



## SUMMER WORSHIP ONE SERVICE AT 10 AM

Join us for Summer Worship when our Sunday services will be a bit more relaxed, a little less formal from now through September 5. Please come!

**Sunday, July 4**  
Rev. Sarah Person

**Sunday, July 11**  
Rev. Jay Deacon

**Sunday, July 18**  
Rev. Jan K. Nielsen

**Sunday, July 25**  
Cynthia Wolcott

## Highlights!

- HER STORY, AN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
- THE CHURCH SCHOOL WANTS YOU
- HEADLINES FROM THE POLICY BOARD: IT'S BEEN A GOOD YEAR
- A FERN STREET MARKET THANK YOU!
- UPCOMING EVENTS

## *Ministers' Meditations . . .*

### *Looking Out for Each Other*

I spent the first week of May in Delhi, India with my husband, Alan Melchior. He had been the keynote speaker at a conference of educators and others who worked with young adults throughout the country. The temperature during the days reached 110 degrees. There were broken roads and sidewalks and construction debris everywhere as Delhi prepared to host the Commonwealth games in the fall. A constant, fine reddish haze permeated the air and the sky. India was breathtakingly beautiful *and* terrible. Everywhere there were designs and brilliant colors; on tumbling brick walls and rickshaws and women's saris and edifices dating from the Empire. Everywhere there was extreme poverty side-by-side with a ferociously active economy and sedate



wealth. Delhi is a city of 17 million and no quiet. Day and night one could hear beep-beeps as cars and trucks and carts jostled for position on the roadways. Our guidebook told visitors under no circumstances to try and drive in India; rules of the road basically didn't apply. I found that I could not sustain my terror while being driven around – the body adjusts somehow to all that adrenaline. It gave me the chance to notice that, while riding on the roads in India is akin to being in a harrowing bumper car rally, not once did I see a collision. Everyone got within six inches of each other at speeds of up to 50 miles per hour, but didn't touch. Carts drawn by men, bullocks, horses, camels and elephants shared the road with British sports cars, trucks, buses, motorbikes, bicycle rickshaws and auto-rickshaws. Every once in a while, traffic would stop for a herd of cattle strolling down the highway. I turned to a companion during one of our rides and said, "No one even bothers to look around – they just charge ahead!" She responded, "They look forward and assume that the drivers behind them are looking out. They are looking out for each other, you see." Strange, I thought, how a callous disregard for life and limb might get translated into a matter of trust and watchfulness. I am resolved to open my eyes and my mind and look out for the other.



Blessings,

Sarah

# Membership Matters

To contact Martha: [mwinslow@westhartforduu.org](mailto:mwinslow@westhartforduu.org)  
or 233-3669, Ext. 109

*Sumer is icumen in,  
Lhude sing cuccu!  
Groweþ sed and bloweþ med  
And springþ þe wde nu,  
Sing cuccu!*

Maybe you know this traditional English round that dates to the 1200's? It means "Summer has come in, Loudly sing, Cuckoo! The seed grows and the meadow blooms /And the wood springs anew, Sing, Cuckoo!" With the warm weather comes a chance to live at a slower pace, to stop—literally—and smell the flowers. The church will be open for services throughout the summer, and if you are a newcomer, there is always a Welcome Host that can give you a tour and answer questions. The church office will also be open, but with reduced hours (Mon-Fri, from 9:00-1:00.) Although many church activities do not occur over the summer, some do. Our food ministries still need volunteers to help prepare meals for the homeless. Please contact **Sally Kemmler, Robin Sleeman, or Dick Brigham** if you can help. If you can help with fellowship hour, please contact **Janet Henderson**; if you can usher or greet, contact **Susan Porta**. (The church office can provide you with contact information if you do not have it.) I do not have office hours over the summer as I take the time to be home with my family.



