



ConnTact

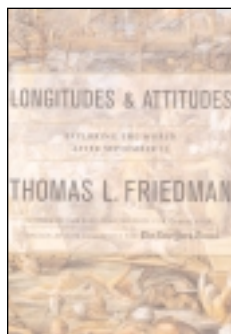
**United
Church
News**

Vol. XVIII, No. 9 • Connecticut Conference Edition • November 2002 • Two Sections • Section A • 6000008

Where from
here?

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& Attitudes

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*theology of
nonviolence*

What is the Christian response to violence? How can people of faith defend themselves morally? How do we, as followers of Jesus Christ, support Jews and Muslims in their struggles for justice?

These are just a few of the thorny issues facing the Theological Working Group, a body of about 20 United Church of Christ pastors and lay leaders convened in the wake of the September 11 *continued on page A3*

Watch for a report on the Annual Meeting, held Oct. 18-20, in the next issue (Dec./Jan.) of ConnTact

Where do we go from here?



The Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree, Conference Minister

My heart is in my throat as I write this column. The Middle East continues to spiral out of control in Israel and Palestine, Colombia's militarization increases by the day, and now President Bush has stated that our nation will initiate "pre-emptive" strikes against Iraq if necessary and the Congress and Senate have voted their support for a limited version of that stance.

I find myself deep in worry about the condition of our world, and led more and more to prayer. As many of you know, I have said repeatedly since September 11 that a response that relies on war-making only strengthens the power of Islamic fun-

damentalists and gives permission to peoples all over the world to turn to violence as the solution to their conflicts. When the most powerful nation resorts to declaring war on networks of people and to intervening militarily to achieve a change of sovereign leadership in another nation, a strong signal is sent, and I believe it is the wrong signal.

In respect for the differing views among us, I have disciplined myself to keep my own counsel (mostly) for all these months. I know that some among you have been disappointed in that choice. Like millions of others, I have wanted to believe that I had been wrong in my predictions, wanted to believe that this "war on terrorism" could be concluded quickly without escalating around the world. I have hoped that a statement from me would not be necessary, knowing that people of good faith will surely disagree about this matter.

However, my desire to be faithful to Jesus Christ calls me to speak a word for peace, a word for the path of nonviolence, a word for the vision of economic and social justice and mercy that is embodied in the scriptures. I believe God calls us as Christians to speak up and speak out even when the cause is not popular, and perhaps especially then. Those of us who would claim the name of Christ take our strength from the abiding presence of God, made known to us in Jesus. We know

something of God's intent for the world, and believe that shalom/sala'am more nearly resembles the scriptural vision than does war and violence. That vision and purpose must govern our lives and determine our actions. That hope must infuse our lives with courage and must enable us to find ways to talk with one another when we disagree.

An interreligious community of clergy and laity who support the path of nonviolence and peace has been meeting together. In worship, prayer, education, and inspiration, we have begun to seek a means of offering our nation an alternative vision for these times. We gathered this summer in robes and stoles in front of the federal building in Hartford for prayers for peace, and in particular to present Senators Dodd and Lieberman with more than 500 quickly gathered signatures of congregants expressing concern about any proposed "pre-emptive" war on Iraq. We visited the offices of our congressional delegation this fall. We will continue to pray and continue to be a public presence.

As I pray, the lump in my throat dissipates and I find my voice once again. For in the spiritual communion with God that prayer represents, all other concerns diminish, and the call to be God's faithful servant becomes paramount.

How is it for you in the midst of this season of Pentecost? What are you "hearing" as you lift our world in prayer? How would God have us live together on this planet? And how do we get there from here?

• United Church News •

United Church News (USPS 0764-070) is published monthly except bi-monthly January-February and July-August by the Proclamation, Identity and Communication Ministry Team, Office of General Ministries, United Church of Christ, for members of the United Church of Christ. Address: 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115-1100, telephone: 216/736-2177; fax: 216/736-2223; e-mail: <goldere@ucc.org>. UCC on the web: <ucc.org>. United Church News on the web: <ucc.org/ucnews/>. Editorial opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the official bodies of the United Church of Christ.

Periodicals postage rates paid at Cleveland, OH and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to United Church News, P.O. Box 247, Bellmawr, NJ 08099-0247. For subscription questions, phone toll free: 800/363-0575.

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The Rev. Johnny Ray Youngblood to Speak on November 21

The Reverend Johnny Ray Youngblood, nationally known speaker and advocate for racial parity, social justice, and economic equity for all people, will be the keynote speaker at the Christian Conference of Connecticut's 20th Annual Peace and Justice Convocation. This year's theme will be *The Connecticut Housing Crisis: Discerning the Church's Call as Leader and Partner in the Resolution*.

Rev. Youngblood is recognized nationally for his work with the East Brooklyn Congregations, a group of churches which spearheaded the Nehemiah Housing Project, resulting in 2,500 owner occupied single family homes in three of the most devastated communities in Brooklyn. The amazing story of Rev. Youngblood and Saint Paul Community Church where he has been senior pastor for 26 years is told in the book *Upon this Rock: The Miracle of a Black Church* by journalist Samuel G. Freedman.

