

# ConnTact

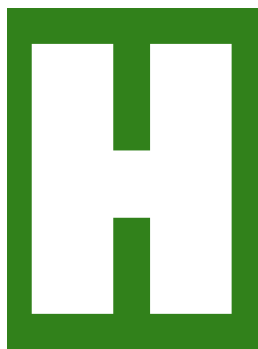
United  
Church  
News



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## Designing the Future at Silver Lake

BY HAL CHORPENNING



How do you improve an icon? How can you attempt to change something that bears deep memories of generations? Why not leave well enough alone?

Silver Lake Conference Center is indeed an icon for the Connecticut Conference and its youth ministry; no other site is so rich with memories for generations in the spiritual development of our young people. And we're getting ready to make it even better.

Crying needs at Silver Lake have been adequate and accessible dining space, lodging space for adults, and indoor program areas. All of this will come together in a new facility at the heart of the conference center.

One of the first steps was to select an architectural firm that would be sensitive to the environment, history, and culture of Silver Lake. A panel composed of Silver Lake alumni, staff, clergy, laypeople and young adults helped make that decision.

### The Right Firm

Three firms were considered for the task. Each had unique abilities and characteristics, but the group selected will create a centerpiece for Silver Lake that will not only fit into the unique site in the Litchfield hills and provide the needed space, but will enhance the overall feeling of the Silver Lake Conference Center.

Centerbrook is the firm they chose. Located in the Centerbrook section of Essex, Conn., Centerbrook is an internationally renowned firm with a staff of 80. In 1998, the American Institute of Architects conferred the national Firm Award on Centerbrook, recognizing that "their work translates human needs into the poetry...of architecture."

"They are probably one of the top half-dozen architectural firms nationally known for quality," says Robert A.M. Stern, dean of the Yale School of Architecture. They do powerful, unique, special buildings that are not so powerful, unique, and special that they cast everything around them into doubt.

*Continued on page 3*



**Walking the Walk:** Walking the site gives new perspectives to the committee members working with Centerbrook on plans for a new facility at Silver Lake.

## Who Supports Seminarians?



The Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree, Conference Minister

One of the privileges of serving as Connecticut's Conference Minister is the fact that this Conference has some resources with which to assist our clergy when they find themselves in tough spots. Through the Fund for Ministers, we subsidize the health insurance premiums for our retired ministers, provide emergency grants for medical or other needs for active clergy, and offer

special support to parish clergy through a confidential therapist who assesses their needs and then connects them with the resource that will be most effective.

A few weeks ago, I was apprised of the need of one of our ministers serving a small church. This clergy family had faced a number of medical challenges in recent months, and debts had piled up. I'm used to that, and we can help with it. What grabbed my

attention, however, was the figure for this minister's debt from seminary: \$31,000! How on earth will a minister with a family serving a small church with limited compensation ability pay off that kind of debt?

So I did a little research, and found that the average current debt of a person coming out of seminary in the UCC since 1997 is \$32,852. Further, 72% of those carrying this debt are over the age of

***The call to ministry is a sacred one, yes. But even with the strongest call, many young people will hesitate to undertake a seminary education knowing that they will conclude it with \$32,000 in debt and several years ahead of them with relatively low pay.***

40, 37% over 50. Think about the pay-down period, the available earning years, and the likelihood that they have used what pension they had accumulated in their earlier profession to help pay for seminary! That's one issue: the long-term impact of this kind of debt on the minister's life and ministry.

There is another issue: we urgently need to attract top-notch young people to Christian ministry. If we want "the best and the brightest" to consider ministry, we need to pave the way. The call to ministry is a sacred one, yes. But even with the strongest call, many young people will hesitate to undertake a seminary education knowing that they will conclude it with \$32,000 in debt and several years ahead of them with relatively low pay.

We need to step up to this one, friends. We need to find ways to help today's debt-ridden clergy pay off those debts. And we need to move quickly to increase the scholarship funds of the Conference and of our UCC seminaries like Bangor and Andover Newton so that we can proudly say that every seminarian's tuition and books are covered in full, and his or her health insurance is paid for during seminary. All it takes is money! And willpower.

