

# THE TOWER

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE GOLDEN HILL  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

An Open and Affirming Congregation

**April 2011 Volume 48 Number 4**

Crocus, daffodil and tulips are appearing in gardens revealing the wonder of spring and new life. Renew your faith, reflect and rejoice as you participate in all that Spring and the Easter season offer. Please sign up and encourage others to participate in the Easter prayer vigil. There are many opportunities to worship together during Holy Week, plus you can choose from among three Easter Sunday worship services on April 24: 6:30 am Sunrise at St. Mary's by the Sea on Long Island Sound, plus Chapel at 8:30 am and Sanctuary worship at 10:30 am. See details inside this newsletter.

Start exercising to get in shape to step out with other Golden Hill walkers for the Greater Bridgeport CROP Hunger Walk on May 1st or consider sponsoring one or more of our walkers from Golden Hill. Elizabeth Gregorio is coordinating the Golden Hill walkers this year.



## **The mission of the Golden Hill United Methodist Church,**

*a unique, diverse and dynamic Christian community, is to serve Christ in the city and the world through members who are ambassadors for Christ.*



**GOLDEN HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
210 Elm Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604  
<http://www.goldenhill.org>

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*Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,*

Grace and Peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ!

Some say it is because there is not prayer in the public schools. Some say it is because the stores are open on Sundays. Some say it is because the media fails to acknowledge through its reporting the importance of religion in the lives of the common person. Some say it is because art has taken an interest in the scandalous and the sacrilegious.

The "it" is a package of societal woes, covering a range from crime, to pornography, to drugs, to suburban isolation, to personal angst. Perhaps the amateur social theorists are right. Perhaps each of the "its" can be traced in part at least, to attempts to sweep God out of the public arena.

Should that be? Should God be swept out of the public arena?

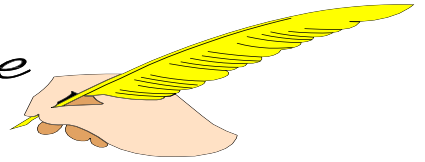
As one who is asked that question on a regular basis, I've thought about this some. I am of mind to believe that God cannot be swept out of the public arena – that God has more power than to be segregated out of any areas of this life, and that God shows constant disposition to be smack in the middle of the places where people live their lives.

If we are to look for causes for the "its," then, perhaps we should look closer to home. Perhaps some of the difficulty lies, not with secular people denying God in the public arena, but rather with religious people denying God a place in their lives.

This thought occurs to me, especially as we observe Lent and particularly Holy Week. The events, which we remember in the week between Palm Sunday and Easter represent the "High Holy days" of the Christian calendar. When even religious people fail to gather on their High Holy days for remembering and for worshipping, then the world is in grave danger indeed, of being deprived of the Good News of the God has engaged the forces of evil on our behalf, engaged the forces of sin and death, and has triumphed over those forces. That triumph represents, ultimately, or sure and certain hope in the face of threat, in the face of all the "its" in the life of ours.

How sad that even church people cannot take time

*From the  
Pastor*



out from their busy schedules to be assured in the company of each other, and in the presence of God that God's triumph is real.

No wonder the world is overcome with despair and confusion in the face of those "its," when religious people do not observe the High Holy days.

The High Holy days begins this year with Palm Sunday on April 17<sup>th</sup>. On Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, we observe Holy Thursday also known as Maundy Thursday with foot washing at 7:15 pm and the Service of Tenebrae with Holy Communion at 7:30 pm. On Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will host the Ecumenical Service in our sanctuary from 12 PM to 3 PM, sponsored by the Council of Churches of the Greater Bridgeport Area. Prior to this service, you are invited to gather at McLevy Green for the Stations of the Cross, beginning at 11 AM and walk with us to Golden Hill. At the conclusion of the Good Friday Service, the Prayer Vigil begins until Easter morning at 6 AM. This year, we are hosting the Community Easter egg hunt on Saturday morning.

### **Easter morning schedule, April 24th**

The Celebration of the Resurrection  
of Jesus Christ

**6:30 AM Sunrise Service** at St. Mary's by the Sea

**8:30 AM Chapel** Service of Communion

**10:30 AM Sanctuary** Service of Communion

Let us hear the Good News, of Jesus Christ whether here at Golden Hill United Methodist Church, or for those of you who are out of town at any Christian church near where you will be!

Blessings!