Following the keynote address, a distinguished panel will explore how the church can get involved in the resolution of Connecticut's housing crisis. Panelists will include Alan Green, President of Green, Wilson,

& Associates; Sister Patricia McKeon, Executive Director of Mercy Housing and Shelter Corporation; Ms. Diane Randall, Director of Partnership for Strong Communities; and the Most Reverend Peter A. Rosazza, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Hartford. The Right Reverend Wilfrido Ramos-Orench will moderate.

The event will take place at Saint Thomas Seminary, 467 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, from 5:00 to 8:30. The cost is \$15 (\$12 for students/seniors) before November 14 or \$18 (\$15 for students/seniors) at the door. Cost includes dinner hors d'oeuvres and beverages served at the reception between 5:00 and 6:00. For directions to Saint Thomas Seminary, please call 860/242-5573. You may register by sending your check to: The Christian Conference of Connecticut, 60 Lorraine St., Hartford, CT 06105-2241.

Rare Letter Finds New Home

BY CHRISTINE PALM

The course that takes us from the past into the future sometimes takes strange turns. And it's not often that hundreds of years melt away in seconds and we are left staring at an opportunity to preserve our roots. But that's exactly what happened a few weeks ago when a rare letter concerning the Amistad incident surfaced in an online auction from Midwest Auction Galleries, a collector of rare and antiquarian manuscripts.

With a lot of networking, some frantic phone calls and some creative collaborations, the Connecticut Conference rescued this important piece of UCC history from obscurity. Conference Minister Davida Foy Crabtree recalls the drama:

"One day, out of the blue, I got word from National UCC via email that a very important letter of Roger Sherman Baldwin was up for auction online and that the auction was due to end about 24 hours later. As I wracked my brain to come up with donors and a way to help the national church buy this, I suddenly remembered that Baldwin had

been a member at United Church on the Green in New Haven. So I emailed Louise Higginbotham, the Senior Minister there. She emailed back that she'd see what she could do. I then called Chris Cloud at Amistad America and he agreed to chip in. Meanwhile I went online to see where it stood, and it was getting on the expensive side. My staff and I tried contacting Amistad Research Center to see if they were bidding (not wanting to bid against ourselves), but they were closed due to Hurricane Isidore. I was about to call in some chips with an old and rare book dealer I know in Massachusetts to see if he could get it for us, since I was in my car and not able to bid. Meanwhile, I had let national know about United Church on the Green's interest and my inability to bid. They called the church, and the Associate Pastor there, John Gage, got on it, went online and bid. As these things go, it is hot down to the wire, and John figured out that the bidder we were up against had in a maximum bid of \$5000. So he bid \$5,100 just under the wire and we got it!!!!"

The object of all the hair-pulling excitement is a letter written by Roger Sherman Baldwin early in the year 1840 to Theodore Sedgwick of New York. In it, Baldwin lays out his proposed strategy for gaining the freedom of the captives aboard the infamous vessel. In a historic piece of clever legal maneuvering, Baldwin used a property rights precedent to free the slaves.

According to Crabtree, the letter will for the time being reside with Justice and Witness Ministries of the UCC, who are considering donating it to Amistad America and the State of Connecticut next summer when the ship visits Cleveland.

"It's a very important acquisition, all the more so because our acquiring it means it will be accessible to scholars," Crabtree explains. "We do not know who the other bidders were, of course, but it is reasonable to assume it would have landed in a private collection and never seen the light of day. Wherever it goes, it needs to be in an archive with proper heat, humidity and light controls as items from that era are quite unstable. For now, let's celebrate!"

Doubtless Baldwin would be pleased that 162 years after he put quill to paper, his UCC confreres are harking back to his legal ledger-main in the cause of justice.

Nonviolence *Continued from page A1*



attacks. Representing churches, educational institutions and individuals from across the state of Connecticut, the group meets monthly to reflect upon these critical issues and to serve as a resource for local pastors and churches.

"Gathering this group was a natural response to the confusion, fear and sorrow we felt, individually and collectively, in the weeks after 9/11," said Conference Minister Davida Foy Crabtree, who convened the group late last winter. "The group's meetings have been full of insight and passion for peaceful solutions to discord, and it's our hope that it's a process that could eventually spread throughout the Conference."

Staffed by the Rev. Carole Carlson, Associate Conference Minister for Clergy Concerns, the group meets monthly at the Congregational Church of North Haven. It hopes to model ways local congregations can hold dialogue among their members and may lead to such resources as an interfaith website.

"I think one of the greatest contributions the group can make is to help others think pedagogically about non-violence and to identify helpful ways people gathering in congregations can understand our world," says the Rev. Allie Perry, a pastoral counselor at Milford Pastoral Counseling Center and adjunct professor at Andover Newton Theological School. "In large measure, much of the practice of religion in this country has been church theology - using the language of reconciliation without doing the necessary social analysis. Not 'walking the walk,' if you will. It's harder than ever to have a prophetic voice - to be disciples of Jesus, who, after all, said, 'Love your ene-

mies;" he didn't say 'Bomb them.'" One of the topics that keeps coming up is the challenge of living in a country in which there is (also) so much 'civil religion,' that is, one which sets the tone that our nation is more worthy than others. Our national response to 9/11, for example, was to say, 'God Bless America,' not 'God Bless the World we Love.'"

