



## Missions Dinner and Program

ON SATURDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 29, the Outreach Committee will present a dinner, open to all, with guest speakers **Jon and Valerie Brown**, our missionaries to the **Yanomami** natives of northern Brazil.

The Browns live among these primitive people in the jungle habitat of the Amazon rainforest. Their work is fascinating, even

mind-boggling, to us who are accustomed to a comfortable New England lifestyle.

In addition to Jon and Valerie, we will have reports about several other First Church outreach activities, including **Sarah Papert-sian's** call to bring the Gospel to the Muslim world, updates from the Dominican Republic and Haiti teams, the new *Perspectives* pro-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Sunday Worship Services

Traditional Services: 8:00, 9:15 and 11:00 a.m.  
Wind Contemporary Service: 11:00 a.m.



# ripe

the fruit of a  
seasoned disciple

### SERMON SERIES

Each message theme, through November 20, completes this sentence:

***A mature disciple of Jesus Christ is someone who, by God's grace, is striving to...***

***...engage in healthy relationships.***

**OCTOBER 30** — Message by **Deryk Richenburg**  
Text: Galatians 5:25-6:5

***...move from self-centeredness to other-centeredness.***

**NOVEMBER 6** — Message by **Michael McDowell**  
Text: Philippians 2:1-4

***...steward God's gifts and His Gospel to serve others for His glory.***

**NOVEMBER 13** — Message by **Tessa Afshar**  
Text: 1 Peter 4:10-11

***...engage in disciple-making.***

**NOVEMBER 20** — Message by **Wayne Luman**  
Text: Matthew 9:9-13



**TWO WEEKS AGO**, Wayne and Tessa and I went to hear Ken Boa speak at a session for pastors with Vision New England. Ken's insight into the spiritual life was excellent, as it was for us at First Church the whole weekend.

The best part for me about the time with VNE was the ride home. We discussed what we heard from Ken Boa. We shared our hopes and dreams for our own spiritual lives and for the church. We even confessed our struggles and pledged together to pray for one another.

None of us wanted to leave that afternoon without a commitment to go deeper in our

relationship with God. Ken pleaded with us to memorize four prayers that Paul prayed, and he asked us to use them to pray for others in the church. We enthusiastically determined to do that, and even now I am looking at my flash card of the first prayer in Ephesians. I am not only memorizing it but I am also turning it into a prayer for myself and others.

I want to invite you to join us in this commitment. The prayers are found in **Ephesians 1:17-19a**, **Ephesians 3:16-19**, **Philippians 1:9-11**, and **Colossians 1:9b-12**. I will spend time over the next month going over these prayers in my blog [[www.pastorderyk.blogspot.com](http://www.pastorderyk.blogspot.com)]. I ask that you pray these prayers for our church. Paul prayed them for churches back then—and they are just as important now.

Also take the step of memorizing them, one at a time. I believe God will be faithful in bringing these prayers to our minds when we need them.

Throughout history, God has been pleased to stir up His people with fresh moves of His Holy Spirit. I believe He is beginning to do it again. He always begins these movements by calling His people to pray. I think this is our opportunity to begin to pray, daring to believe that He will move again.

Will you join with us in prayer?

—**Pastor Deryk**

# Missions Dinner, Program and Prayer CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

gram on the biblical basis for missions, and much more.

The dinner and program are free. If possible, let **Marilyn Danielson** know in advance that you will be attending. Marilyn can be reached at 860.529.1575, ext. 213. Walk-ins are also welcome.

## JON AND VALERIE BROWN

We are delighted to have the Browns with us. They are missionaries with CrossWorld, an international organization serving unreached people groups around the world. They come to First Church through the Connecticut Missions Consortium, a group of ten Connecticut

churches that support each other's members who serve the Lord in many international locations. The Yanomami people, whom Jon and Valerie serve, are believed by some anthropologists to be the oldest people group in the Americas. Don't miss their personal report on this extraordinary mission work.

## OUTREACH PRAYER

Please keep in prayer all who are connected with this event.

In addition, the Browns are our scheduled Outreach Prayer focus for **November 6-19**. Please remember to pray for them, and their two children, as they

continue to reconnect with supporting churches and enjoy a time of refreshment and relaxation from the stress of their mission work. You may email them at jonathanbrwn@juno.com.

Also be aware that our prayer focus for **November 20 through December 3** will be **Dennis and Linda Ryan**, missionaries with Campus Crusade for Christ. They have relocated from France to Florida, where Dennis has a new assignment, working with The *Jesus* Film Project ([www.jesusfilm.org](http://www.jesusfilm.org)). The Ryans can be reached at [dennis.ryan@gmail.com](mailto:dennis.ryan@gmail.com).