*Taka*





## Come learn about Jesus & his followers

Join us each Sunday for study, fellowship and prayer. Classes for all ages

There is a place in our classrooms waiting for you. Our teachers are ready to help you explore the stories of Old and New Testament people and places of the Bible, and what it means to live as Christians today. Come join us for study and fellowship.

Our April 17th **Intergenerational Gathering** of all the children, youth and adult classes will fill Locke Hall during the Sunday school time on Palm Sun-

day. After sharing breakfast together, we will participate in craft activities. *You do not have to be a member of a Sunday school class to attend this event. Come join us.*

### There will be no Sunday School or Kids Club on Easter, April 24.

Sunday school is open to children, youth & adults of all ages and our Kid's Club is open to children from 1st to 3rd grade. Sunday school meets from 9:15 - 10:15 AM on Sunday mornings. Those children eligible for Kid's Club meet during the 10:30 AM morning worship service.

Our annual **Christian Education Sunday** will be **June 19** and over the next few months all Sunday school classes will be preparing for their role in the 10:30 a.m. worship service that day. Please mark your calendars for this special worship experience.

## Updating Church Directory

Office volunteers and church staff are in the process of preparing an up-dated church directory for 2011. Please check your information in the current directory, located at the back of the sanctuary and chapel, to insure accuracy and/or make corrections. Thanks for your assistance with this project.

## No Spring Rummage Sale in May

The Grace Rachel Circle will not be having a Spring Rummage Sale this May. Possibly we may be able to have one in October. An announcement will be made before then to keep everyone informed. Watch for information in Grace Notes and the Tower newsletter. Many thanks for all your support for so many years. - *The Grace Rachel Circle*

## Lenten Devotional

Limited copies of the 2011 Lenten Devotional Guide are still available at the church. The church website has a daily devotional reading during Lent. Check it out! There are also links to other devotional resources like *Alive Now* from the Upper Room and information on Golden Hill's prayer chain.

The Tower is a monthly newsletter of the Golden Hill United Methodist Church, 210 Elm Street, Bridgeport, CT. Submission deadline for articles is the 15th day of the month. Editor: *Jenny McLachlan*

Contributors to this issue: *Mary Agostino, Becki Anderson, Allan Corry, Opal Crosdale, Dick Dmochowski, Pastor Takayuki Ishii, Phyllis Machledt, Melodye Merola, Daniel Pettit, Polly Torrence, Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport,*

## Trustees Continue the Stop & Shop Gift Card Fundraiser



Spring has sprung – at last! How about springing to join our painless fundraiser? Many of us have planted an action seed that bears fruit each week when we bring our check books and “shop” each Sunday by buying a S&S Card.

This Current Expense Fundraiser needs YOU. We average about \$900 in sales each week. It seems our entire congregation buys more Stop & Shop groceries than that each week. You get full value of the card and your church gets 5% from S&S. Please help us grow this fundraising effort – at no cost to you!

Should you have questions about this program, stop by and ask us – better yet, ask one of your friends who are doing it – they are all around you! It's easy! Cards are sold after chapel and before the 10:30 AM service each Sunday. Melodye also has a limited number of cards available during the week.

## The Rose Window Stewardship Campaign for 2012

You can't help but notice the scaffolding in front of the church sanctuary. This is evidence that the severely needed renovation has finally begun, thanks to the leadership of Taka Ishii and the Golden Hill committees and task forces. We are also blessed to be able to finance the initial phases of this renovation by using some of Golden Hill's endowment. This is only the beginning, there is so much more to be done.

Our endowment was contributed to Golden Hill by past members who are no longer with us. This year we are spending approximately \$1,000,000 of these funds to begin this long overdue renovation, which is going to take multiple years. We cannot depend solely on the endowment to bring Golden Hill back to its original state. This is the time for us to be

good stewards and step up to the plate, or should I say altar.

Next year the repairs will begin on the opposite side of the church at the entrance. Our congregation can help with the next phase of the revitalization and restoration of our church by contributing towards the restoration of the stained glass windows.

The Stewardship committee will be initiating a campaign to assist in the Church's renovation project by funding the second phase of the Golden Hill UMC stained glass window restoration. This phase, which should start some time in 2012, is for the restoration of the Rose Window above the balcony. The cost to remove, revitalize, restore, clean and re-install this stained glass window will be approximately \$40,000.00.

There will be recognition for those who contribute to this campaign for the restoration of the Rose Window. This campaign will begin in April and last until we reach our goal of \$40,000.00.