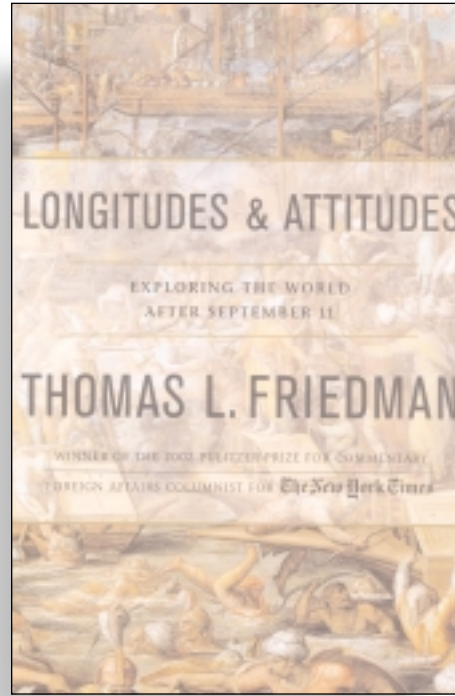
The Rev. Ralph Ahlberg, minister emeritus of Round Hill Community Church in Greenwich, agrees that is especially important to counter some of the mythology surrounding other religions. Ahlberg just returned from a trip to Turkey where he took part in a symposium on the ecumenical work and writings of Said Nursi. Ahlberg was especially moved by the scholarly, open approach taken on the part of the 6,000 participants.

"There were so many people involved and I had the opportunity to talk to several physicians who meet every Saturday night from 9 to 11 to read the Koran and discuss Islamic scholarship. I was so impressed by their dedication and openness. Can you imagine getting 70 American doctors together on a Saturday night to study Reinhold Niebuhr or Paul Tillich? We in America have a lot of notions about Islam. But if we listen to what Jerry Falwell says on TV, that's a very different Christian message than the one we get listening to William Sloane Coffin. I consider I have a very important job making people here aware of the generosity and kindness of people in Turkey. Islam is a wonderful faith which people need to understand better. Perhaps this group can provide resources for local congregations in their continuing dialogue."

While individual members may have specific areas of

Longitudes & Attitudes: Exploring the World After September 11

Longitudes & Attitudes (Farrar Straus Giroux, 2002, Hard Cover, \$26) is a collection of New York Times columns that Thomas L. Friedman has written since September 11 of last year and a diary that ties the



columns together. Friedman has won the Pulitzer Prize three times for his work at *The New York Times* and it is easy to see why when you read his work.

Friedman's columns bring together a vast knowledge of the Mid-East and numerous connections he has made with both people on the street and people in power. As both commentator and author, he has an insightful way of tying all the pieces together to give a grounded perspective of the issues and events troubling our post-September 11 world.

Reading the columns in chronological order provides an overview of the wide range of emotions and reactions the author experienced. Often, they seem to mirror the reac-

tions of much of our nation and the world. He uses humor, compassion, knowledge and experience to shed light on the events and issues that face us. According to Friedman, the book is "not meant to be a comprehensive study of September 11 and all the factors that went into it. Rather, my hope is that it will constitute a 'word album' that captures and preserves the raw, unpolished emotional and analytical responses that illustrate how I, and others, felt as we tried to grapple with September 11 and its aftermath."

In his diary Friedman shares his sense of anger that the terrorists had changed the safe cocoon he called home and his curiosity about who these people were and why they had perpetrated this deed. His early columns reflect these feelings. In one column he passionately articulates a pride in America, the America that is present at a local PTA meeting where a choir of ethnically diverse children led everyone in "God Bless America." He was reminded that the power of America comes "directly from a deep spiritual source — a spirit of respect for the individual, a spirit of tolerance for differences of faith or politics, a respect for freedom of thought as the necessary foundation for all creativity, and a spirit of unity that encompasses all kinds of differences."

Longitudes & Attitudes brings into focus the issues of a changing world and the impact recent events have had on America and I would recommend it for anyone seeking to make sense of the tragedy.

...the power of America comes directly from a deep spiritual source — a spirit of respect for the individual, a spirit of tolerance for differences of faith or politics, a respect for freedom of thought as the necessary foundation for all creativity, and a spirit of unity that encompasses all kinds of differences."

Silver Lake Cabin Profile: Central Association

Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of profiles of individual cabins nearing completion at Silver Lake Conference Center. We plan to give credit, whenever possible, to the volunteers. However, despite our best attempts to keep a good record of who has worked on the cabins, we may, on occasion, miss someone, and we would welcome corrections, which we'll run in future editions of ConnTact.

