

THE TOWER

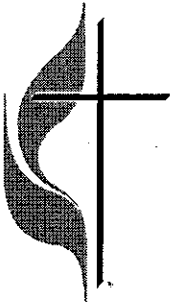
A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE GOLDEN HILL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
An Open and Affirming Congregation

January 2011 Volume 48 Number 1

Epiphany is one of the oldest celebrations of the Christian church as we commemorate the visit of the magi. Epiphany means manifestation, to show, make known, or reveal. The date of Epiphany is January 6, following the twelve days of Christmas. It is the third and final observance of the Christmas Cycle (Advent-Christmas-Epiphany). Many of us were introduced to Epiphany through the Three Wise Men bearing gifts following the Star by night. What can we learn from the Wise Men? The Wise Men began their journey because of their beliefs; were willing to follow what they had seen into unknown territory; were committed to the journey wherever the star might lead; the Wise Men brought gifts. Gold was the kind of gift that you brought to a king. Frankincense was the gift that you would bring to a priest. Myrrh was given to someone who was about to die. For the New Year, think of the gift that you will offer to God in the coming year. The gift of time? The gift of your talents? Your service in the community? Your witness and testimony? The gift of undying love and devotion? What will you choose to do in 2011?

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>

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bridgeport, CT
Permit No. 8

Address Service Requested



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

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

It is an appropriate time to take stock of what has been – and to dedicate to God, plans and attempts for what could be. How are the aches of last year's mistakes to be transformed into the joy of the new beginning that 2011 offers?

John's Gospel speaks of Christ and what He means for us. He means, "Grace upon Grace," the new beginning offered each and every day. Every day is a new opportunity from God to repent of our wrongs, to throw off the shackles of old sins, and to be offered the adventure of the new beginning.

"Grace upon Grace" – This is what the New Year is all about when it is lived in the faith in God, made known to us through Christ. The New Year offers us a new beginning, not because there is any magic to January 1st, but because our God is such a one as to offer "Grace upon Grace."

John's Gospel is about the incarnation of the Word, the purpose of God. In the life of Jesus of Nazareth, we can behold the glory of God. What is that glory? – That glory is service. That glory is not self-preservation. That glory is a Cross – a sacrifice of life and survival – if that is what it takes – to be in mission for God to be in service to God's people.

Therefore, the Church's mission is to reveal the glory of God to the world. We cannot reveal that glory by being interested only in our own survival. That interest might be appropriate for other groups; it is not appropriate to the Church. So we, Christians, must reveal the glory of God, by serving the children of God!

Let us then serve the children of God in 2011.

Blessings!

Taka



♪ Golden Hill Music Notes ♪

Thanks to all who offered their talents to our Music Ministry during the Christmas Season. Special thanks to the Chancel Choir for their dedication and hard work. Upcoming Projects include a Production of Godspell to be offered during Lent. Watch the Grace Notes and the church webpage at www.goldenhill.org for more information.



The Mozart concert in the Sanctuary on December 5th was well attended. Performers included the Golden Hill Chancel Choir, Polly Torrence (oboe), Margaret Grant (violin), Dan Pettit (piano & baritone), Isabel Trudeau (piano), Aaron Reeder (baritone), Candice Hoyes (soprano), Jane Wakeman (soprano), Sandra Neubert (soprano), Jocelyn O'Toole (mezzo-soprano), and Reginald Roberts (tenor).

Our Young Glory Singers and the Bell Choir provided special music at the 10:30 worship on December 12.

Come make a joyful noise to the Lord in 2011 through our Golden Hill music ministry. Happy New Year! - *Dan Pettit*, Music Director

FEBRUARY "TOWER" DEADLINE

Our submission deadline for February issue of *The Tower* newsletter will be January 15. Please include your name and committee or organization with your submission. Please submit your articles via email to: 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**

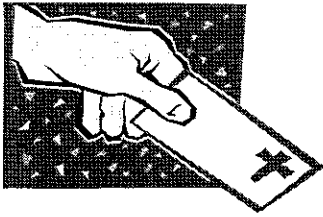
HOW TO REACH US ONLINE!!