Women of the church, I would like to tell you about some exciting new developments especially for you! **Karen Pierson** and **Linda Scacco** will spearhead an oral history project for the next church year they are calling "Her Story." They, along with other trained volunteers, would like to collect stories of your lives as well as anecdotal history of our church. They will then put pieces of these stories together to form some sort of performance in the spring, "modeling on such works as the recent Hartford Stage performance 'Motherhood Out Loud' which combined stories and poems, monologues and dialogues." We expect that more ideas will unfold as we progress. In addition, as we begin to plan our church's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary, these oral histories will be included in our celebration which we will begin to plan in this upcoming church year. (Yes, **Rev. Jan** tells us, it

takes ten years to plan a celebration like this one!) We would like to begin the project "**Her Story**" with a few interviews this summer, to "test drive" the whole process, and then to get started in earnest this fall, with most of the interviews occurring in October and November, before the busy holiday season. If you would like to be interviewed, or if you would like to be an interviewer, or both, please contact **Karen** or **Linda**. Don't be surprised if someone gets in touch with you directly. We want to hear your story!

In addition to the Her Story project, we are inspired by our newly formed men's group to put a little more organization around the Women's programming in the church. A small group of us met together on June 13<sup>th</sup> to begin brainstorming ideas. If you have ideas for women's programming or would like to be involved, please share them with us! We will be sharing and/or implementing these ideas with you in the fall.

Mark your calendars now for **Homecoming Sunday**, which will be on **September 12**, when we will share our summer stories over a piece of pie. (Look for more information in an upcoming newsletter.) Also mark your calendar for Sunday, **September 19**, when we will hold our first Volunteer Fair to share with you opportunities to get involved here on Fern Street. Take care. Have a good summer. I look forward to seeing you back in September if not before!

*Martha Winslow*  
Member Services Coordinator

# Church School News

## To Contact Sally:

Until September, please use email to contact Sally:  
soxman@westhartforduu.org

## Church School Registration for 2010-2011 – Important!!

If you have not yet sent in your registration form for next year, along with your materials fees, please do so as soon as possible. The registration information is needed to compile accurate class lists and to ensure proper planning for the coming church year. The materials fees are needed for restocking supplies and purchasing new curricular materials.

## Nursery Closed in July and August

Last summer, we had little demand for nursery care. In order to conserve our resources, we are closing our Nursery after the service on June 27. Please send me an email if this is a hardship for you and your family.

## The Church School Wants You!

Teaching is fun and rewarding – I'm not making this up. I hear it year after year from volunteer teachers. Teaching is a wonderful way of connecting with the amazing children in our congregation. And it is an equally wonderful way of connecting with other parents in the congregation. So, if you are missing out on this tremendous opportunity, please contact me right away. I'm anxiously waiting to hear from you. Don't worry about prior classroom experience. **Dee Newton** and I are here to help, as are fellow volunteers who have a couple of years of teaching under their belts.

Remember, in order for us to properly staff our classrooms, we need one adult family member from each of our church school families to teach every other year. FYI, I have full teams for the 9 AM preschool and the 11 AM 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade classes. I stand ready to add your name to one of the available teams. Because we have not yet received a number of registrations for next year, I am not clear on classroom divisions. Just let me know the grade you would like to teach and we'll take it from there. Hope to be working with you in September!

Love, *Sally*

## HEADLINES FROM THE POLICY BOARD:



## It Has Been a Good Year

As we approach the end of the regular church year, our congregation can look back with satisfaction at many accomplishments this year; we have room here for only a few examples of the church's vitality...

Our worship services are inspirational experiences for members and visitors, and we welcomed 35 new members, compared with 19 last year. A Membership Advisory Committee has been developing with **Martha Winslow** and **Reverend Sarah**, better ways to greet visitors and support new members. Our church school is as vibrant as ever with new curricula developed by our own members, and **Sally Oxman** now has an energetic Advisory Committee. A new Social Justice Committee working with **Reverend Sarah** has brought new vitality to our service activities. In addition to our food and other ministries, the Fertile Ground breakfasts are helping community organizations to support each other. Being a Welcoming Congregation continues to be an important part of the life of the congregation, and the Diversity Task Force is helping the congregation address challenges of importance for both the church and the community.... As always, many members are facing personal and family challenges, and **Reverends Jan and Sarah** and the Care Team are devoting much time to these pastoral needs. In anticipation of the future, a Strategic Planning event was held and several goals came to the forefront. As a congregation we will be working together on five core areas: Membership and Building Community, Communication and Identity, Faith Development, Outreach and Social Justice and finally Leadership Development.