On Labor Day, 2001, dozens of people gathered at Silver Lake to begin work on a double occupancy cabin in the conference area known informally as "Long House Village." Men, women and children from several churches in the Central Association listened eagerly to plans laid out by the organizing committee, which was headed up by the Rev. Sandy Koenig, pastor of Plantsville Congregational Church, the Rev. Judith Cooke, associate pastor of Church of Christ, Congregational, in Newington, and the Rev. Ronald Brown, chair of the Silver Lake Board of Directors and pastor of South Congregational/First Baptist Church of New Britain. Then, they got to work.

Now, just over a year later, the cabin is all but finished; the only remaining detail is the installation of a ramp which will make the cabin accessible to the handicapped. As "a double," the Central Association-sponsored cabin will accommodate 16 conferees and two counselors.

"The cabin's progress is amazing," says Dana Fisher Sears, director of Silver Lake. "From the early design vision put forth by Property Manager Mike White, which built a lot of interest in the project, to the more complete architectural renderings, the cabin is a success story. It's been a true joint effort. Mike has been on-site, guiding, directing, and working almost every moment of the construction, and we've been joined by a slew of wonderful volunteers."

The cabin is built on the edge

of a communal gathering place centered around an enormous pine. Eventually, the spot will be outfitted with benches. One of the nicest touches about this cabin, according to Sears, is that the counselor beds are a bit longer and are separated from the beds meant for the youth.

"This gives the adults a bit more privacy," she explains. "In addition, the counselors' areas have reading lamps, which is another amenity, and means that if a child is sick in the night, or needs a little extra attention, the counselor can take care of him or her without disturbing the other kids."

In addition to new, improved space, each cabin has a screened porch area with benches "so kids can have an outdoor experience even in the rain and bugs!" Sears adds.

Members of the churches in the Central Association voted to name their double cabin after Virginia Thrall Smith, the first social work director of the Hartford Mission Society (known today as the Christian Activities Council), and Daniel Hand, a 19th C. abolitionist who endowed the American Missionary Association with funds for the education of newly freed slave families. In a nice turn of poetic justice, one of the volunteers on the project is a descendent of Virginia Thrall Smith.

The churches of the Central Association raised and donated \$19,800 for materials and donated labor worth approximately \$20,000. The following

Continued on page A5

Central Association churches, along with specific members, who gave time, talent and energy to the project are: From Church of Christ, Congregational, Newington: Sterling Andrews, Judith Cooke, Kathy Goff, Bob and Julia Hermann, Jay and Josh Krusell, Devon and Pat Lavery, John and Melinda Miller, Rob Morrison, George and Marilyn Pitman, Paul Vermeal, and Jeff and Judy Warren.

From Stanley Memorial Church in New Britain: Dee Ellioan, Terri

Noddin, and the Rev. David Stickney. From Plantsville Congregational Church: Sue and Walt Atwood, Debbie and Steve Bertenshaw, Cindy, Dave and Will Cayer, Jacqui and John Christiance, Fred and Rev. Kathy Cunliffe, John Forster, Bard Fuller, Bill Hammick, Lindsay Heather, Chris and Rev. Sandy Koenig, Carie and Chuck Lanning, Kristine LaPierre, Mark MacDonald, John and Lois Mattson, Dennis Perella, Kathy and Stan Peters, John and Sue Smayda, and Lance and Marilyn Walter.

Members of the Congregational Church of Southington are Brian and Terry Kern; and members of First Congregational Church of New Britain are Jim and Barbara Szostek. Berlin Congregational Church members are Henry and Jane Waterschoot. South Congregational Church, New Britain, member John Fuller, also volunteered.

In addition, Chris and Renee Whalen of the Poquonock Community Church, Congregational, volunteered, even though their church is not in the Central Association.

Of these volunteers, Sears said, "It's great that so many people saw a need, and stepped up to the plate."

Sacred Journey 2002 To Korea and Back Again

BY THE REV. PAIGE BESSE-RANKIN AND RAY HOLLAND

Earlier this summer, nine youths and two adult leaders journeyed from Connecticut to South Korea as part of Sacred Journey 2002. This program, sponsored by the Connecticut Conference and coordinated through the Korean Partnership Committee, enabled youths from Connecticut UCC churches to visit their partner churches in the Kyung-Ki Province (adjacent to Seoul) in South Korea. From July 25 to August 8, this group spent time getting to know members of their partner churches, and sharing their faith with new friends half a world away.

The group had a lot of fun making new friends, and visiting historic sites and scenic vistas. They even had a chance to get their feet – or more – wet in Korea's Eastern Sea, a.k.a. the Pacific Ocean. As always, the Korean hosts were extremely gracious and generous with their time and resources. As an opportunity to strengthen partnerships – friendships around the world, and as an opportunity to share the faith and see God working in other cultures, the trip was a wonderful success.

Here are some reflections from our group:

- I think that the trip was a great spiritual journey. We learned to get along in a place with nothing connecting us besides our faith. All that we had to rely on was our religion and our friendships that were formed through faith, so I learned how much belief can really do, and how far it can get you.