We will be asking for contributions with the hope the congregation will remember that our financial gifts reflect a measure of the grace and blessings God has shared with us. So let us all gracefully prepare our hearts and work together as a church to aid and support this campaign in bringing Golden Hill UMC back to its original state and condition. More details about this campaign will be inserted into the Easter bulletin.

*Allen Corry*, Stewardship Chair

**UMYF**  
All youth entering  
grades 7 through 12!!!!



The United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF) is open to all young people entering grades 7 through 12. UMYF meets at the church each Sunday evening from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. for worship, fellowship, service, games and all around fun. For more information talk to Melodye Merola.

**THE UMYF WILL BE FASTING** for 30 hours from March 26 to 27. They will be looking for sponsors as they raise money for *The Heifer Project* and our own *Weekenders* program. Please support them as you are able. To view information on our Weekenders program or The Heifer Project, visit these websites: [www.goldenhill.org](http://www.goldenhill.org) and click on Mission and Outreach and/or visit [www.Heifer.org](http://www.Heifer.org)

Several UMYF members will participate in the **2011 Annual Youth Conference** will take place on Sunday, April 3, 2011 at Sacred Heart University, in Fairfield. Designed to engage members of senior high youth groups, the teens will explore the various aspects of "Identity." through facilitated dialogue.

### Parking Lot Changes



Beginning March 1, the Elm Street parking lot will no longer be accessible due to the start of building renovations. If you have a gate opener for the Elm Street parking lot, please stop by the church office to have it reprogrammed to allow you to park in the upper lot on Golden Hill Street.

The Elm Street lower lot is not expected to be available for use until September.

## Staff Parish Relations Committee invites you to informal Meet & Greet event for Pastor Barton on May 4th as we prepare for his July arrival

The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is pleased to announce that Bishop Jeremiah Park has appointed the **Reverend Walter C. Barton, Jr.** to serve as Golden Hill's next pastor. Rev. Barton currently serves at Newman Memorial United Methodist Church, Brooklyn New York. He was appointed pastor of Newman in July 2006, after serving for 8 years as the Senior Pastor of St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Harlem.

Rev. Barton is a native of Boston, Massachusetts and lifetime member of National Black Methodist for Church Renewal. Rev. Barton has served on boards and agencies throughout the church and community. Currently, he chairs the board of directors of the Newman Community Development Corporation. The Newman CDC sponsors a food pantry and soup kitchen outreach ministry serving more than 6,000 clients a year.

He continues to challenge the congregation to reach for higher ground. Under his leadership Newman has expanded its program ministry partnering with "A Family Place" (after school tutoring and mentoring), AA, and the Food Bank of NYC. Newman's health and welfare ministries now include educational programs on the major health concerns that affect the Brooklyn Community (diabetes, breast cancer, and HIV AIDS). The church is a community developer partnering with the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church.

Rev. Barton is a passionate supporter of the Black College Fund. He has participated in the Black College Tour with 42 teenagers from New York City. Together they toured the historic black

colleges of the south related to the United Methodist Church. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Springfield College, Springfield MA., the Master of Divinity from Colgate Rochester Divinity School, Rochester, NY.

Rev. Barton has travelled internationally: Europe (England and France), the Middle East (Jordan and Israel), and the Caribbean. A lifetime dream was fulfilled in September 2010 when he travelled to Africa for the first time as part of the Volunteers in Mission with the New York Annual Conference. Rev. Barton also participated in the Ghana Mission trip to the Awombrew School Project.



By God's grace in 2011 Rev. Barton celebrates 38 years in ordained ministry. The only introduction he likes is this.... ***"if anybody should ask you who I am...tell them I'm a child of God."***

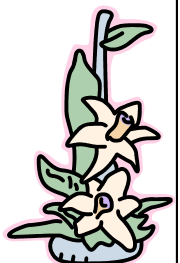
SPRC will be arranging an informal "get to know you" meeting on May 4 with the incoming pastor. This gives all of us the opportunity to get to know Rev. Barton up close and personal before his tenure begins on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Watch Grace Notes for further details of the May 4th gathering to meet Pastor Barton.

We pray for God's guidance and direction as we work through this transition.

*Opal M. Crosdale*  
Staff Parish Relations Committee

### Flowers in Worship

You have probably noticed a change in the altar floral arrangements in recent weeks. Flowers are now being ordered from Rosa's Florist on Main Street in Bridgeport, and the results are beautiful. Thanks to Ruth Hurd for finding Rosa's and making arrangements for Golden Hill to do business with them.



