

# THE TOWER

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE GOLDEN HILL  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

An Open and Affirming Congregation

**February 2012 Volume 49 Number 2**

Our Sunday school children and teachers are enjoying the activities of LIVE B.I.G. on Sunday mornings. LIVE B.I.G stands for Live Belief in God. Children participate through music, art, video, Bible stories, drama, puzzles, and games as they experience how to live their belief in God. A video segment once a month takes the children on a visual field trip that highlights mission work and shows how children their age can make a difference. Current studies are focusing on the life of Jesus.

The scaffolding is coming down around the church tower and within the sanctuary as progress continues on the building renovations which began in 2011. More work is on schedule for 2012. See recent photos on our church website: [www.goldenhill.org](http://www.goldenhill.org) under Renovations.

Please check out the February activities and opportunities at Golden Hill listed in this issue of the Tower newsletter and discover ways to share God's love in our church and community. Happy Valentine's Day!

**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>



## **Renovation Activity at Golden Hill Continues as Phase 1 completes**

Shown are views of interior scaffolding and renovation work in the Golden Hill UMC sanctuary as the building renovation continues. The church Trustees report that Phase 1 of the work is completed which was to restore the masonry envelope of our building. The work to restore the Tower is complete. During 2012, we expect to restore the exterior masonry at the Narthex, the stained glass Rose Window and the slate roof over the Nave. The church building was constructed in 1929.

# From the PC of Pastor B



The Council of Bishop established a strategic plan for United Methodist Congregations to fulfill the mission of the United Methodist Church. It is a "Call to Action". All the clergy are to be trained in reporting on this plan through their annual conferences to the general church. On Saturday, January 14, 2012 I took part in a training event via conference call and computer link. When I arrived at Golden Hill in July 2011 the first thing to hit my desk was a report. The report requested was the "Multi Cultural and Racial Church Data".

I share this report with you for two reasons. Who are we and do you know what Golden Hill looks like? Are we living up to being who we say we are? Personally, I will never forget my first Sunday here when I looked around the chancel rail during communion. I thought to myself...this is the way it is supposed to be. There before my eyes was a rainbow of humanity. Indeed we are the children of God.

*Pastor B*

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## COVENANT OF OPENNESS AND AFFIRMATION

***"Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind." 1 Peter 3:8***

**We recognize** that scripture calls us "to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with our God." (Micah 6:8)

**We cherish** the Golden Hill congregation's tradition of enlarging the community of faith by welcoming all who come to worship God and by supporting one another in our journey of faith.

**We celebrate** our mission to serve Christ in the city and the world as a unique, diverse and dynamic Christian community through members who are ambassadors for Christ.

**Nonetheless**, we acknowledge that some churches, including the United Methodist Church, have sanctioned discrimination. This created a climate which fosters the fear and hatred of many groups of people considered to be different including our gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender brothers and sisters, causing them physical, emotional and spiritual pain.

**Therefore**, Golden Hill United Methodist Church, as a faith community, covenants with God to be open to all for participation, membership, leadership and employment, thereby providing a safe physical, emotional and spiritual haven.

**Furthermore**, we affirm each individual as a child of God and celebrate the uniqueness of each person including his or her race/ethnicity, culture, economic reality, gender, age, physical/mental ability, gender identity and sexual orientation.

**Finally**, we commit ourselves to work towards ending ignorance, fear, hatred, prejudice and discrimination against people considered to be different, including our lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender sisters and brothers.

We pray for God's love, forgiveness and power as we struggle to do God's will.

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## Lenten Study begins Feb 27

Join the pastor and others for "*Lenten Bible Study*" *40 Days of Fruitful Living*", Monday evenings at 6:30 pm beginning Monday, February 27, 2012. The group will meet weekly at 6:30 p.m. during Lent as we count down toward Holy Week and Easter.