I believe this situation is critical. It is already affecting the number of candidates available to our churches. In a few years, it will be a major crisis; in some ways it already is. Who do you know that could give a substantial gift to create a powerhouse scholarship fund? Which readers of this column will see the opportunity to make a real difference in the future of the church by helping pay down these debts? I'd like to hear from you, either about yourself or someone you might know. We can turn the future around.

ORIGINAL SPIN • THE REV. HAL CHORPENNING

## The Reverend Issue

Call me an editor at heart, but I am amazed at how many different ways people refer to clergy in the UCC.

Reverend

Smith, Mr. Smith, Dr. Smith, Pastor Smith, the Reverend Ms. Smith. The proliferation of title forms boggles the mind of an editor, especially in a denomination proud of local church autonomy (and less aware of its covenantal bonds).

Growing up here in Connecticut, the clergy in our congregation were the senior minister and the associate minister. But many of our churches use the term *pastor*, rather than minister. Many congregations also run something in their Sunday bulletins akin to "Pastor: Tom Smith, Ministers: everyone!" It's a laudable development when all the members of a congregation - lay and clergy alike - perceive their own ministry.

The words, "minister" and "pastor" are both lifted directly from the Latin. "Minister" is the Latin word for *servant*, a common term both in the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke), as well as in Paul's letters. The word "pastor" is the Latin for *shepherd*, which echoes John's gospel.

In the synoptics, Jesus refers to himself as servant or (minister), while in John's gospel his self-reference is as the good shepherd (pastor). Paul con-

tinually refers to himself as a servant of God (minister).

I have a hunch that congregations develop their own style with respect to the clerical office: some like pastor, some prefer minister. There is a subtle shading that comes with the translation, though. Ask your ministers/pastors which term they prefer and why, and you may learn something about the way they (and you) perceive their ministry.

On the issue of "the reverend," it's an interesting bit of confusion, in terms of form. Again, it comes from Latin, from *reverendus*, the gerundive form of the verb *revereor*, to feel awe or respect for. (Writer and theologian Frederick Buechner quipped that it isn't the minister who is the object of reverence, but rather the deity whom the minister serves.)

The way most style manuals designate usage is "the Reverend Elizabeth Smith," rather than "Reverend Elizabeth Smith," unless the abbreviation "Rev." is used. (In other words, "Rev. Elizabeth Smith" is okay.) It functions just like "the Honorable" when used for political or judicial figures: "the Honorable Jane Thomas" or "Hon. Jane Thomas" are correct forms. But in conversation, one neither refers to clergy or judges as "Honorable Thomas" nor "Reverend Smith." Rather, Ms. Smith or Ms. Thomas is correct usage. If the clergyperson has a doctoral degree, that can be included as well: "the Reverend Dr. Elizabeth Smith" or "Dr. Smith."

I often see this mishandled in the media. I've been referred to as "the Reverend Chorpenning," and I've been called "Father Hal," both of which are inaccurate. It is not a big deal, but it does not

hurt to have an accepted style, even in the UCC. So, I remain your faith ful servant/minister, Hal Chorpenning (a.k.a. the Reverend Hal Chorpenning)

• United Church News •

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## Silver Lake continued from page 1



Photo: Jeff Goldberg/Exco

***The Amistad Chapel,  
focal point of the UCC's  
headquarters in Cleveland,  
is another Centerbrook project.***

They just do them much better than everything else."

Jeff Riley, FAIA, is the partner working on the Silver Lake project, and he also serves on the steering committee of the United Church of Christ Fellowship of Architects. A member of First Congregational Church in Guilford, Mr. Riley designed the Church House, hotel, and Amistad Chapel at the UCC headquarters in Cleveland. Among his many awards, is the AIA's Millennium Design Award for the First Congregational Church of Battle Creek, Michigan. He also is the sole architect working on the redesign of the campus of Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Conn.

### The Process

Bringing this talent to bear will result in a wonderful new dimension to Silver Lake. But it is not just a matter of architects dreaming up great ideas. Architects and planners from Centerbrook walked a committee at Silver Lake through traffic and usage patterns at the conference center to see how the site might best accommodate new facilities.

"Where is the symbolic center of Silver Lake?" It's not an easy question to answer, but it typifies the queries asked of the committee that helped guide the architects. Putting down large floor maps, the team from Centerbrook asked participant to take off their shoes and

literally walk around the map to replicate what they had done outdoors.