## Easter Prayer Vigil 2011

From 3 p.m. on Good Friday, April 22 until 6 a.m. on Easter morning, April 24, we will hold vigil in prayer, awaiting Christ's resurrection. The church sanctuary will be available for prayer throughout this 39 hour period.

Sign up boards will be available on each floor of the church beginning April 3rd. A schedule of one hour time slots is available for your selection. You may put your name down for more than one hour if desired. Some people like to pray alone, some with a companion or the whole family, all are good choices. The church is always staffed; parking in the lot will be available, someone will greet you and provide some prayer "helps" if desired. We hope you avail yourselves of this opportunity for prayerful reflection during Holy Week.

For more info, contact Melodye Merola.

### Children's Book Corner



*These children's book recommendations are provided by Becki Anderson, a Golden Hill member who is also a school librarian.*

*The Lion & The Mouse*, by Jerry Pinkney. Pre-school-Grade 3. This is a wordless book that won the Caldecott medal for its beautiful illustrations. The first time through the adult and child could discuss the pictures and the adult can tell the child the familiar story. In successive tellings, the child can practice telling the story to the adult, using the pictures as guides.

*Full Court Fever*, by Fred Bowen. Grades 3-5. Michael and his teammates are worried about competing against other basketball teams with much taller players until they discover the full-court press mastered by the UCLA Bruins.

*The Robe of Skulls*, by Vivian French. Grades 4-6. In this first book of a new series, the Sorceress Lady Lamorna hatches a plot to turn princes into frogs, hold them for ransom and use the money to pay for a beautiful new robe. Will her plans be stopped by two children, two bats, a troll and some Ancient Crones?

## CHURCH CALENDAR



- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| April 4            | Stewardship Committee, 6:30 pm<br>Society & Missions, 7:30 pm                  |
| April 5            | Confirmation, 6:30 pm  |
| April 6            | Community Supper<br>Taize worship  |
| April 11           | Worship Committee, 7:00 pm   |
| April 12           | Confirmation, 6:30 pm<br>SPRC, 7:30 pm   |
| April 13           | Community Supper<br>Taize worship  |
| <b>April 17-23</b> | <b>HOLY WEEK</b>   |
| April 17           | Palm Sunday<br><br>Intergenerational Sunday School event, 9:15 am, Locke Hall  |
| April 19           | Confirmation, 6:30 pm<br>Finance, 7:30 pm                                      |
| April 20           | Community Supper<br>Taize worship  |
| April 21           | Maundy Thursday<br>optional footwashing 7:15 pm &<br>Tenebrae service, 7:30 pm |
| April 22           | Good Friday  |
| April 23           | Easter Egg Hunt, 10- Noon  |
| April 24           | EASTER   |
| April 26           | Confirmation, 6:30 pm<br><br>Church Council, 7:30 pm                           |
| April 27           | Community Supper<br>Taize worship  |

**SUNY PLATTSBURG** students stayed at Golden Hill March 13-18 while they worked at Habitat for Humanity.

## News & Notes from the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport

### Bridge Building Ministry

Leadership Breakfast, March 31 from 7:30 to 9 am at United Congregational Church, 877 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, 06604. The discussion will focus on Affordable Health Care. Confirmed panelists are Renae Reese, President and CEO of the Connecticut Center for a



Thanks to Dan Pettit, Polly Torrence, the Young Glory Singers, the Handbell Choir, the Steel Drum Band, and the hospitality volunteers including Diana Crosdale, Opal Crosdale, Leila Lawrence, Julie Lewis, Elizabeth Martin, Jim Stinson and Barbara Stinson, for an outstanding day on March 12 at the Choristers Guild Program and Concert. The musicians played and sang with gusto! Several people commented on how welcomed they felt at Golden Hill. Thanks everyone!!

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**Thank you** so much for your prayers and thoughts of sympathy during my mother's illness and in my time of grief.

- *Pat Longway*

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**To my Golden Hill Family:** All the cards, phone calls, meals, gifts and visits you have showered me with in the past months are deeply appreciated. The Golden Hill family has taken cold, dark days and made them bright. Special thanks to Taka for his constant concern, visits and support. For over 60 years Golden Hill has been my church home and I am surrounded by love and caring in your midst. I miss being with you but with good friends, family and faith in the Lord, I am never alone.