All of these activities require resources, and our Stewardship Committee led a successful annual campaign! Through the work of the committee and other volunteers and the generous support of members and friends, we met our budget goals for this year. The work of the church also requires the resources of the time, effort, and leadership of volunteers, as illustrated by the many committees mentioned here.

The Policy Board wishes you a pleasant summer. We look forward to seeing you in church this summer and next fall!

### Policy Board Members:

David Arnott	Scott Kaslusky
Mary Fournier	Scott MacCloy
Ray Giolitto, Moderator	Jan Nielsen (ex-officio)
Peggy Gray	Kent Smith

# Thank You!



We would like to thank all who helped with the 2010 Fern Street Market. We had over 75 volunteers contribute to our success in raising \$4,600 for the church. Thanks to all who sorted, served, set-up and cleaned up. We would also like to thank everyone who donated clothes, antiques, baked goods, plants, books, appetizers and the beautiful hand crafted items.

*Event Co-Chairs*

*Dee Newton, Maria Sgamboti and Orlene Spinney*

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## Our Caring Church

We rejoice with **Sally and Tom Oxman** and their family. Sally and Tom are the proud and happy new grandparents of a granddaughter. Isannah Oxman was born on May 17<sup>th</sup> to Toby and Paul Oxman. Isannah weighed 10 pounds, six ounces, and she was 23 inches long. We join Sally and Tom and their entire family in offering our prayers of thanksgiving for this new blessing in their lives.

We give thanks with **Curt and Ruth Hanks** that Curt's recent surgery went well. We know Curt would appreciate your calls and cards.

Our Minister Emerita, **Rev. Jean Brown**, is resting more comfortably in the sub-acute unit at Avery Heights after a difficult week last week. Rev. Jean was hospitalized at Jack Dempsey to improve her pain management and get additional screening. She will stay at the unit for a while until her current course of therapy is completed. Rev. Jean would like visits, but asks that you keep them brief and especially that you call first. I know we love her, but surprise visits will interfere with her rest and recovery. Her room telephone is 947-2371. We hold Rev. Jean and her family in our prayers.

We are thinking of **Elizabeth Briggs** and her family. Elizabeth's mother suffered a massive heart attack and stroke on June 3.

We celebrate with **Gus and Joe Keach-Longo** who marked the fifth wedding anniversary with a vow renewal ceremony. Rev. Jan had the honor of officiating and their son, Jonathan, read a poem for his fathers. It was a beautiful day and they stood outside under the birch tree they planted five years ago to mark their wedding. We rejoice that their marriage is now recognized not only by this church but also by the laws of the State of Connecticut.

**Cynthia Wolcott's** brother, Howard, was seriously injured in a recent traffic accident. We offer our prayers for strength to Cynthia.

We hold in our hearts **Ritch and Annette Cable**. Ritch's father passed away Monday, May 31.

We hold in our prayers **Rosemarie Hargrave**, her daughter Laurie and her son-in-law Bob Rumrill. Bob is undergoing chemotherapy for cancer.

We are thinking of the family of **Carolyn Storck Gabow** who died suddenly on Friday, May 21. She was 49. A memorial service honoring her life was held here in our sanctuary on Thursday, June 10, with Rev. Sarah officiating. We hold in our prayers her four children; **Sarah, Brian, Christopher** and **Claire**, and her father and mother: **Fred** and **Mary Anne Storck** as well as her entire family and many friends and send them our deepest sympathies.

Members of a scout troop led by **Laurie Brown** were seriously injured in a recent car accident. **Hannah, Stephanie** and **Emily Duzy**, children of **Beth** and **Glenn Duzy** were severely injured, as was another girl scout, **Abby McGuire**. Laurie is also greatly concerned about one of her neighbors, 11-year-old **Roxie Kubis**, who has just been diagnosed with lymphoma. We offer Laurie our sympathies and prayers for these children that mean so much to her, and for her own strength of heart.