Role playing was another part of the committee's discernment. Committee members were asked to adopt a mindset different from their own (e.g., a dean, a counselor, an adult winter retreat guest, a teenage conferee) and think of things that would make the new facility "delightful, functional, and memorable."

Participants were then invited to a "beauty contest:" a slide presentation of 93 images of Centerbrook projects and were asked to give their feelings about whether elements of those projects were interesting and applicable to Silver Lake.

So, what does it look like? You'll have to wait and see the dining and family conference facility. Centerbrook has presented some preliminary drawings that help initiate the cycle of proposal and refinement. (Don't worry...Contact will keep you informed!)

Of course, all of this rests on the Conference Annual Meeting's decision about whether to pursue a capital campaign in the coming years.

## Hartford Seminary Reunion 2002

May 3-4, 2002

**Friday, May 3, 2002 at 7:30 PM**

"Faithful Living in a Troubled World"  
The Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Young, Jr.  
Capital Community College

**Saturday, May 4, 2002**

Scholars to discuss Christian Muslim Relations and other issues

**Ibrahim Abu-Rabi**, Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations, on After September 11th: Muslim-Christian Dialogue

**Heidi Hadsell**, President of Hartford Seminary and professor of Social Ethics, International and Ecumenical: A Discussion on Global Christianity

**Ian Markham**, Dean of Seminary and professor of Theology and Ethics, A Theology of Religious Diversity: How Christians Understand Other Faith Traditions

**David A. Roozen**, Professor of Religion and Society, FACT and the Four Mega-Trends Changing America's Religious Landscape

**Pre-registration for both events is encouraged.  
Contact Shantee McKissick at (860) 509-9521 or  
alum@hartsem.edu. Tickets will be available at the door.**

# Save The Date

**July 20-23, 2002**

**New England Conference on Mission**  
*Geneva Point Center, Lake Winnepesaukee*

*Building Bridges—Connecting and Equipping  
God's People for Missions and Ministry*

Contact at 866-376-2822 ext. 120 for a brochure

## CT Conference event on 'Religious Expression and Public Schools' will feature the Rev. Barry Lynn, Esquire

BY FIDELIA LANE

**A** consultation of "Religious Expression and Public Schools" will be held on Sunday afternoon, April 28th at the North Haven Congregational Church. The keynote speaker, The Rev. Barry W. Lynn, is the Executive Director of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State. Both an ordained UCC minister and a lawyer, he is a leading authority in our nation on these issues. When the Public Education Advocacy Group of our Conference was planning a program on "Religious Expression and the Public Schools" in October, Lynn was our first choice.

Most recently he has been on PBS's "News Hour with Jim Lehrer" to comment on the Cleveland voucher case, now before the Supreme Court. Lynn has also served in a variety of positions with the national offices of the United Church of Christ, including two years as legislative counsel for the Washington office of the UCC Office for Church in Society.

This "consultation" is planned to clarify a number of issues related to religious expression and public education. It will both honor the "Separation of Church and State" and, at the same time, affirm what can appropriately be taught related to religious experience in public schools. These are issues about which there is much confusion in many communities. Four "breakout sessions" will follow the main address.

"Religion in Public Schools - A Primer" will cover the basics of what is and is not allowable, as well as issues of public policy and practice. Marsha Moses, Esq. and Rabbi Eric Polokoff of the Anti-Defamation League are presenters.

A third group led by Rev. Richard Griffis and Rev. William Warner-Prouty will discuss "Faith Communities and Public Schools: Creative Co-existence." Both former pastors in our conference, Griffis was most recently Interim Director of the Capitol Region Conference of Churches and is past president of the Connecticut Committee for Inter-religious Understanding. Warner-Prouty is a teacher and Social Studies Coordinator at Sage Park Middle School in Windsor. The Fourth session will be a chance to dialogue with Barry Lynn further, especially on the Cleveland case.

This event begins at 2:00 p.m. with registration and displays. A packet of materials is planned for each pre-registered person. A fee of \$10 includes a closing dinner at 5:00 p.m. and wrap-up session. It is planned for both people of faith and educators. Therefore we hope many will take advantage of this opportunity to learn and think together. Religious and church leaders, teachers, school board members, administrators, parents and young people are welcome. It is sponsored by The Public Education Advocacy Group, a "Focus Ministry" of the Connecticut Conference since 1974. For more information, fliers with registration forms, contact Cecile Gilson, 860-233-5564 or [cecileg@ctucc.org](mailto:cecileg@ctucc.org) Please register by April 19th.