Pastor	ISHill@goldenhill.org
Melodye	outreach@goldenhill.org
Dan	music@goldenhill.org
Church Office	office@goldenhill.org
The Tower	tower@goldenhill.org



The "For the Long Run" Campaign update

Our Prayers, Presence, Witness, Service and Gifts for 2011



As we enter into the new year, Golden Hill's congregation should be proud of our accomplishment of reaching over \$20,000.00 to

jump start the 2011 budget from the "For The Long Run" campaign. This has been a trying year for many of us to include the church. Golden Hill United Methodist Church appreciates everyone's contribution and commitment to the "For the Long Run" Campaign to kick off our new year. Your determination and devotion as a congregation was truly a testament of your willingness to give back some of God's gifts.

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee we thank you for your support of the campaign and we look forward to continued contribution, along with you, of our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness by being good stewards to Golden Hill in 2011.

Allen Corry, Stewardship Chair

Weekenders Backpack Update

We hope everyone has had a blessed Christmas, and a Happy New Year celebration! As we enter 2011, Weekenders is back in full swing. Below is the first grocery list of the new year!! Though there are numbers next to the food items, please don't feel you have to provide all of whatever it is. Many hands make light work, and if a few people bring in a few of one item, we have what we need before we know it.

With the first half of the school year gone, we find we need to replace some backpacks. If you spot a good January sale and can donate a backpack, it will be much appreciated and gladly used. We can also make use of "gently used" backpacks, without excessive wear and with all zippers in working order.

As always, UMW thanks you all. This ministry wouldn't be possible without the support of so many in the Golden Hill congregation!



**Buy Yours Today
Trustees Continue the Stop & Shop
Gift Card Fundraiser**

Our Current Expense Fundraiser needs you. Welcome to a New Year with a chance for new resolutions. How about resolving to do your grocery shopping only with Stop & Shop Gift Cards in 2011? It's quicker than having to sign a credit card transaction and – it helps your church!



If you're still unfamiliar with this program, stop by and ask us – better yet, ask one of your friends who is – they are all around you! It's easy! Bring your check book and do your "shopping" on Sunday.

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.

Wise Men Trivia

Which part of the New Testament tells of the wise men and how many wise men are mentioned? What did the wise men follow as a guide on their journey and what were the gifts they



IN THIS ISSUE...

From the Pastor	2
Stewardship	3
Birthdays	3
Anniversaries	4
Church Calendar	4
Praise & Prayers	5
Children's Book Corner	6
Those in Military Service	6
Council of Churches News	7
Christmas Baskets Update	8

CHURCH CALENDAR



- Jan 1 New Year's Day 2011
- Jan 2 Trustees meeting, Noon
- Jan 4 Confirmation 6:30 pm
Christian Education Task Force, 7:30 pm
- Jan 5 Community Supper 5:00 pm, Locke Hall
Taize worship, 6:30 pm, Chapel
- Jan 9 UMW meeting, Noon
- Jan 10 Society & Missions, 7:30 pm
- Jan 11 Confirmation 6:30 pm
- Jan 12 Community Supper 5:00 pm, Locke Hall
Taize worship, 6:30 pm, Chapel
- Jan 18 Confirmation 6:30 pm
Finance, 7:30 pm
- Jan 20 Trustees, 7:30 pm
- Jan 25 Confirmation 6:30 pm
Church Council, 7:30 pm
- Jan 26 Community Supper 5:00 pm, Locke Hall
Taize worship, 6:30 pm, Chapel

Look for details in Grace Notes for these 2011 Coming Events

UMW meeting on January 9th following 10:30 am worship service.

Society & Mission sponsored **Soup & Sandwich luncheon** in March.