**We hope to see you this Saturday!**

# Thanksgiving 2011

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING



*"The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies Me; to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God!"*

Psalm 50:23

Unfortunately, we do not meet together very often during the year to publicly give thanks for all the great things God has done.

That is why we are so excited about our upcoming Thanksgiving service. Our service will be **the night before** Thanksgiving Day—on **Wednesday, November 23, at 6:30**.

Pastor Deryk's message is entitled ***How Do We Honor God?*** His text will be Psalm 50.

This service will be different than past Thanksgiving services, as there will be significant time, for those who wish, to give thanks publicly. What a glorious night it will be, to recount God's blessings over the past year! Then, on Thanksgiving Day, people will be able to give thanks in their homes with their families and loved ones. Will you be with us Wednesday evening, and invite others as well?

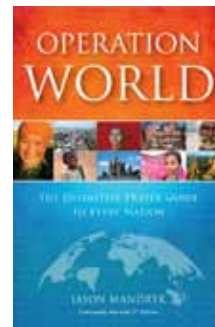
## COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER AT NOON

On **Thanksgiving Day—Thursday, November 24**—there will be a wonderful community dinner served at **12:00**. Let us gather together and give thanks to the Lord for His goodness!

All are welcome to the First Church Thanksgiving Dinner in Keith Jones Hall, whether from our church or from the wider community. The entire festive turkey dinner will be provided free of charge, prepared by our chef and his helpers. A free-will offering will be received.

This is not a potluck event, but if you can't resist bringing a dessert to share with others, we won't turn it down! **If you plan to attend or would like to help in any way**, please mark the sign-up poster in the Wells Fellowship Area or call the Caring Ministries office at 860.529.1575, ext. 210.

## A Book to Change the World



From Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, ***Operation World*** is the definitive prayer guide, covering every nation of the world. It is literally a one-volume encyclopedia of facts and figures about every country—over 220 in all. **Pastor Deryk** says that "next to the Bible, *Operation World* is the number one book I use to guide my prayer life."

*Operation World* will be available during our **October 29-30** Missions Weekend or can be obtained through **Dana Crompton** or any member of the Outreach Committee—at the discounted price of \$5, thanks to the committee's sponsorship.

## Operation Christmas Child

Share Christ's love by **packing a simple shoebox** with needed supplies and fun items for children living in dire conditions around the world. OCC boxes are available **Sundays through November 6**, or use your own; instructions are at [www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org), or call **Marcia** at 860.529.1575, ext. 206. Filled boxes must be returned by **Monday, November 14**.



In late summer, 21 Deacons and spouses helped pack 23,760 meals for Feed My Starving Children, a Christian organization that ships meals to be served at schools in developing countries, providing nutrition and fostering education at the same time.

## MOPS Invites All Moms of Preschoolers

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) meets on **first Thursdays** for fellowship, food, and fun, in the Fireside Room, from 9:15 to 11:15 a.m. On **Thursday, November 3**, our theme will be **Meaningful Dinners**, sharing ideas about how we make our nightly dinners fun and interesting for all family members. Come and enjoy great morning snacks and this wonderful opportunity to get to know other women who have preschoolers. Childcare (\$5 per child), which starts at 9:00 a.m., is available. For more information, go to [firstchurch.org/mops](http://firstchurch.org/mops) or call **Debra Hertle** at 860.529.1575, ext. 303. Welcome!

## Women's Fellowship Luncheon

**Men and women** are invited to the **Women's Fellowship Luncheon** on **Wednesday, November 9**. Enjoy a catered luncheon (\$6), followed by Part 2 of a fascinating historical reenactment by Wethersfield resident **Damien Cregeau**, portraying Colonel Benjamin Tallmadge of the American Revolution.

The luncheon begins at noon, in the Fireside Room. Enjoy a delicious meal and warm fellowship. Bring a friend! Reservations: **Judy Tatters** at 860.529.5362, by **Monday, November 7**.

## New Class: Basic Money Management

Led by **Anton Hertle**, **Basic Money Management for Christians** is designed for those who want to get better control of their finances. It teaches the principles of how to make money serve you, instead of you serving money, and has been updated with current statistics and financial security info. Topics include:

- Basic money management principles
- Root causes of financial problems
- Options for improving your financial situation
- Debt reduction strategies
- When you should consider investing
- Why estate planning is important
- Tips on securing your financial identity

Join us in the Fireside Room on **Sundays** during the 11:00 a.m. service, from **November 27 through December 18**. Registration is not required.