Thank you for all you have done and are doing. You are in my prayers. May God bless you all. - *Lyle Furze*

New Economy and Barbara Edinberg, --- of the Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition. Kindly confirm your attendance with Richetta Joyner at 203.334.1121 or by e-mail to richettaj@ccgb.org by Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>.

The 2011 Annual Youth Conference will take place on **Sunday, April 3, 2011** at Sacred Heart University, 5151 Park Ave., Fairfield, CT 06825. Designed to engage members of your senior high youth groups, the teens will explore the various aspects of "Identity." through facilitated dialogue. **Free refreshments and pizza supper provided.** Register with richettaj@ccgb.org or call 203.334.1121. Reception: 1:30 p.m. Conference: 2 - 6 p.m.

**Thursday, April 7, 2011** ~ CCGB's **Spring Fling** FUNdraiser, at the Downtown Cabaret Theatre featuring highly acclaimed and very funny **Nunset Boulevard**. As part of the evening's program, **Nichols United Methodist Church** will be honored with The Council of Churches' **2011 Faith and Community Award**. Ticket will cost the same as last year at \$65 per person. A reception with hearty appetizers and beverages precedes the program and play. Join us! Go to [www.ccgb.org](http://www.ccgb.org) for information, or call Patty Jensen at 203.334.1121 x 243.

### Upcoming Dates for your calendars

#### Friday, April 22

**Good Friday Community Service**, Noon – 3 p.m., Golden Hill United Methodist Church, 210 Elm Street, Bridgeport, 06604

#### Thursday, May 5

**CCGB's Annual Meeting**, 6:30 – 9 p.m., First Congregational Church, 2301 Main Street, Stratford, 06615

2011 Award recipients: *Founder's Award: Pedro Wasmer; Community Builder Award: Tom Larson; Life Member Award: Carl Johnson and David Huntington; Lurline W. Reid Award: Scott Wilderman and Career Resources.*

♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ Golden Hill Music News & Notes ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪

**Make a Joyful Noise  
Join the Choir for Easter**

Along with Regular Wednesday night rehearsals there will be special rehearsals following church on March 27th, April 3rd and 10th with Lunch Following at 12:30 for the Choir and Steel Band Members. All are welcome to join the choir for Easter.

**Rehearsal Schedules**

**Steel Drum** Practices are at 12:30 p.m. (Lunch) Rehearsal starts at 1:00 p.m. and 4:30 on Sundays

**Chancel Choir** Rehearses on Wednesday at 7:45 p.m.

**Handbell Choir** at 7:00-7:45 p.m. on Wednesdays

Liturgical Dancers Rehearse on Sundays 5:30-6:30 p.m.

**Easter Music**

On Easter we will have special guests (as of this publication): Margaret Grant, Violin; Jocelyne O'Toole, Mezzo Soprano; Gabriel nochlin, Tenor; David Purcell, Trumpet. Music will include the Easter Scene from Cavalleria Rusticana featuring Jocelyne O'Toole singing Sanctuzza, Sandy Neu-

bert as Lucia, and Jane Wakeman as the Populo. Also will be the "Alleluja" by Fux for Trumpet, Tenor, and Organ. Add some Bass Steel Drums by Susan Haggstrom, and a brand new liturgical dance and it spells RESURRECTION to me. **Join us on Easter Sunday at 10:30 a.m.**

**Children's Music Workshop and Concert**

Golden Hill was filled with song on March 12 for the Twentieth Anniversary **Children's Choir Festival**. This is the 4th participation of the Young Glory Singers at the Children's Choir Festival hosted by the Central Connecticut Chapter of the Choristers Guild. It is also the 2nd time that Golden Hill has hosted the event. Polly Torrence has been a member of the Choristers Guild for over 25 years and currently serves as the treasurer of the local chapter of central Connecticut.

**The Young Glory Singers** have been practicing for this event since the beginning of the school year. Many of the recent anthems sung by the Young Glory Singers in church were presented again in the large group at the 2011 festival.

Participation in this glorious event gives each young chorister an opportunity to learn to praise God's Glory through music and grow spiritually.

Church children's choirs participating in the festival were Congregational Church of Brookfield, First Congregational Church, Branford, First Congregational Church, Ridgefield, Golden Hill UMC, and United Congregational Church, Bridgeport. Andrea Baxter conducted the choir at the afternoon concert for the public.