*The Reverend Fidelity Lane is former editor of Conntact and a member of the Public Education Advocacy Group.*

A Second group, led by Janice Resseger of the United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministry will consider "Financing Public Education as a Justice/Witness Issue".

*This "consultation" is planned to clarify a number of issues related to religious expression and public education.*

The Public Education Advocacy Group of the Connecticut Conference UCC presents  
**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

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

All local church historians of Connecticut Conference UCC churches are invited to a  
**Church Historians Workshop**

Saturday, April 27, 2002  
9:15-2PM cost \$5

Lunch (Bring a bag lunch or fast food places nearby.)  
The First Church of Christ in Wethersfield,  
Morgan House

Ample parking and accessibility for all.  
Bring something to "Show and Tell"

Workshops including  
"Houses of the Underground Railroad in Connecticut"

Contact The Rev. Dr. Evans Sealand  
at 860-233-5564 ext. 105

# 2002 Legislative Agenda

BY KIM HARRISON

In the wake of the September 11 tragedy, the 2002 session of the General Assembly began on February 6, with an all to realistic saga of a purported "lone gunman" on the roof of the Legislative Office Building. As helicopters hovered overhead and armed SWAT teams surrounded the Capitol, some wondered if access to our democratic process would be hindered in some way because of the all to real need for increased security.

The delegates at 2001 Annual Meeting had this same concern as they saw Congress scurrying to pass the USA Patriot Act with seemingly little regard to civil liberties. With great care and thought delegates voted to "affirm our belief that legitimate security needs of our country can be achieved without eroding the liberties and freedoms that are at the heart of the American way of life."

The governor and the legislature have made it a top priority to pass legislation that would mirror the Patriot Act and in many cases, go much further. On opening day the governor stated that government's first job is the protection of its citizens, keeping them safe and secure.

The Reverend Tom McMillan of Second Congregational Church of Coventry in a public hearing on Connecticut's Homeland Security said, "The people of Connecticut have real security needs. People without jobs have security needs. People without adequate food or safe housing have security needs. People without access to health care have security needs. Those are the security needs that ought

to be addressed. Those real security needs - and indeed the real security needs of all of the citizens of our state - are not met by a fleet of Black Hawk helicopters or a law making it a state crime to possess an atomic bomb."

### Safeguarding of Civil Liberties in the Wake of September 11

Support legislative proposals that are consistent with democratic principles of fairness and due process for persons regardless of race, religion, ethnic identity, or national origin and oppose those that are nothing more than political window dressing so that policymakers can appear aggressive and decisive in the "war against terrorism."

### Continue State Assistance to Legal Immigrants

In a year when there is heightened sensitivity about immigrants, it is especially important that we be alert and on the watch for discrimination in any form (harassment, government assistance) Due to the welfare reform act of 1996, immigrants are not eligible to receive medical assistance and food stamps for up to five years after entering the country. In 1997 the state legislature, recognizing the hardship that this would bring to legal immigrants, their families and their supporters, initiated state-funded cash assistance, medical assistance and food stamps. This is a wise investment in future citizens of the state and provides medical assistance and basic support within existing systems to people who are living legally in the state. The program sunsets on June 30, 2002 and new intake will cease on July 1, 2002.

### Oppose Budget Cuts to Human Service Programs

As the nation's recession continues and the unemployment rate increases, predictions of a \$350 million state budget deficit for the current fiscal year and the shortfall prediction for next year is \$650 million. During a special session in November of 2001, \$283 million were cut from the current budget, most coming from the social services budget. The governor has proposed yet another 5 percent cut above and beyond the November cuts, threatening an already tenuous safety net for those most in need. The cuts included in his budget address are:

- Require HUSKY A parents with incomes between 100 to 150 percent of the poverty level (\$14,000 to \$20,000 for a parent and two children) to pay a monthly premium and a co-pay for office visits and prescriptions.
- Reduce the Education Cost Sharing Grant by \$46 million (thereby shifting the costs to municipalities and property taxes.
- Eliminate \$2.1 million from fuel assistance.
- Eliminates coverage for glasses, home health and other practitioners for general assistance recipients

### Increased Funding for Anti-Smoking Programs

In a recent survey, Connecticut ranked 45th in state spending on anti-smoking programs. In the current budget only \$500,000 is dedicated to anti-tobacco

programs. The governor proposes to take \$57 million out of the Tobacco Settlement Fund and move it into the General fund.