## A Prison Fellowship Angel Tree Christmas

Would you like to help make the Christmas season more meaningful to a child of a prisoner? Our **Angel Tree Christmas Party** for over 100 children we are supporting will be held on **Saturday, December 3**, from noon to 3:00 p.m. in Keith Jones Hall.

**To purchase a gift** for a child who might not otherwise receive any Christmas gifts, stop by the **Angel Tree table** in the Connector between and after services on **November 6 and 13**. (Also, we need **volunteers** to help pass out gift tags on both dates.)

In addition, we need **volunteers** to sort gifts provided by parishioners, make reminder calls to the children in late November, and "hang out" with the kids at the party—plus a large need for people to **deliver gifts** to children who do not attend the party.

*To sign up as a volunteer, or to donate to the purchase of food, supplies and gifts, please contact **Wendy Parker** at 860.371.0367 or [wendysparker@gmail.com](mailto:wendysparker@gmail.com).*

## 2012 D.R. Mission Trip Info Meeting Is Set

First Church is pleased to announce next summer's **mission trip to the Dominican Republic**, scheduled for **July 6 to 14**. The team will be doing construction projects and conducting medical clinics, along with food distribution, evangelism, children's programs, and more. No specific skills are required.

If you would like to know more about this opportunity, please join us in the Fireside Room on **Sunday, December 4**, from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m., for an informational meeting (with pizza!). Questions? You may also contact **Dana Crompton**, at 860.635.1530 or [dcrompton@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dcrompton@sbcglobal.net).

## Concert Series 2011-12

*At time of printing, we are still awaiting confirmation of two concerts by contemporary Christian recording artists: **Robin Mark** and **Fernando Ortega**. Please watch for details.*

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20 ♦ 4 PM**

### Festival of Hymns (please see back page)

This popular concert features hymns of our faith, selected by those in attendance, with David Spicer at the organ.

*Submit hymn suggestions by November 6 to the music office, to [music@firstchurch.org](mailto:music@firstchurch.org), or to 860.529.1575, ext. 209.*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 ♦ 4 PM**

### Christmas Concert

*O Holy Night*, from *Glad Tidings of Great Joy*  
by Robert Hebble, with three tenors:

Raymond Calderon, Christopher Dukes, Mark Hale

*Christmas Day* by Gustav Holst • *Gloria* by Antonio Vivaldi  
Selections from *A Ceremony of Carols* by Benjamin Britten  
Joan Ceo, Harp

Carols for all to sing!

Orchestra and choirs, directed by David Spicer

Soloists:

Nancy Andersen, Stewart Battle, Christopher Dukes,  
Anne Graczyk-Druce, and Linda Henderson

Pre-concert music: Wethersfield High School Choralaires  
Directed by Scott Rioux

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 29 ♦ 4 PM**

### Super Bell XX Concert

The five handbell choirs of First Church of Christ

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26 ♦ 4 PM**

### A Concert of Spirituals

Legacy of Spirituals Choir • G. Ingrid Faniel, Director  
Affiliated with Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church, Hartford  
Choirs of First Church of Christ • David Spicer, Director

**SUNDAY, MARCH 25 ♦ 4 PM**

### The King of Instruments

First Church's Austin pipe organ, IV/62, Opus 2403  
David Spicer, Organist

• Symbolism in the Music of Johann Sebastian Bach

• And That's Final! — The last movements of works  
by Charles-Marie Widor, Alexandre Guilmant, and  
Théodore Dubois

• A "Hymnphony" of Submitted Hymn Tunes

**FRIDAY, APRIL 6 ♦ 7 PM**

### Good Friday Memorial Concert

*Requiem*, Opus 9, by Maurice Duruflé  
Stewart Battle, Baritone

*Sanctus*, from the *Saint Cecilia Mass* by Charles Gounod  
Christopher Dukes, Tenor

*A cappella* choruses by Jean Berger, Hector Berlioz, John  
Stainer (*God So Loved the World*), and Randall Thompson  
Orchestra and choirs

**SUNDAY, JUNE 10 ♦ 7 PM**

### ASOF Winners' Concert

Winners of the 2011 Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival

First Place in the High School Division:  
Mary Pan of Burlington, Connecticut

First Place in the Young Professional Division:  
Christopher Ganza of Norman, Oklahoma

*All concerts are open to the public.*

*There is no admission charge; a free-will offering is received.*

*Childcare is available for those age 8 and under.*

*A reception will follow, except on April 6.*

## BOOK OF LIFE

### ENTERED ETERNAL LIFE

Marjorie (Doud) Ives, October 3, 2011  
David C. Crosier, October 6, 2011

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

### BAPTIZED

Kristian Alfred Anderson, son of Erik and Sarah (Phillips) Anderson, October 23, 2011

### UNITED IN MARRIAGE

Eric Steven Bryant and Natalie Elizabeth Burns, October 8, 2011

**Love never ends.**

1 Corinthians 13:8a (ESV)

## First Church

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN WETHERSFIELD

CONGREGATIONAL

860.529.1575 • Fax: 860.721.7861  
250 Main Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109  
Website: [www.firstchurch.org](http://www.firstchurch.org)  
Email: [info@firstchurch.org](mailto:info@firstchurch.org)

### Sunday Worship

Traditional Services in the Meetinghouse:  
8:00, 9:15 and 11:00 a.m.  
Wind Contemporary Service  
in Keith Jones Hall: 11:00 a.m.