Thank you to festival participants, their directors and choir assistants, Daniel Pettit, accompanist, Golden Hill's Steel Drum Band & Handbell Choir. Special thanks to Rodger Ludlowe Middle School, Fairfield who loaned their risers for use by the choirs. We appreciate all who helped with and attended the Chorister's Guild Children's Music Workshop and Concert.

**MAY "TOWER" DEADLINE**

Our submission deadline for the May issue of *The Tower* newsletter will be April 15. Please include your name and committee or organization with your submission. Please submit your articles via email to: [tower@goldenhill.org](mailto:tower@goldenhill.org) or place in the blue folder in the church office.

**GOLDEN HILL ADMINISTRIVIA**

The office phone number is **203-336-0152**;  
the fax is **203-336-9457**

**HOW TO REACH US ONLINE!!**

<b>Pastor</b>	<a href="mailto:ISHII@goldenhill.org">ISHII@goldenhill.org</a>
<b>Melodye</b>	<a href="mailto:outreach@goldenhill.org">outreach@goldenhill.org</a>
<b>Dan</b>	<a href="mailto:music@goldenhill.org">music@goldenhill.org</a>
<b>Church Office</b>	<a href="mailto:office@goldenhill.org">office@goldenhill.org</a>
<b>The Tower</b>	<a href="mailto:tower@goldenhill.org">tower@goldenhill.org</a>



# Worship Updates for Lent, Holy Week & Easter 2011

**Palm Sunday worship:** Chapel service at 8:30 am, Sanctuary worship at 10:30 AM. Festive entry with palms. Taka will preach at both services.

**Holy Thursday worship service:** Optional foot-washing at 7:15 pm, worship beginning at 7:30 PM.

**Good Friday Walking Stations of the Cross:** There are still slots for readers and all walkers are welcome! We will walk from McLevy Green to the Golden Hill Street entrance of the church, arriving in time for worship from noon until 3:00 pm. Please tell Melodye or Mary Agostino if you would like to read on Good Friday.

**Easter Prayer Vigil** will begin at the close of the Council of Churches service at 3:00 on Good Friday, and end at 6:00 AM on Easter Sunday, just in time to go to St. Mary's by the Sea for Easter Sunrise worship. Sign up sheets for the vigil will be available in church beginning April 3rd.



**Easter Egg Hunt,** Saturday, April 23, from 10 AM until Noon

**Easter Sunday**

**Sunrise Service:** Sunrise is at 6:00 AM on Easter Sunday. You are invited to gather at that time to welcome the sunrise at St. Mary's By the Sea. Worship will begin at 6:30 AM.

**Directions to our Sunrise Service location** will be included in the Easter mailing from church. There will be some copies available at church, and we will leave some on the Golden Hill Street door if people need to pick them up before going to the beach.

**Chapel worship** at 8:30 AM and **Sanctuary Worship** at 10:30 AM, with Communion and special music including organ, violin, trumpet, vocal soloists and the Chancel Choir. Taka will preach at all three services.



## Help provide Easter Flowers for Chapel & Sanctuary area

Easter arrives in late April this year. Once again, we want to adorn our altars in the Chapel and Sanctuary with plants and flowers for Easter Sunday, April 24. If anyone would like to donate for Easter foliage and flowers, please complete the form below and return to Ruth Hurd by April 10. Any amount will be accepted with thanks. Please call Ruth Hurd with any questions at 203-929-0292 or see her at church.

Volunteers are needed to deliver Easter flowers to shut-ins following the 10:30 worship service on Easter Sunday. Please contact the church office if you are able to assist with delivery.



### Easter Plants & Flowers Donation

Deadline: April 10, 2011

In Memory / In Honor of (circle one)

\_\_\_\_\_ *Please print the name of person(s) to be remembered or honored*

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Given: \_\_\_\_\_



## CROP Hunger Walk 2011 in Bridgeport is May 1st Walk to Stomp Out Hunger or Sponsor a Golden Hill Walker

Golden Hill United Methodist Church has actively participated with a walking team in the annual Greater Bridgeport CROP Hunger Walk for many years. On May 1st at 1:30 p.m., we will be stepping out again to try to stomp out hunger locally, nationally and internationally. Last year we had 22 walkers from Golden Hill and together we raised \$1,470 to fight hunger.