Lenten Study , Palm Sunday (April 17) & Easter (April 24) at Golden Hill

Music Ministry production of **Godspell**

Intergenerational **Sunday School** event April 17

Christian Education Sunday, June 12

Children's Book Corner



I Want a Dog!, by Helga Bansch. Grades kindergarten-2. Lisa loves dogs, but no matter what she does or says, she is unable to convince her parent to get her one. Instead, she comes up with a creative solution to her problem.

Ryan and Jimmy and the Well in Africa That Brought Them Together, by Herb Shoveller. Grades 3-6. This is a true story of how the decision of a first grader, Ryan, to help build a well in Africa brings him together with a boy in the village in Uganda where the well is built.

The Potato Chip Puzzles, by Eric Berlin. Grades 4-6. Winston Breen and his friends are on an all-day puzzle hunt to try to win \$50,000 for their school, but there are plenty of other tough competitors and someone who is cheating who stand in the way between them and the money.

Training for Church Leadership

CT District Resource Days set for Jan. 23 and Jan. 29

Want to share ideas with other Methodists in our district? Learn what committees in other churches do successfully and share your best ideas. Brainstorm about good ways to solve mutual problems. Meet people who care about the same issues.

Because the weather can be unpredictable in the winter, the CT District Council on Ministries decided to hold **two district resourcing workshop days** this year: **Sunday, Jan. 23 from 3-5 pm in Milford, CT and Saturday, Jan. 29 from 10am to 12 noon in New Milford.** Workshops are planned on **both days** for Trustees, SPRC, Missions, Parish Nursing, Lay Leaders, and Approaches to Evangelism. There will also be a workshop on Jan. 23 for Visitation Ministries and on Jan. 29 for Youth. People can attend on one or both days. Please save the dates. More information will follow in early January. Sharing ideas with other members of other Methodist churches is always rewarding and inspiring!

Watch *Grace Notes* for further details.

OUR ACTIVE SERVICE PERSONNEL

We invite you to please pray for and/or write to our active service personnel. To make changes to this list, please email the church at: office@goldenhill.org or phone the church office at 203-336-0152.

Pfc Jerome Beckford

Ida Radshaw's grandson **PC2 Jason R. Carroll**
U.S.S. Forest Sherman
DDG-98
FPO AE 09569-1214
(Serving in the US Navy)

Wyona Kaine's grandson **Capt James D'Elia**
(serving in the Marine Corps)

Lt. Scott Krasko
Pvt. Stephen Kennedy

Spc. Peter Janoski
1969 Magness St
Unit 9121
Ft Leonard Wood, MO 65473
(Serving in the U.S. Army)

Lillian's Harcarik's nephew **Sgt Jeffrey Dick**
312 Wedgewood Dr, Apt D7
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Ruth Hasting's great-nephew
Pfc. Eric W. Petterson
A-Co 2-14 INF
2nd Brigade 10th MT. Div.
APO AE 09303

Polly Torrence's Nephew
Pierce Torrence is a midshipman at the
Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD

Niece of Dave & Dale Janoski
2nd Lt. Amelia Janoski Zargan
& **Capt. Robert Zargan**
(husband of Amelia)

Returned to U.S. from Afghanistan

Torrey Law's (Polly Torrence's daughter)
brother-in-law
James Michael Law

News & Notes from the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport

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 3 to March 5th, with a Preview Party on Thursday, March 3 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. Come enjoy the exhibit and support Project Learn at the same time! For more information, visit www.fabricsandfabrications.org

CO-OP Center

CO-OP Center announces its fifth annual Arts from Prison Auction to be held in March (details to follow) at the 305 Knowlton Street gallery in Bridgeport. All artwork is donated by inmates participating in the Community Partners in Action's Prison Arts Program. All proceeds will go toward the CO-OP Center Scholarship Foundation which provides partial scholarships to Housatonic Community College for ex-offenders. For more information, contact danbraccio@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.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ecumenical worship focusing on "One in the Apostles' Teaching" **Acts 2:42** on Sunday, January 23, 2011, 6:30 p.m.; hosted St. John's Episcopal Church, 768 Fairfield Avenue, Bridgeport, 06604. Rev. Dr. Anthony L. Bennett, Senior Pastor at Mount Aery Baptist Church, Bridgeport will preach. Featured Choirs: Norma Pfriem Children's Choir of United Congregational Church, St. Charles Bor-

omeo Roman Catholic Church, and Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church.