### Public Funds for Public Education

The governor's budget includes a provision that within the next two years would allow parents to take their children out of failing public schools (based on a yet to be devised report card system) and put them into parochial schools using tax payer money. The Conference has long opposed vouchers and or tuition tax credits that would advocate the expenditure of public monies for use in subsidizing private and parochial schools to which access cannot be guaranteed for all students.

### Civil Rights for Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Persons

Continue to support legislation that would grant gay and lesbian committed partners the legal ground of equality through basic civil protections inherent in civil unions or domestic partnerships.

*Kim Harrison is the legislative advocate for the Connecticut Conference, UCC. All advocacy is based upon resolutions passed by delegates to the Connecticut Conference Annual Meeting. You can reach Kim Harrison at [kimh@ctucc.org](mailto:kimh@ctucc.org)*



**YOUTH GATHERING**  
.....  
for 8th grade through 12th grade youth

**When:** Sunday April 28th  
10 a.m. till 4 p.m.

**Where:** Congregational Church in Killingworth UCC

**When:** all Connecticut 8th grade and high school youth from our churches are invited.

**Why:** to gather all our youth in a day of worship and celebration and fun

**Wendi Cooke to supply music with her praise band.**

**Story Teller Ouida Williams-Haynes**

**We will gather as in past years in worship, lunch, afternoon activities of games, and crafts**

**Yoga, kick boxing, self defense, kite design, leather craft, music workshop, challenge course + food**

**Call 860-663-1789 for registration forms**

**Call 860-663-3866 for information**

# Lenten Jubilee in South Windsor

BY THE REV. MARK ABERNETHY

"That fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you: you shall not sow or reap the aftergrowth, or harvest the unpruned vines. For it is a jubilee; it shall be holy to you..." (Leviticus 25:11,12, NRSV)

Centuries ago, the Hebrew people celebrated "jubilee" once every fifty years. According to Leviticus, during the fiftieth year, all land was to remain fallow. All debts were to be cancelled and forgiven. All prisoners were to be released. And all work was to cease so that the people of Israel could take time for rest and renewal.

In February 2002, Wapping Community Church in South Windsor followed a modified "jubilee" model. For one whole month, we cancelled board and committee meetings. We set aside the traditional business and busyness of the church. And we spent the entire month focusing our time, our energy, our hearts, and our prayers on spiritual formation as God's people.

## PILGRIMS & PARISHES • EDITED BY JEAN HAMILTON

### IVORYTON

Congregational church has a wonderful picture of the church with a steeple on the cover of their monthly newsletter. The only problem is the church no longer has a steeple and no one seems to know what happened to the steeple and when it may have happened. It is puzzling. Perhaps someone out there knows the history.

### MARLBOROUGH

Congregational Church participates in ROAR: Reach Out and Read. ROAR is an on-going project that distributes children's books through clinics and pediatric practices in the area. Members donate new and gently used children's books and they are distributed to children.

### WINSTED

First Church held their annual Family Swim and Pizza Party at the local YMCA. Families were able to swim and enjoy pizza together.

### HEBRON

Gilead Congregational Church has an Instrumental Group that participates in worship on

regular occasions. All instrumentalists are encouraged to join the group.

### SHERMAN

Congregational Church gave twelve people \$100 and charged them with growing those dollars in doing good in Sherman and beyond. The Gospel text that Sunday was Matthew 25, and like the servants in that story, these individuals were given two months to complete their task. At a recent service the twelve shared their stories during worship.

### HARTFORD

Immanuel Congregational Church holds Intergenerational Women's gatherings on a regular basis. The women meet in private homes and reflect on shared readings, concerns, joys and feelings in an informal setting. The theme during Lent was Tender Anger: Mary and Martha.

### GREENWICH

First Congregational Church held a Friendship Weekend. Members were asked to invite friends and neighbors to a weekend of events from an informal worship on Saturday to

Sunday worship to a concert on Sunday afternoon.