- It made me realize how much God's work has spread throughout the world.

- Even though we spoke different languages, we found common ground with our faith. Faith was what had brought us there in the first place, and it was really neat to see people in another country share their faith with us.

- I think this trip had a huge impact on my faith journey, just through seeing the faith of the people there, and how similar we really are.

- It was fun traveling with the group and making new friends.

- My faith was strengthened through worship with brothers and sisters in Christ on the other side of the world, in churches founded for the most part by missionaries from the United States and Europe. As I sometimes felt far away from home, I reflected again on their courage.

- The trip created new connections and friendships. In a sense, the group became a family.

- If you ever need a female counselor-type person to go [2006?], give me a call!

Anyone interested in visiting South Korea as part of Sacred Journey 2006, the next program for Connecticut youths to travel to South Korea, is invited to call us. We also welcome partnerships with interested churches. Please call the Rev. Paige Besse-Rankin or Ray Holland at 203/878-3885.

PILGRIMS & PARISHES

EDITED BY JEAN HAMILTON

Middletown

First Church of Christ has been involved in an outreach effort to Connecticut Valley Hospital for the past four years. The outreach has taken several avenues, including speaking the names of the 1,600 patients buried in anonymous, numbered graves at a yearly service, leading patient groups at the hospital, First Church members being trained to accompany and transport patients to worship and running an evening program for patients who have committed crimes and need to be restored to mental competency before standing trial. The Rev. John Hall, pastor, believes this work is "exactly the kind of thing Jesus Christ calls us to do in our world - reach out to those who are most excluded and lost."

Newtown

Members of the Newtown Congregational Church attended worship on September 15th —shovels in hand. Following worship, there was a groundbreaking ceremony for a new church school and office building. This was a dream come true for church members. For more than 50 years, more than a block has separated the sanctuary and church school buildings. An old-fashioned picnic completed the day's celebration.

Rockville

Union Congregational Church held a series of discussions about the 21st century hazards of parenting for parents, guardians and grandparents of adolescents and teens. The series tried to present the Christian point of view on raising kids in the 21st century and finding what options are available for today's kids.

Granby

South Congregational Church is sponsoring a Harvest Ball to support Habitat for Humanity. Dining, dancing and fellowship are combined to support the work of Habitat, which has built 84 homes in the area since 1990.

Willington

Federated Church has received a used 16-passenger mini-bus that is being used to transport students who have shown an interest in Sunday school but have no transportation. Volunteer drivers and monitors will assist in the transportation of these students.

North Stamford

Congregational Church featured Islamic-Christian and Protestant-Catholic dialogues during a series of Friday night discussions. Guests were invited to enhance the discussions.

Danbury

First Congregational Church has suggested there be a Lunch Hour Bible Study that would include a brown bag lunch and study. There is also an opportunity to buy a brick to support the renovation of the brick walkway in front of the church. The "historical" old bricks were sold for \$5 each after the restoration project.

East Haven

First Congregational Church, Old Stone Church, has requested that members, friends and groups sponsor their monthly newsletter. Just \$55 covers the cost of mailing the newsletter and sponsors are thanked in the issue.

Watertown

First Congregational Church offered a daytime adult music study on Thursday mornings. The sessions looked at the hymns they sing including the history, personal experience and the connections of the music. There will also be monthly Hymn Sings before worship in place of the prelude.

East Hartford

South Congregational Church has a group called "Sunday After Worship," a relevant news forum. One scheduled guest was the executive director of the Center for Conflict Transformation in Hartford.

New Britain

First Church has organized a job bank for church members who have odd jobs around the home but are unable physically or financially to take care of it themselves. Other members sign up to be helpers and requests are matched with workers.

Thompson

Congregational Church is holding monthly Services of Healing and Wholeness for members and friends throughout the year. In the spirit of Jesus' acts of healing and the healing ministry of the New Testament, church members are invited to participate in the special service.

Hartford

Asylum Hill arranged a special evening at Talcott Mountain Science Academy to study the night sky and learn about telescopes and astronomy. Young and old were invited to spend time with three astronomers and learn more about the stars.

Rowayton

United Church holds Senior Luncheons every Tuesday. Seniors bring their brown bag lunch and get together for a social hour and a program.

Churches Need Coverage, Too

What You Should Know About Employee Benefits Liability Coverage

Picture this: - A Pastor dies unexpectedly. He leaves behind a loving family including his second wife and two small children. He has a child from a previous marriage as well. He modified his life insurance when he remarried, making his new wife the beneficiary of his life insurance policy - a benefit provided by his local church. There is one small problem. The beneficiary change form never got mailed in to the insurance carrier! - A small but important administrative oversight in a busy church office. The death benefit was paid to the ex-wife, leaving the Pastor's new family without financial means.

Employee Benefits Liability coverage protects the employer against claims by employees or former employees resulting from negligent acts or omissions in the administration of the insured's employee benefits program.

It is intended to cover the "administration" of group life insurance, group accident and/or health insurance; profit sharing plans; employee stock subscription plans; and workers' compensation, unemployment insurance, social security benefits, disability benefits, etc.

