

# THE TOWER

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE GOLDEN HILL  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

An Open and Affirming Congregation

**May 2011 Volume 48 Number 5**

Golden Hill walkers have been busy getting sponsors to support them for May 1st, when along with others in the greater Bridgeport community they will participate in the annual CROP Hunger Walk in downtown Bridgeport.

Easter dawn showed sunlight through fog and mist at St. Mary's By the Sea for the warmest Easter Sunrise Service we've experienced, but the sun came out and some areas reported temperatures in the 70s. Rain dampened the scheduled community Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 23, so on Easter Sunday, the side lawn of the church was covered with plastic eggs after the 10:30 worship, as excited children scurried around to fill their bags with eggs, while parents tried to capture the moment with their cameras. Thanks to all who worked behind the scenes to make the church schedule of events for Lent, Holy Week and Easter come together.

**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  
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*Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,*

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

“What do you hope you would have accomplished with your life when it was time to pass from this world into the next?” – I thought it only fair that I answer the question even though I have a tough time answering.

What do I want my life to mean? Do I want to be a great preacher? The answer is “yes.” I am vain about my preaching. I know I do a pretty good job at it. I’d like to do better. It would satisfy a deep ego need to someday be ranked with the Harry Emerson Fosdicks, the Ralph Sockmans, the William Sloan Coffins, the James Forbes of the world.

But that probably won’t happen. I have fair chance of being a better than average preacher, but very little chance of ranking with the great.

Several other things came to mind: breaking new ground in Biblical scholarship or theological understanding, growing one small, struggling congregation after another into large, thriving fellowships; making a

*From the  
Pastor* 

name for myself as the author of devotional materials.

All of these are appealing, but none of them really get to what I want. What I really want, at the end of my life, is that I shall have made a good, positive difference in the lives of at least one person (beyond the members of my own family).

That thought got me to thinking about all the people who made a difference in my life, and there were many. There were the preachers who moved me with their sermons and the teachers, who impressed me with their scholarship, and the theologians who caught my imagination with their new ideas, and the social activists who inspired me with their devotion to peace and justice.

But the people who made the biggest difference in my life were the people of the church who cared about me when I was a youth: the confirmation class teachers, the youth group advisors, the campus ministers. These were the folks who gave us their free time, week in and week out, when I was at an age when I felt awkward, ugly, unlovable. These were the people who went out of their way to let me know they cared. – I think that is what is behind all the church’s requests that you give of your time, and talent, and money. It is the offering to you of an opportunity to make a difference in someone’s life.

Sometimes, when I think about how rich my life is, I think of my Sunday school teachers, youth advisors and pastors, and an overwhelming sense of gratitude fills me up. And I wish I could make a difference in someone’s life, the way they made a difference in mine.

How about you? We don’t have to be famous, or learned, or rich to make a difference. Only loving and committed!!!

Blessings!

*Taka*




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## Easter Prayer Vigil 2011 Ends

We were blessed with volunteers from our congregation who helped make the prayer vigil possible again this year. Thank you to all who participated in the Easter Prayer Vigil. From 3 p.m. on Good Friday until 6 a.m. on Easter morning, we held vigil in prayer, awaiting Christ’s resurrection. The church sanctuary was available for prayer throughout this 39 hour period.

A schedule of one hour time slots were available. Some people signed up for more than one hour. The Confirmation class participated in the prayer vigil as they do each year.



The church was staffed during this time with a host who was available to greet the volunteers who came to pray, show them the prayer resources available and to let them into the building.



## Come learn about Jesus & his followers

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

Our **Intergenerational Sunday School Event** on Palm Sunday, April 17 was exciting. We gathered in Locke Hall for a fellowship breakfast, then heard the story of Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We worked on craft activities where children, youth and adults could assemble a palm branch head band and/or a Palm Sunday wreath with stickers of Jesus and messages about his ministry.

Afterwards everyone participated in a procession from Locke Hall outside then up the street to the Golden Hill street church entrance for the start of the 10:30 worship service. Lots of palm fronds were waved in the air as Sunday school participants joined by the choirs marched along the sidewalk, around the corner and into the sanctuary. Several of the Young Glory Singers carried banners as they marched along.