### GLASTONBURY

First Congregational Church has a basket ministry. This caring ministry program will distribute baskets to people in need of support. The baskets will include such things as mugs, coffee, tea, paperback books, cookies, note pads with pencils and inspirational books.

### DEEP RIVER

Congregational Church has established a Friend to Friend program. Participants are asked to send a card or message twice a month and to keep that person in their prayers. Seniors and shut-ins are paired up with the church friend to enrich the lives of those people.

### KENT

First Congregational Church's Quality Thrift shop recently announced that in 2001 they contributed a total of 36% of their receipts to a variety of organizations and agencies totaling \$61,420.

Ironically, convincing people in the church that we could actually suspend board and committee meetings for a month was the biggest challenge. Despite our schedule conflicts and periodic complaints, it's hard for many of us to move past the mindset that equates meetings with the real work of the church. And if the truth be told, when I first conceived of the idea for Jubilee Month, a month without meetings even sounded strange to me, albeit strangely wonderful.

In any case, after we reached consensus on the idea of Jubilee Month, it didn't take long before people in the congregation responded enthusiastically. On Monday evenings, I led a "Bible 101" study class where I introduced people to the Bible and explored questions such as, "Who wrote the Bible?" "How do we read the Bible?" and "How might we use the Bible as a tool in our own lives?" The Bible study was designed to be accessible enough that no prior knowledge of the Bible was required. And lo and behold, nearly forty people committed to the four sessions, showing up each week with provocative questions and Bibles in hand.

On Tuesday nights in February, I invited people in the congregation to come and paint our new, pencil-sketched labyrinth. Nearly twenty-five people of all ages took two weeks to paint the labyrinth a "midnight violet" color, trying hard to "stay within the lines." And now that it's finished, people in the congregation and the community will be walking the labyrinth on Tuesday evenings throughout the Lenten season.

Our Bell and Chancel Choirs continued to rehearse on Wednesday evenings throughout February. Then on Thursday evenings, our Student Minister from Yale Divinity School, Jennifer DeBisschop, led a four week workshop designed to help lay people in the congregation identify their unique, God given gifts for ministry. Not only was her workshop beneficial for the people who attended, but the model of laity empowerment she used will serve as a prototype for Wapping Community Church as we strengthen our current ministries and build new ministries in the years to come.

Finally, on the last three Sundays in February, we gathered for an informal, intergenerational potluck supper. In keeping with the theme of the month, there was no particular agenda on Sunday evenings. Simply time for good food, fellowship, and community building. What Jubilee month would be complete in any UCC church without a few potluck dinners...?

Even people who couldn't come to any of the Jubilee Month events appreciated the notion of having a month without scheduled church meetings. Others expressed some regret that outside commitments prevented them from participating as fully as they might have. Overall though, the good word has spread throughout the congregation and beyond. Actually, I've already had a number of people talk to me about plans for next February, when I trust Jubilee Month will return to Wapping Community Church bigger and better...

Can Jubilee Month work in your congregation? I believe it can. Choose a month that fits well with your congregation's calendar. Plan the month's events well enough to generate excitement. Pray about it. Convince people that the business of the church can wait. Then dive in and try it. I think you'll find that people in the church will experience the presence of God in new ways...and your congregation will be blessed because of it.

If you have any questions about Jubilee Month, feel free to call me at (860) 644-0833. Or send an e-mail to "Revabba@juno.com."

## CLASSIFIEDS

### Positions

**AVON** — Avon Congregational Church seeks choir director. One Sunday service. Responsibilities include, periodic meetings of music committee and music staff, collaborating with organist, youth choir director, youth bell director and volunteer music administrator. 12-15 hours/week. Position available September 2002. Year runs through third week in June. \$10k/year. Contact: Organist, Sue Smith 860-297-0035 days, 860-673-2104 evenings. Suesmith@avon-church.org

**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

**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.

**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

**NAUGATUCK** — The Congregational Church is seeking a full time Organist/Director of Music Ministry (part time considered) for 400+ membership. 1971 three manual 42-rank Austin. Adult and Children's choir Chancel, Alleluia, Handbell and Djembe Drum choirs. Two Sunday and Special Services Professional Training with Sacred Music Emphasis. Contact: Music Search Committee Division Street Naugatuck, CT 06770

**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

**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

**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 Caravan Pipe Organ. Sr. Choir, children's choirs and a bell choir participate in the services. Contact: 860-