Clergy will vest according to their tradition and process. Clergy, worship leaders and music from Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant churches. Fellowship time with diverse foods follow the celebration. **The offering will benefit The Council's Hunger Outreach Network.** To indicate your plans to attend, please contact The Rev. Dr. Brian R. Bodt at brianbodt@ccgb.org or 203.334.1121, ext. 233.

Please Save These Dates:



Sunday, April 3, 2011 – The **2011 Annual Youth Conference**, designed to engage members of your senior high youth groups ~ through facilitated dialogue, the teens will explore the various aspects of "Identity." – details to follow.

Thursday, April 7, 2011 – **CCGB's Spring Fling fundraiser**, at the Downtown Cabaret Theatre featuring highly acclaimed and very funny Nun-set Boulevard.



Our Golden Hill Staff

Congratulations and thanks to our church staff at Golden Hill for getting us through another church year and providing such wonderful support to the church programs and people in our extended church family and the community.

- *Staff Parish Relations Committee*

Our Church Volunteers

If you've called the church office recently, you may have heard new voices answering the phone at different times and days of the week. Thank you to our many church volunteers who've helped and continue to assist in the church office and those who perform other tasks since our staff restructuring. We are still looking for an office volunteer for Fridays.

Thank you for your combined and continuing Prayers, Presence, Witness, Service and Gifts

Christmas Baskets 2010 brings blessings to 122 families

Again this year, Golden Hill partnered with students and faculty from Sacred Heart University, to provide Christmas baskets for 122 families. Ninety-eight of the families include children. Adults and children together total 558.

Referrals came from hospitals, schools and care-giving agencies in the Bridgeport area. Each one has a connection to a member of the Golden Hill congregation. People at church and at the schools and agencies began working in September, to get all the referrals ready and back at church by November 15. Then the work of planning for food and gifts, based on numbers of people in families, and ages of children, began.

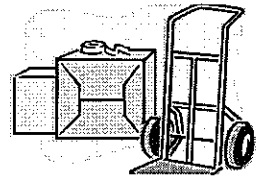


This mission could never happen without the strength and dedication of the whole Golden Hill



community! To everyone who donated time, food, or gifts, went on shopping trips, helped to wrap gifts, pack boxes or make deliveries, THANK YOU!! Our Christmas Basket Program is such a great way to share the real spirit of Christmas with each other and with our neighbors.

Special thanks to the Royal Order of the South Dakota Buffalo, who generously donated food in memory of one of their membership who was a Community Supper regular. We appreciate their support this year and for the past several years.



In addition, we want to express appreciation to Dick Dmochowski and the West End Moving Company for once again helping us out with their great boxes

Thank you all!

The Christmas Basket Committee

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, current UMYF President Akalia Chambers or Vice President Sean Carnegie.

UMYF and others from Golden Hill went caroling on December 12. The UMYF sponsored 2010 Gingerbread House Auction fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity was Dec 12 & 19 with a dozen gingerbread homes on display in the parlor inviting silent auction bids by church members. The winning bidders took home their gingerbread house on December 19.



Join us in 2011 in Sunday School classes for all ages 9:15-10:15 AM

Thanks to all who attended the Intergenerational Event on December 12, 2010. In spite of the weather, we still had a fair few who came and enjoyed the breakfast, fellowship and variety of craft activities we had set up for everyone to enjoy! Our next intergenerational event is Palm Sunday, April 17th. Mark your calendar now.

We would like to encourage parents and students alike to continue attending Sunday School and its events as much as they can. We invite you to join us at Sunday school each Sunday morning. Have a Blessed New Year!

Sonya Green, Church School Superintendant