The word "administration" is defined as giving counsel to employees, interpreting the program, handling records and effective processing of enrollment, termination or cancellation of employee benefits provided all are acts that are authorized by the Named Insured - the Church.

Churches are facing many of the same employment issues that organizations in the non-religious sector face - letting employees go. One-third of those who have lost private insurance and become uninsured either left or lost a job. And, when individuals leave their jobs, they frequently lose their health insurance coverage as well. The employee may qualify for COBRA - allowing the employee to continue with the group coverage at his or her own personal expense for a designated period of time. One of the most overlooked elements of benefit administration is to assure that the employee is notified of their rights under COBRA. Make sure your church is knowledgeable not only from a liability standpoint, but from a caring standpoint - reaching out to the families this will affect.

Many church insurance policies do not offer Employee Benefits Liability as a standard coverage.

The UCC Insurance Board Program includes \$2 million of Employee Benefits Liability Coverage at no additional cost.

Be sure to review your church property and liability policy to see if you have this fundamental coverage. Or contact Ken Krause, Conference Agent at 203/488-6386 for a competitive proposal from the UCCIB.

CLASSIFIEDS

Education

Applications are now being accepted for the 2003 Charlotte Hoyt Bagnall Scholarship for study in religious music and liturgy, intended to help musicians improve their ability to support religious worship services. Up to \$1,500 will be awarded this year. Information and applications can be obtained by visiting the scholarship website at <http://www.pcdevelopers.com/chb>. Contact: The Charlotte H. Bagnall Scholarship 17 Beaverbrook Rd., West Simsbury, CT 06092 or CHBScholarship@cs.com [12/02]

Positions

BLOOMFIELD — The First Congregational Church is seeking a Youth Music Director who will meet with youth on Sunday Mornings. The Cherub Choir rehearses at 9 a.m. and the Junior Choir rehearses at 9:30 a.m. The choirs sing during the 10 a.m. worship once or twice a month. Candidate must provide music for rehearsals, but piano accompanist is available for worship services. Salary negotiable. Contact: Church office 860-242-0776 [11/02]

BRIDGEWATER — Congregational Church is seeking an organist/choir director. There is a 2-manual, 7-rank Austin organ and brand new Estonia grand sanctuary piano. Sunday 10 a.m. service with special services, adult choir, handbell directing a plus. Monthly staff meetings, and music committee meetings. Salary about \$11,000, based on qualifications, 4 weeks paid vacation. Contact: Stuart Rapp, P.O. Box 7, Bridgewater, CT 06752 or serap@netzero.net. [11/02]

HARTFORD — Asylum Hill Congregational Church seeks an Assistant Director of Children and Family Ministries. Urban church with outstanding music, outreach program, and unique church school seeking a creative thinker and writer with a commitment to children. Time is 30 hours, flexible schedule, with medical benefits. Organization, people & computer skills are key. Contact: Contact Kathleen Graham at kgraham@ahcc.org or 860/525-5696, ext. 24 [12/02]

LEDYARD — Director of Music. Organist (2-manual Allyn), direct 15-20 member adult voice choir and 4-octave English handbell choir, oversee active children's choir. Salary commensurate with experience. Contact Board of Music, Ledyard (CT) Congregational Church at ledyard.cong.church@snet.net.

MANCHESTER — Director of Christian Education, part-time, for Center Church. Hours are flexible. Ability to work with a staff as a real team member, as well as lead a team of volunteers, is key. Call the Rev. Terry Schmitt, 860/647-9941.

MILFORD — The First United Church of Christ, Congregational, in Milford is seeking a full-time Minister of Christian Education. Membership is 900+ with active family and children's ministries. Job responsibilities include but are not limited to: supervision of church school (enrollment 200+), supervision/training of church school staff, weekly children's sermons, elementary and middle school youth groups, VBS, leadership of special worship services, and intergenerational programming/coordination. In addition, there are a variety of other collaborative efforts with Senior and Associate

Pastors and CE board. Salary range is highly competitive. Full job description is available upon request. Please send resume and inquires to Christian Education/ Search Committee, First United Church of Christ, 34 W. Main St., Milford, CT. 06460

NEW BRITAIN - The Stanley Memorial Church is seeking an Organist or Organist/Choir Director. Willing to work to create a desirable position and service schedule. Please call Carol, 860/666-5441 to explore options. [12/02]

SOUTH WINDSOR — Wapping Community Church, UCC, seeks a part-time Director of Christian Education. Flexible 20-hour week, must work Sundays and Summer Vacation Bible School. Financial and budgeting experience, computer knowledge, works well with children, parents, staff and volunteers. Associates for Christian Education Certificate preferred, but will send for training. Commitment and enthusiasm more important than formal education. Contact: Wapping Community Church c/o Linda Baker, CE Chair, 1790 Ellington Road, South Windsor, CT 06074; call 860/644-0833 or 860/644-1409. [12/02]