763-4021 or SomersCong@aol.com

**SOUTH WINDSOR** — Organist/Choir Director is needed for First Congregational Church of South Windsor. Adult Choir, Thursday rehearsal, occasional youth choir. One Sunday service 10 AM. Hook & Hastings tracker organ. Contact: Beverly Nielsen, 860-298-8606

**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.

**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

**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

**WEST AVON** — Motivated choir is seeking a Director of Music for the West Avon Congregational Church. Plan and direct all musical activities of the church. Conducts the Senior Choir and collaborates with the Junior Choir Director. Position Beginning September 1, 2002. \$8,000 - \$10,000. Contact Karen Mealey WACC 280 Country Club Road Avon, CT 06001 860-673-3996 www.west-avonchurch.org.

**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 or 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

### Self or Give

**BRISTOL** — Approximately 200 Pilgrim Hymnals in good condition to give away. Contact: Rev. Marcia Eveland 860-583-6597

**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

**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

## 2002 Summer Institute: UCC History, Theology and Polity

June 3 through June 14, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
Sponsored by Hartford Seminary in cooperation with Andover Newton Theological School and Bangor Theological Seminary.

Classes week 1 (June 3 – 7) will be at Hartford Seminary, 77 Sherman Street, Hartford,

Classes week 2 (June 10-14) will be at St. Thomas Seminary, 467 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT. Housing is available both weeks at St. Thomas Seminary.

The instructors will be:

**Kent Siladi** — Kent is the Regional Minister of the South Eastern Region of the Connecticut Conference. He was a local church pastor for 16 years and is the instructor of UCC History, Theology and Polity at Yale Divinity School.

**Carole Carlson** — Carole is the Associate Conference Minister for Clergy Concerns of the Connecticut Conference. She was Conference Minister in New Hampshire for 17 years and has taught UCC Polity at Illiff School of Theology

This course is for clergy and lay leaders who are interested in learning more about the United Church of Christ.

The registration deadline is May 6, 2002.

For more information contact the Registrar, Hartford Seminary, 77 Sherman Street, Hartford, CT 06105-2260 860-509-9500

## EVENTS

Wednesday April 3, 2002 12-2 PM Plantsville Congregational Church, Thursday April 4, 2002 7-9 PM Roxbury Congregational Church, Tuesday April 16, 2002 12-2 PM Somers Congregational Church, Wednesday April 17 7-9 PM Ivoryton Congregational Church Christian Educators Roundtable Discussions. Meet with Rev. Kathy Peters, CT Conference Associate Conference Minister for Local Church Ministries to talk about Christian Education ministry, concerns, dreams and ideas. Call 1-866-367-2822 ext 121 or email kathyp@ctucc.org for information and suggestions.

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

Thursday April 11, 2002 7 PM • First Church of Christ Congregational, 12 South Main St. West Hartford • Author Thomas Moore • Scholar, theologian, therapist and author Thomas Moore will talk about his work and new book "The Soul's Religion...Turning Spirituality Upside Down to Find One's Own path." Contact: 860-523-9238

April 13, 2002 7:30 PM Poquonock Community Church, Congregational, 1871 Poquonock Ave. Windsor, CT cordially invite you to an evening of music and fellowship. Enjoy choral and instrumental music, special ensembles and solos, followed by delicious refreshments. A freewill offering will be accepted to benefit the church.

April 14, 2002 10:30 AM • First Congregational Church of West Haven • Homecoming Service • A special

Homecoming Service (postponed from October, 2001) will be held. Former pastors and members are invited to attend this joyful occasion. Contact: 203-933-6291 or write to the church at 1 Church St. West Haven, CT 06516

Monday, April 15, 2002 2:30-7PM Beth El Temple, 2626 Albany Avenue, West Hartford, A Sacred Trust, A Springtime Forum on Religion and the Environment. Keynote speaker Damu Smith. Cost \$20 includes dinner. Contact Janelle Jenkins 860-509-9512

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 Scholarship money available. Contact: Gordon Bates 860-233-5564

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 training in abuse prevention and assistance with developing safe church policies. Cost: \$30 Lunch and Materials included Contact: saraha@ctucc.org

Sunday, April 21, 2002 4 PM • South Church New Britain • Missa Gaia (Earth Mass) • On the eve of Earth Day, Richard Coffey and the South Church Cancel

Choir, Paul Halley and Chorus Angelicus, along with the voices of wolf, whale and loon present this joyous contemporary celebration of Mother Earth in the form of an ecological and ecumenical Mass. Contact: 860-223-7555

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

Wednesday, April 10, 2002 Noon-2 PM, Church of the Redeemer, 185 Cold Spring Street New Haven, CT. Mentoring Luncheon for both lay and clergy offered by the Conference Open and Affirming Ministry. For reservations call 203-787-5711. Cost \$5 for lunch.