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.

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.

## What's Going On?

As viewed from the upper parking lot off Golden Hill Street, signs of the building renovation rise upward (see photo at right). Scaffolding surrounds the church tower, Elm Street entrance, and the church kitchen entrance. The lower parking lot on Elm Street is inaccessible during the renovation process from March through September, so if you have a lower parking lot gate clicker we encourage you to stop by the church office to get it reprogrammed so you can use the upper lot during this time the lower lot is not available. Various construction materials occupy the lower parking lot space during the renovation process.

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, Diana Crosdale, Opal Crosdale, Dick Dmochowski, Pastor Takayuki Ishii, Phyllis Machledt, Melodye Merola, Daniel Pettit, Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport*



# Rose Window Stewardship Campaign for 2012

The Stewardship committee will be initiating a campaign in May to financially 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 Stained Glass Window** above the balcony.

The theme for the Rose window is Praise, showing the Lamb of God as the central motif. In the center of the rose are eight circular medallions showing the figure of angels playing musical instruments, significant of Praise. The medallions are joined together by a pattern suggesting vines and foliage. The collection of pure rich colors suggest different

flowers, typifying the term, Rose window, created by Wilbur H. Burnham

The cost to remove, revitalize, restore, clean and re-install this stained glass window will be approximately \$40,000.00, which we hope to receive from the donations of the congregation over the period of the next twenty (20) months ending in December 2012.

There will be individual recognition for the contribution levels to this campaign. The contributor will be recognized by having their name placed on a plaque in a specified category determined by the amount of their 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 determined by the amount of the gift. Envelopes will be provided with the symbol of the Rose window for your donation.

We will be asking for donations with the hope the church 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. Please remember the Rose window campaign is in addition to our normal tithes and offering pledges.

*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 **30 Hour Famine** had 21 participants raising just over \$1,000 for Heifer International and Golden Hill Weekenders. Thank you to all who participated and to all those who sponsored the youth to help raise the funds for these outreach mission opportunities.

## *Pennies for Potatoes*

### Give Your Change to Make a Change

Golden Hill has long supported the wonderful work of the Society of St. Andrews, a hunger outreach and gleaning program of the United Methodist Church, with the Pennies for Potatoes program. Jars for your pennies and your change can be found in the church office and on the table in the back of the sanctuary. The power of a penny becomes important when we all contribute to help the hungry in our own country. It is amazing how much we can raise together with our spare change.

### Parking Lot Changes



The Elm Street parking lot will no longer be accessible due to the 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.

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

The **single highlight** in this issue is our **66<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting** on **Thursday, May 5, 2011**.

Please plan to attend what will be an exciting and different meeting this year.

We will meet at **First Congregational Church, 2301 Main Street, Stratford 06615** for hospitality and fellowship at **6:30 p.m.** We ask each attendee to **bring a new or gently used children's book** as part of the **Dr. Seuss Throwdown** being coordinated by the United Way of Coastal Fairfield County. We will collect them and get them to children in need. We will be part of collecting 100,000 books by June 1. You may make a monetary donation if you prefer.

**At 7 p.m.** a brief worship will be followed by our business meeting, electing new officers and directors and thanking those whose terms conclude. We will also **recognize those churches** that have notified us they will celebrate *Council Month* in October, 2011.

**At 7:30 p.m.** an exciting, first-time **promotional video** on the ministries of The Council, followed by presenting these awards for outstanding leadership:

**Founder's Award:** Pedro Wasmer

**Life Member Awards:** Carl Johnson & David Huntington

**Community Builder Award:** Tom Larson

**Lurline W. Reid Award:** Scott Wilderman & Career Resources

The evening will **conclude by 8:40 p.m.** Please contact Patty Jensen at [pattyjensen@ccgb.org](mailto:pattyjensen@ccgb.org) or 203.334.1121, ext. 243 and let us know:

- That you will attend. This helps our hosts to prepare hospitality.
- That your church will observe *Council Month* next October with a brief, two mi-

nute message and the distribution of a summary of Council ministries.