Registration forms will be in the *Grace Notes* soon. Pastor Barton will lead this weekly study session. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

## Behind the Scenes at Golden Hill

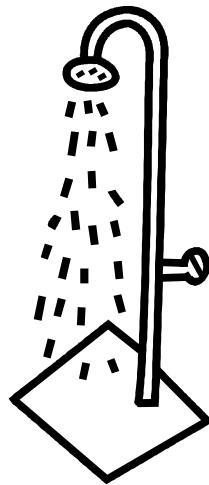
### Shower Ministry Underway

**Who enjoys a nice hot shower?** Most of us, would be my guess. However, there are some folks in our community who don't have easy access to bathing facilities. We have developed a ministry offering the opportunity for some of those in need to shower here at Golden Hill on Wednesday afternoons. *Our efforts are going well! Please continue to keep us in prayer.*

There are many ways and opportunities to be part of this new and much needed endeavor.

Here are some of them:

- Inventory supplies
- Set up carts for guests to choose from
- Greet our guests
- Launder towels and washcloths
- Clean shower stalls



We can use donations of

- ◆ Travel sized shampoo, soap and lotion
- ◆ Other personal hygiene items are welcome as available
- ◆ Towels and wash cloths, gently used are okay if laundered
- ◆ Men's socks (new or used) Men's underwear (new only please)

Please take a minute to talk to Melodye about ways you can lend a hand. For more information please **email outreach@goldenhill.org** or call **203-336-0152**.

**Tellers Needed.** Contact Roland Wright if you are interested in volunteering to assist with this task on Sunday mornings or to find out more about it.

### History's Mysteries!

Next time you are enjoying your coffee hour in the parlor, you might like to check out the curiosities that have found their way into the historical collection. They are quite a random selection, but each one has something to say about our church's past. Perhaps you might know the answers to the following questions:

- ◆ Who was Jenny Guggenheim?
- ◆ Which hat pin belongs with which date?
- ◆ What happened to the ashes???
- ◆ Who and what are in those old photo negatives?

Feel free to gently handle the items for a better look.

By the way, if you have articles relevant to church history, we would gladly accept them in the collection, however, you must include some type of identification, either date, event, persons or at least your name and contact number. Mysteries are fun, but facts are better.

This display is in loving memory of Lois Weatherbee, a real historian.

*Jane Wakeman*, Church Historian

*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. *The Tower* can also be viewed on our church website under Publications at: [www.goldenhill.org](http://www.goldenhill.org) listed.

Editor: *Jenny McLachlan*

Contributors to this issue: *Mary Agostino, Becki Anderson, Pastor Walter C. Barton Jr., Janice Brown, Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport, Allen Corry, Roena Littlejohn, Melodye Merola, Yvette Richardson, Polly Torrence, Jane Wakeman*

## District Resource Days Training Offered

Golden Hill is part of the CT District of the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Annually the District offers District Resource Days which are training opportunities with workshops for church members and leaders. The 2012 District Resource Days are offered in two locations on different dates to better serve our geographic area. Participants need only attend at one location. To help coordinate car pooling by Golden Hill members, contact the Golden Hill church office if you plan to attend at either of the locations. Feb 4, 10 am—Noon, at Cheshire UMC or February 12, 2-4 pm, at Torrington UMC.

In response to the challenge of Call to Action, workshops will focus around the 16 Drivers of Ministry in Vital Congregations. Each day will begin with worship, followed by two 45-minute workshop sessions with a break for food & fellowship. Please bring non-perishable food items for food programs in Cheshire and Torrington and a finger food snack to share. Contact Rev. Heather Sinclair 203-929-3537 with questions.

### Workshop Topics

- What is Call to Action/Vital Congregations?
- Who Cares for the Pastor? - Pastor/Parish Relations Committee
- Healing Prayer
- United Methodist Women –Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow
- Youth Ministry—Making Wise Choices
- Small Groups: What &Why and a Little Bit of the How?
- Creating a Long –Range Worship Plan
- Are You Prepared? - Emergency Response Ministries and Mission
- Revitalizing Children Ministries

### Workshops especially for Pastors:

- Lay Leadership/Nominations
- How to Create a Narrative Budget



We appreciate all the Angels and Acolytes who took part in the Christmas Eve worship service, some of whom were recruited on short notice. Thank you!