May 3-4, 2002 • Capital Community College, 61 Woodland Street, Hartford. • Hartford Seminary's Reunion Weekend • A special lecture by The Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Young, Jr. will be held Friday, May 3 at 7:30 PM at Capital Community College, 61 Woodland Street, Hartford. This presentation is open to the public. Saturday forums presented by faculty open to public as well. Contact: Shantee McKissick 860-509-9521 or alum@hartsem.edu

Saturday, May 4, 2002 9 AM - 3 PM Spring Planting 2002 Church of Christ, Congregational, Newington. Cost \$10 per person includes lunch. Call Sarah Annis at 860-233-5564 for more information.

## Budget Cuts Threaten Covenant to Care, Other Programs

BY CECILE GILSON

Imagine you are a five-year-old child. Your parents have been fighting and you are scared. A strange woman is taking you away from your home to stay with someone you have never met. The woman tries to help you feel better by holding and comforting you. Then she gives you a bag that has night clothes, a toothbrush and toothpaste and a new book all your own or maybe a stuffed toy. Something that at last you can hold on to in a very stressful situation. This bag prepared especially for you has come from an organization named Covenant to Care.

Now imagine that bag isn't there. There is no toothbrush to call your own or even a toy. That is what will happen if Covenant To Care's \$218,000 grant is eliminated from the proposed 2002-2003 budget as presented by Governor Rowland. For this grant, nearly 30,000 Connecticut children and their families receive an estimated \$1.3M in donated goods and services which provide relief, assist Department of Children and Families in reunifying families and help keep the numbers of children in foster care down. Covenant to Care works with child-welfare professionals and congregations throughout Connecticut to acquire and distribute tangible basic human needs items such as emergency placement kits, beds, tables & chairs, dishes, and linens to name a few.

Adopt a Social Worker is only one of six programs designed to improve the lives of Connecticut's abused and neglected children. Over their 15-year history Covenant to Care has provided over \$4M in goods and services to more than 300,000 Connecticut children.

Covenant to Care is not the only support structure to be targeted in the 2002-2003 proposed budget. The Children's Health Council has been targeted



Covenant to Care

for elimination. The mission of the Children's Health Council is to make sure that all Connecticut children have access to health care services by ensuring that all eligible children are enrolled in the HUSKY program and when enrolled receive all necessary health care services. CHC receives its funding from the Department of Social Services and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Covering Kids program. Over \$2 million dollars in additional funding for HUSKY outreach and for improving health care services for children can be attributed to the CHC. Most of this funding will be lost if the CHC loses its state funding.

According to Connecticut Alliance for Basic Human Needs SAGA medical coverage for home health,

vision and other needs will be cut by \$8.6M, HUSKY Adult Programs will be cut by \$5.6M, Energy Assistance \$2M, Immigrant Benefits will disappear as of June 30, 2002, Anti-Hunger Programs cut \$215,000. End Hunger CT, a state-wide anti-hunger advocacy organization says that the elimination of the Anti-Hunger line from the DSS budget not only means a \$226,000 loss from the state budget but a matching federal grant as well.

Cindy Bartholomew, Executive Director of Covenant to Care says, "We need UCC church members to call their legislators and call their senators to ask them to put Covenant to Care back in the budget. For the \$218,000 grant there is a return of \$1.3M in goods and services to children served by DCF." For more information on any of this check the websites for State of CT Commission on Children, Connecticut Association of Nonprofits, Connecticut Alliance for Basic Human Needs, Connecticut Coalition to end Homelessness, The Children's Health Council or End Hunger CT.

At a time when more and more families are effected by the economic downturn or other circumstances, the structural support provided by these and other nonprofit agencies is essential. Jesus has commanded us to love one another; ensuring the continuation of support structures will help do that.