Affirming Faith. It was a shortened version of the confirmation program tailored for adults. It provided an opportunity for adults to learn about the basics of Christianity and the faith of the Congregational Church/United Church of Christ.

### South Windsor

The Junior and Senior Pilgrim Fellowships of Wapping Community Church challenged the rest of the church to match them hour for hour in service to the church. There was a work day scheduled to paint, build shelves, and clean closets. The day was followed by pizza.

### Woodbridge

First Church of Christ held a Family Fun night. The Men's Fellowship cooked a delicious spaghetti dinner and the Women's Fellowship provided a Talent Show.

### Farmington

First Church invited all guitarists to an informal jam session. Every one of all ages and abilities were invited to bring their guitars and favorite songs to share.

### Hartford

Asylum Hill Congregational Church offered a course entitled "Who Are the Mormons?" Since the Winter Olympics will be held in Salt Lake City it is a good time to answer questions (Ken Burns style) about the Mormons and what they believe and practice.

### New Britain

South Church held a Star Gift Sunday. Epiphany stargifts were given during worship. The stargift provides a trait or attribute for consideration in the coming year. The gifts may confirm a gift all ready possessed or a challenge of growth in a new direction for the upcoming year.

### Groton

First Congregational Church holds a Second Sunday Brunch after church. Various committees and individuals host each brunch providing fellowship, friendship and food on the Second Sunday of each month.

### New Britain

First Church Gallery will have a series of exhibits during 2002. They include "Enchanted Children" an exhibit of portraits which capture the dreams and wonders of childhood., works in pastels and poetry reading.

## CLASSIFIEDS

### Positions

**BLOOMFIELD** — First Congregational Church of Bloomfield-Youth Music Director position available. Rehearse with Cherub and Junior Choirs on Sundays from 9 AM to 10 AM. Successful candidate must be able to play piano for rehearsals. Accompanist is available for worship services. Contact: Church Office 860-242-0776 [5/02]

**CHESTER** — The United Church of Chester is seeking an enthusiastic part time organist/choir director for its adult choir. Major responsibilities include 10 am Sunday service. Flexible schedule- usually rehearsals before and after service plus seasonal weekday evening. Fun-loving, loyal choir members. Very fine organ and baby grand piano. Excellent salary. Contact: Organist Search Committee, United Church of Chester, PO Box 383, Chester, CT 06412 Call the church for more details. 860-526-2697. [4/02]

**COLUMBIA** — Columbia Congregational Church is seeking an Organist/Choir director to enhance worship with spirit-filled music. Applicants should be familiar with traditional and some contemporary music. Would direct adult choir (20-25), and children's choir (10-15). American Organ Builders electronic organ with 2 manuals and a set of chimes. 15 hrs. per week. Salary is \$11,000-13,250, commensurate with experience. Would be considered for regular position if desired. Contact: David Pearce at (860) 228-4669 or husky58@yahoo.com [4/02]

**HARTFORD** — Youth Ministries Specialist sought to serve as a resource to the churches of the CT Conference with a major emphasis on initiating and strengthening the youth ministries of local congregations and conference-wide. The position will be for 21 hours per week and will replace the three seven hour regional positions. For a complete job description and to apply please contact the office of the Rev. Kathy Peters, Associate Conference Minister for Local Church Ministries at 125 Sherman Street Hartford 06105. Telephone: 860-233-5564 Ext. 121. E-mail kathy@ctucc.org

**NEW BRITAIN** — South Congregational-First Baptist Church seeks a Minister of Christian Education for children, youth and adults. Plan, develop, and administer overall educational ministry in an urban church with a heart for the city. Lay or ordained candidates with experience in education send resume to South Church. Contact: 90 Main Street, New Britain, CT 06051 Attn: Search Committee; MceSearch@southchurch.org [5/02]