Thank you to all who purchased “Have you Hugged a Methodist Today?” aprons in the Stewardship Committee sponsored mini-fundraiser to support our Rose Window Campaign.

## Stewardship 2012 at Golden Hill Rose Window Campaign

The Rose Stain Glass Window Campaign is just about half way to our goal of \$40,000 by the end of December of this year. We have over \$19,000 of contributions, which include one contribution for \$5000 and another for \$1500.

I'm asking that we continue to gracefully prepare our hearts and work together as a church body to aid and support this campaign.

As an incentive to recognize individual contributions of \$350 and above the names will be placed on a plaque in the specified category determined by the amount of the gift.

The plaque will be installed in the Narthex. The donation categories will be Bronze - \$350, Silver - \$750 (2 names), Gold - \$1500 (3 names) and Platinum - \$3000 and up (5 names).

The number of names inscribed on the plaque are also determined by the amount of the gift. If your donation is submitted in the name or memory of individuals, please submit it separately, on the envelope or contact me, placing it on the check may not get to me. Remember to look for the envelopes with the symbol of the Rose Window behind the pews or on the table in the rear of the church provided for your Rose Window Campaign donation.

As always, we thank you for your generosity and support of the renovation of our church.

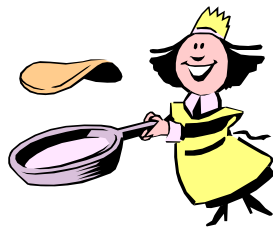
*Allen Corry*, Stewardship Chair

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Feb 21, 2012 at Golden Hill UMC**  
 Join us for Food, Fellowship, Pancake Races & Help Assemble Health Kits

Please plan to participate on February 21, 2012 when United Methodist Women will host our annual Golden Hill **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**. This is a fun filled family night getting "FAT" together before the Lenten season begins. Following the meal, we will assemble Health Kits for distribution to our guests who attend Community Supper on Wednesday nights.

Invite family, friends and neighbors to attend the pancake supper with you and participate in the pancake races or to cheer you on.

This night will be Pastor Barton's first chance to compete in the **Shrove Tuesday Pancake races**, and show us his skill. Open to all ages competing against their peers, race participants must race from start to finish line while flipping a pancake three times in the air using a frying pan. If it hits the floor, you pick it up and continue on. Winners of each age group will then compete against each other to be the overall winner of the pancake races.



Please consider taking an active part in this event by participating in whatever way you can. You can help in the preparation of the food, shopping for ingredients, cooking, set-up and clean-up tasks. Additional details will be forthcoming in the next few weeks in the *Grace Notes*. If you are willing to help please contact Yvette Richardson, UMW President. Thank you for your ongoing support.

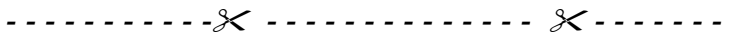
**To help us with our planning, make your reservations early** (see reservation form below). Watch for additional information in the *Grace Notes*. Pancake Supper Prices are \$5.00 for Adults, \$2.50 for children under 12, and \$20.00 for family.

**Please bring your donations** of Soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, combs, washcloths and hand towels. There will be a box in the narthex

and lounge where you can leave your donations in advance.

**Health Kit Needs Checklist**

- Bar soap       Shampoo       Deodorant
- Toothpaste     Comb             Wash cloth
- Hand towel



**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Reservation**

I / We plan to attend: (list name)

\_\_\_\_\_

# of Adults \_\_\_\_\_ # of Children \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number or email address:

\_\_\_\_\_

**♪ Golden Hill Music Notes ♪**

We continue to be blessed by our music ministry participants of all ages and talent.



**The Young Glory Singers** have been busy rehearsing and were among choirs from four area churches (and the only children's choir) who sang at an ecumenical service at St. John's Episcopal Church in Bridgeport on the evening of January 22 for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity sponsored by the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport.

The Young Glory Singers are starting on a new musical called **THE LOST BOY**. It is all about the time that Jesus was found in the temple. They are scheduled to perform this musical the last Sunday in March.

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

Save the Date!