### *What is a CROP Hunger Walk?*

Neighbors walking together to take a stand against hunger in our world. Together we raise awareness and funds for international relief and development, as well as local hunger-fighting. Twenty-five percent of the funds raised goes to support local hunger programs.

CROP Hunger Walks help children and families worldwide -- and right here in the U.S. -- to have food for today, while building for a better tomorrow. Each year some two million CROP Walkers, volunteers, and sponsors put their hearts and soles in motion, raising over \$16 million per year to help end hunger and poverty around the world -- and in their own communities. And you are part of it!

Mark your calendars for the May 1st CROP Hunger Walk and start thinking about who you could ask to sponsor you. To learn more, go to [www.cropwalk.org](http://www.cropwalk.org) or visit the website at [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org) and click on the tab labeled CROP Hunger Walk.

## Walk with us...

# ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME CROP HUNGER WALK

Come walk with us and celebrate 37  
years of hunger relief

## Greater Bridgeport Crop Walk

**Date:** Sunday, May 1, 2011

**Time:** 1:30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

**Place:** United Congregational Church

877 Park Avenue, Bridgeport 06604

(Corner of State Street and Park Avenue Bridgeport)

## Supporting 10 Local Food Programs

Golden Hill walkers will be coordinated by Elizabeth Gregorio.

Watch for more information in Grace Notes.

**In the past 36 years, \$1,623,949 has been raised for hunger programs.**

For walk information or questions call: (203) 375-1284.



# SCSU Presents Diane Bish at Yale's Battell Chapel

Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) will present a concert by the "First Lady of the Organ," Diane Bish, on April 9, at 7:00 p.m. Bish will perform organ favorites and original hymn arrangements at Yale University's Battell Chapel, along with a choir composed of local vocalists, including members of the Heritage Chorale and other area groups.

Acclaimed organist Bish performs at famed cathedrals, concert halls and churches around the world. For 25 years, she has aired her dazzling performances to over 300 million people internationally on her television program, The Joy of Music, which can be seen on EWTN each Sunday at 2:30 pm and Saturday at 4:00 am. Her performances of classical and sacred music link her to legends like Leonard Bernstein and Eugene Ormandy. Bish was the first American woman to record on the four organs of Freiburg Cathedral, Germany.

The Boston Globe said of a Bish performance, "Her playing is virtuosic and solidly musical...she blasted the crowd out of its pews in a whooping standing ovation." In 1989, Bish was awarded the National Citation by the National Federation of Music Clubs of America, the Federation's highest honor. She is known as the "First Lady of the Organ" because of her unparalleled achievements. Bish's book, Church Music Explosion, describes her personal philosophy of excellence in church music. She has numerous recordings and is also a composer and conductor.

Tickets are \$35, \$20 and \$5 for students. Group packages are available. For tickets or more information, call the Lyman Center box office at (203) 392-6154 or visit [tickets.southernct.edu](http://tickets.southernct.edu).

A premium package is also available for \$100 and includes a special private reception with Bish on April 8 at SCSU, a photo opportunity, an autographed copy of her CD On Tour, and premium seating at the April 9 concert. Call (203) 392-5598 for details. All proceeds from the event will support arts programs at SCSU.

drals, concert halls and churches around the world. For 25 years, she has aired her dazzling performances to over 300 million people internationally on her television program, The Joy of Music, which can be seen on EWTN each Sunday at 2:30 pm and Saturday at 4:00 am. Her performances of classical and sacred music link her to legends like Leonard Bernstein and Eugene Ormandy. Bish was the first American woman to record on the four organs of Freiburg Cathedral, Germany.

## Weekenders Shopping List

Thank you for your continuing support of the Golden Hill United Methodist Women's Weekenders Backpack project. Our church bulletin boards and website [www.goldenhill.org](http://www.goldenhill.org) post a weekly list of current items needed. Here is a reminder list of food items frequently used in the backpacks.

- Peanut Butter or Jelly (individual serving size)
- Granola bars/cereal bars
- Pop tarts
- Individual cups of pudding, apple sauce, fruit cups
- Crystal Light (individual tubes to add to water)
- Juice boxes
- Small plastic bottles of juice
- Mac and cheese: individual cups, packets, boxes
- Pasta with meat, individual size or containers up to 10 oz.
- Rice with meat
- Hash, individual size or containers up to 10 oz.
- Small cans of vegetables
- Tuna (2-3 oz or 5-oz size cans or packets)
- Chicken (2-3 oz or 5-oz size cans)
- Beef or chicken stew up to 10-oz size
- Ramen noodles, cups or bags
- Canned soup
- Microwave popcorn
- Any other child friendly foods that come in individual sized containers



## Society & Missions Committee reports recent activities

### Soup and Sandwich Luncheon Raises \$975 for Habitat for Humanity!

Thanks to some excellent soup makers and a lot of hungry people, the Soup and Sandwich Luncheon raised \$975 for Habitat to help build a house in Bridgeport. A future Habitat homeowner spoke about the difficult rental conditions he and his family are living in and how much the opportunity to own their own home means to his family.