**NORTH GUILFORD** — The Congregational Church is seeking a half time (approx. 20 hrs/wk) Director of Christian Education. Dynamic individual will direct growth and development of Christian Education program. Responsibilities include church school and involvement in youth and family ministry. ACE certification or equivalent preferred. \$13,000-\$15,000/ year Contact: Annis Homer c/o North Guilford Congregational Church 159 Ledge Rd. North Guilford, CT 06437 Fax 203-457-0657 [5/02]

**SOMERS** — Congregational Church is seeking an Organist and/or Choir

Director. There are two Sunday Service, holidays and special services. The organ is a two Manual Casavant Pipe Organ. Sr. Choir, children's choirs and a bell choir participate in the services. Contact: 860-763-4021 or SomersCong@aol.com [5/02]

**TERRYVILLE** — Director of Christian Education sought for a viable and growing church community. Responsibilities include preparing special events, teaching materials, and selecting curriculum. Working in conjunction with the Board of Christian Education in recruiting, training and supporting teachers and youth advisors. Flexible, 25-hour week includes Sundays, 40 weeks with Vacation Bible School. ACE training or equivalent preferred. Contact: DCE Terryville Congregational Church, 233 Main St. Terryville, CT 06786. (860) 589-0182. [5/02]

**THOMASTON** — First Congregational Church is seeking a part time Youth Director for newly developing youth ministry program. Approximately ten hours per week. Must have some youth ministry experience. Please send resume and brief statement of belief. Contact: First Congregational Church, 135 Main Street, Thomaston, CT 06787 c/o Youth Director Search Committee first.congregational@snet.net or Carol Pytel, 860-283-4937 [5/02]

**TOLLAND** — United Congregational Church is seeking a part time Director of Youth Fellowships. This new position will provide leadership for the Junior and Senior PF's. Both groups currently meet on Sundays and lay leadership is in place. The director would have over-all responsibility. Position description and

salary information available. Contact: Director of Youth Fellowships Search Committee PO Box 160 Tolland, CT 06084 united.cong.church01@snet.net [5/02]

**WEST HARTFORD** — Westminster Presbyterian Church is searching for a full-time Director of Christian Education. The DCE will be responsible for the development and direction of: Christian Education opportunities for all ages, activities for youth in mission, training and ongoing support for volunteers, selection of curriculum and resources, and participation or support in worship services. Candidates must possess an Associate degree or higher in an education of Christian studies related field, or equivalent experience. This full-time position offers a competitive salary and benefits. Contact: Chair, DCE Search Committee, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2080 Boulevard, West Hartford, CT 06107 Fax 860-521-5733 or email Jcozzolongo@attbi.com [5/02]

Sell or Give

**GROTON** — First Church of Christ has for sale 90 copies of the hymnal "Hymns For the Family of God". They are red and in good condition. Copyright 1976 by Paragon Association, Inc. Contact: 860-445-7409, FirstChurch@AOL.com [5/02]

**NEW MILFORD** — The First Congregational Church has 60 stackable chairs free for the taking. Chrome and black molded plastic. Contact: church@nmchurch.org or 860-354-8232 [5/02]

## Local Church Ministries: Here to Serve You!

Local Church Ministries in the Connecticut Conference has a wide variety of resources available to you the members and staffs of local churches.

Call us toll free at 1-866 FOR CUCC (1-866-367-2822) or locally 860-233-5564.

When you don't know where your need fits!!

WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU IN YOUR MINISTRY!

### Ruth Dudley Resource Center

Amy Beveridge, Director amy@ctucc.org phone ext. 104 For Print and Video Resources for adult, youth and children in worship, education and fellowship settings.

### Programs and Resources

Sarah Annis, Coordinator saraha@ctucc.org phone ext 117 For Print, Program, People and Pamphlet Resources on issues involved in the Local Church (the daily life of your church), Wider Church (beyond your backyard) and Justice and Witness (legislative and justice concerns)

### Local Church Ministries

The Rev. Kathy Peters kathy@ctucc.org phone ext 121

### For People resources: Partners in Education

consulting on topics around curriculum selection, setting educational goals, teacher trainer, adult ed., faith development, etc.