### The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport's Spring Fling FUNdraiser

Face to Face – A Tribute to Billy Joel  
and Elton John

Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012  
5:30 to 9:30 pm

at The Downtown Cabaret  
263 Golden Hill Street, Bridgeport

Celebrating the Ministry of  
St. John's Episcopal Church in Bridgeport

Tickets just \$65 each and Seating is limited! For more information contact Patty Jensen by phone 203.334.1121 x 243a or email to: pattyjensen@ccgb.org

For a preview, check out this Internet link to see Joey Riedel and Michael John capture both legends in a high energy, interactive Rock N Roll show: [www.youtube.com/](http://www.youtube.com/watch=oEyOm2S1MLY&feature=plcp&context=C3d7061aUDOEgsToPDsklp_5_9UneYQNzNWHz5Qszzr)

[watch=oEyOm2S1MLY&feature=plcp&context=C3d7061aUDOEgsToPDsklp\\_5\\_9UneYQNzNWHz5Qszzr](http://www.youtube.com/watch=oEyOm2S1MLY&feature=plcp&context=C3d7061aUDOEgsToPDsklp_5_9UneYQNzNWHz5Qszzr)

### Project Learn ~ turning students into scholars

Project Learn has been chosen as one of three community programs to benefit from the funds raised by **Fabrics and Fabrications** – a Quilt Exhibit at Southport Congregational Church, which will take place from March 1 to March 3rd, with a Preview Party on Thursday, March 1 from 6 to 8 pm. Quilts will be displayed in the Sanctuary and Chapel. There will also be a Fabrications Boutique offering handmade needlepoint, quilted and knitted treasures for sale. For more information, please visit website [www.fabricsandfabrications.org](http://www.fabricsandfabrications.org). Come enjoy the exhibit and support Project Learn at the same time!

### CO-OP Center ~ creating second chances

The Council's CO-OP Center program presents its 6th<sup>th</sup> Annual Art from Prison Auction/Exhibit, beginning on Monday, March 5 and culminating with a reception and final bidding on Friday, March 9 at the

305 K Gallery at 305 Knowlton St, Bridgeport. Exhibit viewing and reception times To Be Announced. Artists in the Community Partners in Action's Prison Arts Program donate their artwork for this exhibit. Proceeds from the sale of this art support the CO-OP Center scholarship fund set up at Housatonic Community College to give our clients partial scholarships to start on their college career. If you would like to help with this event, or for more information, contact Dan Braccio at [danbraccio@ccgb.org](mailto:danbraccio@ccgb.org).



### Janus Center for Youth in Crisis ~ caring for Youth in Crisis

The Janus Center is seeking to recruit two additional community Host Homes for the purpose of increasing the capacity of the number of youth who will benefit from this service. A Host Home is a family, household or individual who voluntarily opens its home for a youth between the ages of 11-17 years old who is in need of temporary shelter, board and care. They offer the youth a stable and caring environment and provide him/her with a constructive and consistent living situation. If you would like to know more information, please contact Dale Holder, Janus Center Program Director, at 203 367-8441 x 221 or [daleholder@ccgb.org](mailto:daleholder@ccgb.org).

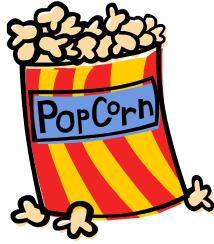
### Hunger Outreach ~ coordinating area feeding initiatives

The Hunger Outreach Network, coordinated by The Council of Churches, is a point of contact for food donations and volunteer service to 37 area feeding programs. If you are interested in organizing a non-perishable food drive, call 203.334.1121 and ask to receive a list of the registered programs with contact information.

**Please Save This Date: ANNUAL YOUTH CONFERENCE** – March 25, 2012, Sacred Heart University, Theme: TBD; The Annual Youth Conference is for high school youth, although some junior high youth can be accommodated on request. Please contact Larri Mazon at [lwmazon@gmail.com](mailto:lwmazon@gmail.com) or 203-334-1121 x 255

## Family Movie Night is March 2nd

UMYF is again sponsoring a Movie Night on Friday, March 2nd at Golden Hill in Locke Hall and everyone is invited. However, this is a fundraiser for the group so we will offer a family friendly movie and refreshments. *No charge for the movie, but you will have to pay for your refreshments.*



We are making pizza. If someone wants a whole pizza, we will ask them to order in advance. Otherwise, pizza slices, soda, popcorn and other movie snacks will be available for purchase.