A special thank you to all the people who donated and prepared food for the event and to those who made donations to Habitat even if they didn't buy food.

When we support mission projects, we don't always get to see the results, but here are some opportunities to see where your money is going. Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County invites you to attend a dedication of a Habitat home on March 26 on 235 Bunnell Street at 3:30pm. You can also stop by 554 Jane Street after March 19 to see the Youth United/SHU Habitat sponsored Habitat house. Some of our youth helped build the walls in the Habitat warehouse! Golden Hill also hosted 9 students from SUNY Plattsburgh from March 13-18 while they spent their spring break working at Habitat. For more information about Habitat, please contact Phyllis Machledt by phone at 203-268-8737 or via email at pmachledt@gmail.com.

For news, newsletter link and photos check out the local website [www.habitatcfc.org](http://www.habitatcfc.org) for Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County.

### Continuing Support in Haiti

The Society and Missions Committee would like to thank Golden Hill members for the \$225 donated in February in a special offering to **continue aid to Haiti**. The need continues to be great, as Haitians rebuild a year after their devastating earthquake.

### Japanese Earthquake Response

Our hearts go out to the people of Japan facing the effects of an earthquake, a devastating tsunami, and now possibilities of serious radiation emissions

from the nuclear plant in the disaster area. If you would like to help, please make out checks to Golden Hill UMC, with the note "**Pacific Emergency**" or "UMCOR Advance #3021317" in the memo. We have already collected \$200 for this fund.

United Methodist response to the Japanese earthquake and tsunami will be closely coordinated with churches and church-related agencies in that country that partner in mission with us.

### Saving Labels Will Help Support Crossnore School in NC, a home for children from families in crisis

The Society and Missions Committee is asking you to save **Box Tops for Education and Campbell's Labels for Education** (the Barcode/UPC Code) to help Crossnore School gain much needed equipment and educational materials.

You can deposit them in the container in the Narthex or in the church office. When we have a sufficient quantity, we'll send them off to the school. These Box Tops and Labels for Education are found on many products you normally buy.

The **Crossnore School** was established in 1913 in the mountains of North Carolina. Its mission is to provide hope and healing in a home and educational setting for children from families in crisis. More information about the school can be found at [www.crossnoreschool.org](http://www.crossnoreschool.org) or by speaking with Carole Clauss, the chairperson of this mission project, who has many ties with the school.





## What is Going On?

The Altar sure has a different look!

Is it some new spring fashion on this first day of a long awaited spring 2011?

Is it part of our Lenten experience preparing for an Easter celebration? What is going on?

The black cloth is covering construction scaffolding which will allow our renovation contractors to safely remove the 3 stained glass windows and restore the masonry behind the altar. This is a time consuming process and the windows will not be seen again until late in 2011.

Some time this fall, the rest of the Chancel area will be similarly hidden to allow restoration of that entire area.

You may have also noticed the scaffolding growing around the outside of our Tower. This will provide access for restoration of the entire masonry structure that will take place over the next six months. During that time, we will give you little details of - What Is Going On.

TRUSTEES

## Link into our Golden Hill Prayer Chain

The power of prayer is awesome. Whether you pray as part of the prayer chain, in a prayer group or individually, choose to pray. The church receives prayer chain requests; sometimes on the yellow pew cards, sometimes on the phone, sometimes through an email message, sometimes by personal contact.

The request is relayed to our prayer chain members. These are people who:

- ◆ have made a commitment to pray every day for the requests received.
- ◆ have made a commitment to keep the request confidential
- ◆ will keep a concern in prayer for two weeks following receipt

New prayer team members are always welcome , so please speak to Melodye Merola if this is a ministry to which you are called or if you have any questions. Contact Melodye Merola – via email at [outreach@goldenhill.org](mailto:outreach@goldenhill.org) or phone 203-336-0152.