### Consultants to Congregations

strategic planning, conflict management, wellness consultations

### Youth Ministry

establishing and/or revitalizing youth ministry in the local church

### Partnering local churches

with other local churches with mutual needs!

## EVENTS

March 2 4-5 PM • Immanuel Congregational Church  
10 Woodland St. Hartford • Immanuel UCC Ministry of  
Healing • A service of healing will be held in the sanc-  
tuary. The service is open to all who seek healing in  
any aspect of your life: mind, body, spirit or relation-  
ship. Join them for prayer, meditation, anointing with  
healing oil and the laying on of hands. Contact: 860-  
527-8121

Saturday, March 2, 2002 9 AM - 3 PM • Ingraham  
House Bristol, CT • The Bitter Cup Faith in less than  
perfect times • A retreat for laity on faith in these times  
led by Rev. Susan Townsley, Keynote speaker Rev.  
Cynthia Terry. The program is open to all but is  
designed to be attentive to the needs of laypersons  
serving, working and worshipping in the local church.  
Cost: \$40 includes lunch, scholarship help available  
Contact: Sarah Annis saraha@ctucc.org

March 6, 13 & 20 5:45 PM - 8 PM • First Church of  
Christ Glastonbury 2183 Main St. • Lenten Series 2002  
Race and Faith • The Lenten Series begins on February  
27th through March 20th. A soup supper followed by  
Family Worship will precede Rev. John Selders taking a  
provocative look at faith tradition's history and it's  
implications for the future regarding race and racism.  
Contact: Margie 633-4641 ext. 113

Friday-Sunday, March 8-10, 2002 • Immanuel  
Congregational Church, Hartford • Renewing the  
World Through Worship • A weekend with Marva  
Dawn and John Ferguson, singing the Lord's song in a  
strange new world, strengthening collaborations  
between clergy and musicians, integrating new sounds  
and styles into traditional worship, opening worship to  
the participation of children and youth. Contact: 860-  
527-8121 or www.iccucc.org

Friday & Saturday, March 8 & 9, 2002 • Worcester, MA  
• Spirituality & Stewardship • Keynote Speakers: The  
Rev. Dr. Louis Weeks, Union Theological Seminary,  
Rev. Vicki Woods and worship leader, Rev. Maren

Tirabassi Cost: Friday, \$30, Saturday, \$25 Contact:  
Northeast Ecumenical Stewardship Council (800) 595-  
4347

March 10, 2002 3 PM • First Congregational Church of  
Madison, 26 Meetinghouse Lane • New Haven East  
Consociation of Churches and Ministers Choir Festival  
• Area Choirs will offer favorite inspirational anthems  
and one all-choir anthem. Refreshments offered after  
the concert. Contact: clavicor@hotmail.com

Sunday, March 24, 2002, 7 PM • The First  
Congregational Church, Ridgefield • The Annual  
Spring Concert • The Chancel Choir Soloists,  
Orchestra and organ in a performance of "The King  
Shall Rejoice" by George Friedrich Handel. Edwin R.  
Taylor, Conductor. Contact: 203-438-9678

6/26/02-7/8/02 • Colombia, South America • Building  
a Just Peace in Colombia • This delegation will meet  
with a wide range of experts and community leaders,  
visit with Colombian families, displaced communities  
and churches, explore ways to facilitate links and  
increase the capacity of US churches to carry out more  
effective advocacy. Register by April 1 Cost: \$1450 plus  
airfare limited scholarships available Contact:  
kents@ctucc.org

Saturday, April 6, 2002 9 AM-3 PM • First  
Congregational Church in Southington • Religion and  
the News: The World in the Pews • Dr. Theodore Mark  
Ludwig, Professor of World Religions and Ethics,  
Valparaiso University, IN. Sponsored by C.A.U.C.E.  
Please register by April 1, 2002. Cost: \$10 includes  
lunch and morning snack Contact: 860-628-6958