SUFFIELD — The First Church of Christ, Congregational seeks a part-time Director of Youth Ministry, approximately 15 hrs/week. They are looking for an enthusiastic person with vision, energy and faith to lead a vital ministry with middle school and high school youth. Strong staff and lay support. Contact: Youth Ministry Search Committee, 81 High Street, Suffield, CT 06078. [11/02]

THOMASTON — The First Congregational Church of Thomaston is

seeking an organist/choir director to contribute to our enthusiastic music program. The Church possesses a Mollar two manual pipe organ with chimes and a grand piano. Responsibilities include choir rehearsal, Sunday Worship, special holidays and occasionally accompanying junior choir and bell choir. The position requires approximately ten hours per week and the salary is \$8,000 to \$10,000 depending on experience. Contact: For information, contact Edith Galusha at daveandeddie@juno.com or 860/675-3307. [12/02]

WEST HARTFORD — The Flagg Road UCC is looking for a Youth Fellowship Advisor. This supportive, engaged small church seeks candidates for part-time youth group leadership. Middle and high school groups which meet at least once a month are looking for mission, fellowship and worship guidance. Assisted by strong lay volunteers. Experience desired. Contact: Flagg Road UCC 860/523-0121 or Vicki Aldrich at 232-2217. [11/02]

Sell or Give

BROOKFIELD — Congregational Church has youth choir robes for any church that has need of them. They are light blue and red. Contact: 203/775-1259. [11/02]

HAMDEN — Free Sunday School Curriculum: Spring Glen Church in Hamden wants to give away "Whole People of God" lectionary-based curriculum: Sept. 1997 cycle b/c; Sept. 1998 cycle c/a; Sept. 1999 cycle a/b; and Sept. 2000 cycle b/c. Must be picked up. Call Barbara Butler, Christian Education Coordinator, 288-3381, or e-mail barbaral-butler@hotmail.com.

Nonviolence *Continued from page A3*

interest, such as non-violence or inter-faith relations, all agree that the process of dialogue is critical.

"I've only been able to attend a few meetings, but I can tell already it has tremendous value," says Efrain Agosto, Professor of at Hartford Seminary. "It's a good idea anytime the church leaders get together to reflect theologically on the issues of the day, especially after and about Sept. 11."

And for working pastors like Geordie Campbell of XXX church, the lessons play out every day.

"Our work and the reading that I have immersed myself in because of the Theological Working Group has caused me to be more pastorally attuned to the prolonged and delayed issues of loss and grief that we are still very much in the thick of - and will be for quite some time," Campbell says. "Depression and anxiety are still at a measurable high. For many people,

9/11 shattered their myth of a secure world. It takes a long time to grieve that, and to find faithful footing in a new, and hopefully larger context. Working with this group is certainly one way."

The insights Campbell has gleaned have even informed his sermons.

"I have been more outspoken from the pulpit on what I consider to be critical issues: the unmistakable pacifism of Jesus, the complexity of our pluralistic world, the need for tolerance, deeper understanding, and forgiveness . . . those kinds of things," he says. "The best example is that I chose to preach a sermon 'Written in the Ashes' on Memorial Day weekend. It explored four responses that Christians have made to war throughout our history - not all of them being Christian responses. I looked historically at crusades, holy wars, the just war, and pacifism. The sermon clearly led to an endorsement of non-violence as the

preferable, and usually most faithful, response, and to a very harsh word for the holy war that we are in these troubled days. One key member of my congregation said, 'I admire your courage in saying those things. I question the wisdom of your timing.' Ironically, or maybe not, more copies of that sermon have gone out than any other in several years."

Already, some tangible resources have emerged. They include: "Nonviolence and Prophetic Theology," a praxis model developed by Allie Perry and Peter Allen to get at issues of prophecy and nonviolence; "Honoring Other Faiths," an adult/youth education series using video materials being collected by Campbell; "Faith and Doubt at Ground Zero," the PBS video that looked at spirituality, with a study guide being written by Charlie Kuchenbrod; and a study guide, being written by Jane Hooper, using 11 September, the new volume from Hartford Seminary.

"A Native American grandfather was talking to his grandson about a horrible tragedy that had just happened. The elder said to the young brave, 'I feel as if I have two wolves fighting in my heart. One wolf is a vengeful, angry, violent one. The other wolf is loving, gentle and compassionate.'

'Which will win the fight in your heart?' asked the younger of the older. 'The one I feed,' replied the grandfather.'

"I hope that the Theological Working Group - whatever the particular outcomes of our work - will help us and others to feed the loving, compassionate wolf - rather than the angry, vengeful, violent one."

- Geordie Campbell.

EVENTS

November - March • Silver Lake Conference Center/Incarnation Center • Confirmation Retreats • CT Conference Confirmation Retreats schedule: Nov. 15-17, 2002, January 24-26, 2003, February 21-23, 2003, March 7-9, 2003 at Silver Lake and February 7-9, 2003 at Incarnation Center. Cost: \$80 per person Contact: Sarah Annis saraha@ctucc.org 866-367-2822 or 860-233-5564 ext 117

Saturday, November 2; 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. • Old Stone Church East Haven • Holiday Fair • Holiday Boutique, Country Kitchen, White Elephant, Jewelry, Maya Works, SERV, Children's activities and store, Raffle table. Contact 203-467-2907.