### First Church on Facebook

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

### Dial-A-Message: 860.529.1785

Uplifting Messages  
Provided by Caring Ministries

### What will you leave behind?

Please remember First Church in your will.

**e-GIVING** reduces paperwork and helps keep track of your yearly pledge. For info about contributing electronically via a monthly automatic withdrawal from your bank account, call the Finance Office, 860.529.1575, x218.

Atessa M. Afshar ..... Associate Minister  
Linda T. Jackson ..... Church Administrator  
Wayne E. Luman ..... Director of Caring Ministries  
Marcia J. McCann ..... Dir. of Children's Ministries  
T. Michael McDowell ..... Associate Minister  
Donald W. Morgan ..... Minister Emeritus  
Deryk P. Richenburg ..... Senior Minister  
David C. Spicer ..... Minister of Music & the Arts  
Todd E. Willard ..... Associate Minister

### OUR MISSION

*We are a community of Jesus followers who love God, love one another, and make disciples.*

### SPIRE DEADLINE

Material for the December issue of *The Spire*, which will be mailed/emailed on Nov. 23, must be submitted to Dave Gilbert by noon on Thursday, Nov. 10, at [daveg@firstchurch.org](mailto:daveg@firstchurch.org) or 860.529.1575, ext. 225.

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# FESTIVAL OF HYMNS

**Sunday, November 20 • 4 PM**

## CONCERT

Since the first such concert, in 2009, the **Festival of Hymns** has quickly become a favorite of many. Concertgoers sing glorious hymns of the Church, accompanied by **David Spicer** on our Austin pipe organ.

Hymns will be selected from suggestions (*one per person*) submitted by *November 6* to the music office, to [music@firstchurch.org](mailto:music@firstchurch.org),

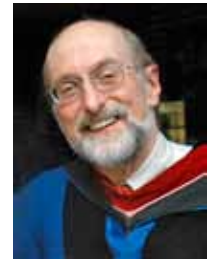


or to 860.529.1575, ext. 209; and from those in attendance at the concert, time permitting.

An offering will be received, to benefit our 2011-12 concert series. Childcare for those up to the age of 8 will be available. Invite your friends to join us in praising God by singing some of the great hymns of our faith!

## 25-YEAR RECEPTION

For the past quarter century, Minister of Music **David Spicer** has led and played inspiring worship music in the Meetinghouse of First Church. It is time to celebrate all that God has accomplished through him in the much-



David Spicer

admired music program David has created and nurtured. From vocal and handbell choirs to our popular concert series, to his artistry as an organist and the nationally acclaimed Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival, his ministry has changed many lives and inspired thousands.

## Celebrate With Us!

Come celebrate, and join the Ministry of Music in showing our appreciation for this special man of God, immediately following the Festival of Hymns concert.

If you would like to prepare a sweet or savory dish, or voice a tribute for the event, call **Linda Henderson** at 860.529.1575, ext. 209, or send an email to [music@firstchurch.org](mailto:music@firstchurch.org).

## Shop to Support Our Nursery School!

**From November 1 through 7**, your early Christmas shopping at **The Wooden Toy** in Wethersfield will benefit the First Church of Christ Nursery School.

Mention our nursery school, and the store will donate 20% of its profit on all the items you buy! The store is located at 1275 Silas Deane Highway; for hours and other info, visit [www.thewoodentoy.com](http://www.thewoodentoy.com). Questions? Call **Joan Hines** at 860.529.1575, ext. 235.

## Pray for D.R. House-Building Team

First Church has a team of ten, led by **Paul Breglio** and **Dana Crompton**, traveling to the Dominican Republic November 16-22 to finish building a small house that was begun in July for a needy family of eight. **Financial donations are welcome**; call Paul or Dana (see [firstchurch.org/house](http://firstchurch.org/house) for contact info, photos, and other details of the mission). Keep them in your prayers, and follow their progress at [facebook.com/DR.MissionTrip](http://facebook.com/DR.MissionTrip).