Sunday, April 7, 2002 4 PM • First Congregational  
Church Ridgefield • Chorus Angelicus • Choral perfec-  
tion by one of the nation's preeminent children's  
choirs! Paul Halley, Founder/Artistic Director Contact:  
203-438-9678

April 19-20, 2002 • Westbrook-Warren UCC  
Westbrook, ME • God's Earth, Our Home • The New  
England Economic Justice Conference presents a  
forum on the Intersection of Ecology and Economics  
in the Inhabiting of the Planet. Keynote Speaker  
Virginia Nesmith, Executive Director of the National  
Farm Worker Ministry. Cost: \$30 includes registration,  
conference meals Contact: Gordon Bates 860-233-5564  
or cecileg@ctucc.org

Saturday, April 20, 2002 • Church of Christ  
Congregational, Newington • Abuse Prevention/Safe  
Church Training Day • This all day training will be  
specifically designed for CE and Youth Staff, Church  
School Teachers, Youth Group leaders, Christian  
Education Committees, Boards of Trustees and other  
interested lay leaders. The program will include train-  
ing in abuse prevention and assistance with developing  
safe church policies. Keynote speaker will be Susan  
Dickerman, Massachusetts Conference Associate  
Conference Minister for Programs and Resources. Cost:  
\$30 Lunch and Materials included Contact:  
saraha@ctucc.org

Tuesday, April 23, 2002 9 - 5 • Congregational Church  
of Naugatuck • Training Event on Ministerial  
Misconduct Prevention • For UCC Authorized Minister  
(Ordained, Commissioned, Licensed) Cost: \$45  
includes lunch and materials Contact: Sue Furness,  
860-233-5564 or susanf@ctucc.org

Saturday, April 27 9-2 PM • The First Church of Christ  
in Wethersfield, The Morgan House • Church  
Historians Workshop • Presenters Rev. Dr. Evans  
Sealand, Mrs. Nora Howard, Mrs. Ruth Douglas. Bring  
something to share with the group during "Show and  
Tell". Lunch will be on your own. Bring a bag lunch or  
several restaurants nearby. Cost: \$5 Contact:  
evanss@ctucc.org

### Give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing



One Great Hour of Sharing is the special offering of the United Church of Christ that serves persons with needs resulting from natural disasters and political or economic crises.

Begun in 1949,

One Great Hour of Sharing is supported by eight denominations and Church World Service. Our gifts to this offering go into action immediately, relieving suffering and poverty in North America and around the globe.

Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing make possible the long-term assistance that brings significant improvement in delivery of health care services; in the availability of education; in the offer of training

and micro-loans to start small businesses; and in access to clean water and sufficient food resources.

Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing enable the church to respond when people face ruin and loss from floods, epidemics, earthquakes, wars, hurricanes, and other disasters.

Finally, gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing offer a

**Serve one another  
with whatever gift  
each of you has received.**

**1 Peter 4:10b**

glimmer of hope to refugees who leave their coun-  
tries due to famine, war, and other life threatening  
conditions.

One Great Hour of Sharing unites our gifts in ser-  
vice to God's people around the world. One life is  
saved, one person is educated, one mother raises a

healthy child. Each life touches the next. Like the  
gifts of God, our gifts multiply, radiating from hand  
to hand to hand.

More than 50% of the UCC's offering supports  
international development initiatives, including  
annual support for approximately ten missionaries  
working in health care, education, and agricultural  
development.

Gifts are also used for disaster response (26%),  
social services (13%), and refugee assistance (9%).  
In 2000 the One Great Hour of Sharing special  
offering amounted to \$3,114,650.

Ninety-five cents of every dollar contributed to One  
Great Hour of Sharing in the UCC go directly to  
mission. Five cents are utilized for promotion.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering is received  
through your local UCC congregation.

To order promotional materials for your church call  
United Church of Christ Resources at 800-325-7061.