We'll open the doors at 6:30 pm if folks want to eat their pizza before the movie, which will begin at 7:00 pm. Watch for more information during February in *Grace Notes*.

**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. Activities and fundraisers are planned throughout the year and include day trips, overnight excursions and service activities. If you've never come down, plan to join us soon; if you've been to every meeting since your first, just mark your calendar. To learn more, speak with Melodye Merola or current UMYF officers.

### UMYF OFFICERS & REPRESENTATIVES:

President – Elizabeth Gregorio  
Vice President – Domanique Thompson  
Treasurer – Mario Beckford  
Secretary – Akailia Chambers  
Grade 11 & 12 – Aaliyah Dillion  
Grade 9 & 10 – Olivia Markes  
Grade 7 & 8 – Lawrence Carter

## Golden Hill Book Corner

Our monthly book recommendations are contributed by Becki Anderson, a Golden Hill member who is a school librarian.



*Ferret Fun*, by Karen Rostoker-Gruber. Grades kindergarten-2. In this graphic picture book, a cat moves into the room where two ferrets live. The ferrets have to convince the cat they are not good to eat and will not be bullied.

*Alien Feast*, by Michael Simmons. Grades 3-5. Aliens have invaded Earth and have found humans tasty—from the ankles up, that is. William's step-parents have both been eaten and now his friend Sophie's parents have been abducted by the aliens.

*The School of Essential Ingredients*, by Erica Bauermeister. Interest level: adult. Set in a restaurant as eight students gather for a monthly cooking class, the aromas, flavors and textures used for cooking change the students in more ways that they can anticipate. The descriptions of the food make you want to head to the kitchen!

### MARCH "TOWER" DEADLINE

Our submission deadline for the March issue of *The Tower* newsletter will be February 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!!

**Pastor Barton** [pastorb@goldenhill.org](mailto:pastorb@goldenhill.org)  
**Melodye** [outreach@goldenhill.org](mailto:outreach@goldenhill.org)  
**Dan** [music@goldenhill.org](mailto:music@goldenhill.org)  
**Church Office** [office@goldenhill.org](mailto:office@goldenhill.org)  
**The Tower** [tower@goldenhill.org](mailto:tower@goldenhill.org)



### High School Seniors Headed to College Apply for Scholarship by Feb 29

Golden Hill scholarship applications are being received until February 29, 2012.

High school seniors who are planning to further their education may submit applications for scholarship consideration. Requests should include:

- Basic biographical information
- Anticipated school for Fall of 2012
- Anticipated course of study
- Current GPA
- Overview of church activities

Requests are due **no later than February 29, 2012**. They may be submitted through the church office, marked Attn: Scholarship Committee.

### Safe Sanctuary Training Date Announced

Church volunteers who work with children and youth are required to participate annually in a Safe Sanctuary training class. The next Safe Sanctuary training will be February 12th. For those unable to attend on February 12, a make-up training date could be held February 19 or 26.

Please contact Claudette Giscombe with any questions. Time and location will be announced soon.

**CHURCH CONFERENCE** Church officers for 2012 were elected at Charge Conference on January 22. The Rev. Dr. Brian Bodt presided over the meeting as reports were given by the church staff and work area chairpersons. Other business included approval of the pastor's compensation and presentation of the 2012 church budget.

## Walk with us...

# ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME CROP HUNGER WALK

Come walk with us and celebrate 38 years of hunger relief

Kickoff Rally 2 P.M. Sunday, March 18, 2012

Nichols United Methodist Church,  
35 Shelton Road, Trumbull, CT

## Greater Bridgeport Crop Walk # 38

**Date:** Sunday, May 6, 2012

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

**Place:** United Congregational Church

877 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 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 37 years, \$1,640,000 has been raised for hunger programs.**