We are greatly saddened by the passing of **Dick Benham** on Wednesday, June 16. A service for Dick Benham was held on Tuesday, June 22, at 1PM in the sanctuary with **Rev. Jan** and **Rev. Sarah** officiating. We grieve with **Val**, his wife, their children **Richard, Jeanette** and **Margaret** and their families; and his brother **Jack** and sister-in-law **Joan Benham** and their families.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to **Paul Eddy**, whose father Julian (Ted) Eddy died on Monday, June 14. We hold **Paul**, his wife **Elizabeth Normen**, their daughters **Avery** and **Julia**, his mother **Claire**, and their families and friends in our hearts.

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## Parish Directory

The new Parish Directory will be published and available in early September. If you have any changes or updates to your contact information, please let Patty Lee know by July 19 at 233-3669, Ext. 106 or [plee@westhquartforduu.org](mailto:plee@westhquartforduu.org) so that the new directory will reflect accurate information. This is also a good time to provide the church with your email address if you haven't been receiving our weekly emails about church activities and events.

*The Universalist*, the newsletter of the Universalist Church of West Hartford, provides parishioners and friends with information about our congregation and our larger community. Please send changes to any of your contact information to: Martha Winslow, Member Services Coordinator, The Universalist Church, 433 Fern Street West Hartford, CT 06107 [mwinslow@westhartforduu.org](mailto:mwinslow@westhartforduu.org)

<b>Next Newsletter</b>	<b>Newsletter</b>
<b>Submission Deadline</b>	<b>Mailing Date</b>
July 14	July 23

Email newsletter items, as an attachment, to Julia Giolitto at [gjolitto@gjolitto.net](mailto:gjolitto@gjolitto.net)

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Return Service Requested

**DATED MATERIAL – DELIVER BEFORE 07/05/10**

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Daniel Scifo, Organist  
Lambert Laing, Custodian  
Julia Fuentes, Custodian  
Kathy Anderson, Sexton  
Tom Oxman, Jr. High Youth Advisor  
Margarita Perez, Jr. High Youth Advisor  
Sam Lanza, Jr. High Youth Advisor  
Marissa Bouchard, Sr. High Youth Advisor  
Dan Bouchard, Sr. High Youth Advisor  
Jackie Majerus-Collins, Youth-Mentor Coordinator  
Linda Scacco, Coming of Age Parent Consultant  
Julia Giolitto, Newsletter Editor  
Orlene Spinney, Library Collections Manager

## Life Long Learning

### Tuesday Evening Book Group

The Tuesday Evening Book Group meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00PM. On **July 6** and **August 3**, our group will be gathering at the pagoda in Elizabeth Park, right in the middle of the rose garden. If the weather is not cooperating, please call Orlene Spinney at 860-719-8433 for the alternate meeting place.

**July 6** *Little Bee* by Chris Cleave  
**Aug. 3** *Commencement* by J. Courtney Sullivan

Beginning **Tuesday, September 7**, we will be meeting at church.

**Sept. 7** *The Art of Racing in the Rain*, by Garth Stein  
**Oct. 5** *The Jewel and the Crown* by Paul Scott  
**Nov. 2** *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* by Robert M. Pirsig

**Dec. 7** *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros  
**Jan. 4** *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald  
**Feb. 1** *Middlemarch* by George Eliot  
**Mar. 1** *The Zookeeper's Wife* by Diane Ackerman  
**Apr. 5** *Women, Food and God* by Geneen Roth  
**May 3** *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett  
**June 7** meet at Borders, Books & Music

We hope to have more people join us for our lively discussions. We always think of something different that we might have overlooked ourselves. The Tuesday Evening Book Group is a great place for fellowship and conversation.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact Orlene Spinney ([mSORlene@gmail.com](mailto:mSORlene@gmail.com) or 860-719-8433).