Sunday, November 3; 2-5 p.m. • First Congregational Church of East Haven • A Connecticut UCC Musicians Gathering "Our Boat a Common Shelter" • Meet JAYSON ENGQUIST, Founder of *The United Church of Christ Musicians' Association* Spend the afternoon with Jayson and other musicians. Share opportunities to celebrate ourselves and the beloved art of music. Worship as a body of musicians who are refreshed and renewed by nurturing one another in the setting of God's sanctuary. Relax to hymn-singing, prayers, responses, and the Holy Spirit, sent by our Creator to fulfill a plan of Christ's loving kindness, humility, and justice. Refreshments will be served. This event is open to all.

Sunday, November 3; 3 p.m. • First Congregational Church of Vernon • Alfred E. White Chorale • The Chorale, founded in 1980 to preserve the rich tradition of African-American Heritage through song, including spirituals and other sacred music, will perform Negro

Spirituals. Cost: \$6, \$4 seniors and students Contact: 875-7580.

Sunday, November 17; 4 p.m. • South Church 90 Main Street, New Britain • The Choir of the Sixteen, Harry Christophers, conductor. One of Britain's finest choral groups visits the Music Series at South Church for a performance of music from Spanish and English Renaissance composers. • Cost \$30 premium, \$20 general, \$15 senior/student • Contact 860-223-7555.

Sunday, November 17; 7 p.m. • First Church of Christ 250 Main Street Wethersfield • Organist David Spicer will present a concert of pipe organ music and his own transcriptions. The program will include selections by Johann Sebastian Bach, Antonin Dvorak, Jules Massenet, and Charles-Marie Widor. For more information call 860-529-1575 ext. 209. Cost: An offering will be received.

Thursday, November 21; 5-8 p.m. • St. Thomas Seminary, Bloomfield • Peace & Justice Convocation sponsored by Christian Conference of Connecticut • "The Connecticut Housing Crisis: Discerning the Church's Call as Leader and Partner in the Resolution" Keynote Speaker noted social and economic justice advocate The Rev. Dr. Johnny Ray Youngblood. • Cost \$15 by November 14th, \$18 at the door. • Contact 860-236-4281.

November 23 & 24 • First Church Congregational Fairfield • Our Whole Lives Sexuality and our Faith Training. Contact: Rev. Kathy Peters 866-367-2822 ext. 121.

Friday-Sunday, December 6-8 • Silver Lake Conference Center Sharon • Christmas at Silver Lake • Fifth & sixth graders, seventh & eighth graders are invited to a fun filled weekend at Silver Lake Conference Center to celebrate Jesus' Birthday. Spend the weekend with old and new friends through games, worship and winter activities. Cost: \$67.50 per person. Contact: 860-364-5526.

Sunday, December 8 • Silver Lake Conference Center Sharon • Christmas dinner at Silver Lake • Take your family to Silver Lake Conference Center and enjoy crafts, singing, hay rides, fellowship and a delicious Christmas dinner. Cost: Adults \$15, Youth \$12, Children \$8. Contact: 860-364-5526.

Saturday, December 7; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. • Ingraham House 156 Summer Street Bristol • Advent Day Away Attending to the Spirit • For Non Ordained Church Professionals-Come to renew your spirit in a time that is often so busy it is easy to forget about the reasons for the Christmas pageants, the special music, the extra bulletins, etc. Gather for worship and prayer, Bible Study and discussion, food and fellowship. The Rev. Kathy Peters, Associate Conference Minister for Local Church Ministries, will provide the leadership. Cost: \$20 per person including lunch. Scholarship assistance is available. Contact: Sarah Annis saraha@ctucc.org; or 866-367-2822.

Saturday, December 21; 7 p.m. • First Congregational Church, East Hartford • Ms. Valerie Tutson will share biblical and other Christmas stories for all ages, interspersed with music for everyone to enjoy and sing. • Cost \$5-\$20 maximum for families. • Contact 860-528-3133.

Help the *Christmas Toy Project*

For the children of women in prison, Christmas is an especially bleak time of year. The *Christmas Toy Project* works to change that. The Project collects and donates toys to the children of the women incarcerated at York Correctional Institution in Niantic.

According to the Rev. Laurie Etter of Niantic Community Church, toys, games, sports equipment (basketballs, soccer balls, etc.), cosmetics, toiletries, "Walkmans" and small radios are especially popular. Gifts are needed for children aged birth through twelve.

Donated items may be brought to Niantic Community Church, 179 Pennsylvania Ave., Niantic, no later than December 8th. Sorting will be done on Dec. 9 and 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Gift-wrapping will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 11 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

"The response last year was tremendous," Etter says. "But we need your help again this year for the 1,200 children who need your concern."

Call Etter at 860/739-0744. And please remember to include batteries for those items requiring them!