- That you will bring a book for the *Dr. Seuss Throwdown*.

## Society & Missions Outreach

### Japan Crisis Response

Thanks to the generosity of the Golden Hill congregation, we have raised \$896 so far for United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to help rebuild after the devastating tsunami and earthquake in Japan.

Already UMCOR has sent \$70,000 in early response aid to ecumenical partners, including National Christian Council in Japan, United Church of Christ in Japan, Korean Christian Church of Japan, and Church World Service, as well as to Global Medic, expert in rapid response to disasters.

To date, generous United Methodists and other people of good will have contributed \$1.6 million to the Japan Emergency Advance, said UMCOR International Disaster Response Executive, Melissa Crutchfield.

### Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County

Six Golden Hill Youth: Dan Gregorio, Wolfgang Fuller, Elizabeth Martin, Learie Mendez, Samantha Nelson and Paul Neubert helped "wrap" the Youth United Habitat house with Tyvek on Wednesday, April 20th.

The second floor walls and roof trusses are up on the house on the corner of Jane and Hallett. This house is sponsored by Youth United, a part of our local Habitat, and Sacred Heart University Habitat.

Golden Hill has a long history of active partnership with the local Habitat for Humanity group and has provided space for visiting groups to stay while in the Bridgeport area to work on Habitat build projects. You may have seen members of these groups at Golden Hill at various times throughout the year. We will host our next group June 22-24 from Sacred Heart church of Waltham, Massachusetts.


Children's Book Corner 

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

*Hip & Hop, Don't Stop!*, by Jef Czekaj. Grades K-3. Rabbit and Turtle have their own particular styles when it comes to saying a rap, but they both appreciate the other friend.

*The Dunderheads*, by Paul Fleishman. Grades 2-4. Miss Breakbone is a teacher who hates kids and when she crosses the line one too many times in punishing her class, they decide it is time for revenge.

*Itch*, by Michelle D. Kwasney. Grades 4-6. After her grandfather dies, Delores and her grandmother move from a house in Florida to a trailer park in Ohio. Her gramps always told her speaking up takes courage and Delores is about to realize just what that means.

Trustees Continue the Stop & Shop Gift Card Fundraiser 

April Showers bring May flowers! 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.

**CHURCH CALENDAR** 

- May 1 CROP Walk
- May 2 Building & Property, 7:30 pm  
Stewardship, 6:30 pm
- May 3 Confirmation, 6:30 pm
- May 4 Meet & Greet Pastor Barton
- May 5 Community Supper, 5:00 pm  
Taize worship, 6:30 pm
- May 10 SPRC, 7:30 pm
- May 12 Community Supper, 5:00 pm  
Taize worship, 6:30 pm
- May 17 Confirmation, 6:30 pm  
Finance, 7:30 pm
- May 18 Community Supper, 5:00 pm  
Taize worship, 6:30 pm
- May 19 Trustees, 7:30 pm
- May 24 Confirmation, 6:30 pm  
Church Council, 7:30 pm
- May 25 Community Supper, 5:00 pm  
Taize worship, 6:30 pm
- May 31 Confirmation 6:30 pm

**IMPORTANT DATES**

Wednesday, May 4 at 7:00 pm "Meet and Greet" with our new clergy appointee, Rev. Walter C. Barton, Jr.

We will recognize graduates on Sunday, June 12th. Please submit the information to the church office.

Christian Education Sunday will be June 19th.

Sunday, June 26 Taka's retirement celebration and farewell luncheon. More detailed information will follow about both these events.

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

**Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, Come into his presence with singing.**

**Thank you** to all singers, the choirs, dancers and musicians for your participation in the music of Lent, Palm Sunday and Easter at all worship services.

- April 27<sup>th</sup> No Handbell or Choir Rehearsal  
7:00 p.m. Steel Band Rehearsal
- May 1<sup>st</sup> 9:30 a.m. Steel Band Warm-Up  
10:30 a.m. Steel Band plays in Church
- May 4<sup>th</sup> No Handbell or Choir Rehearsal  
Meet and Greet with Pastor Barton
- May 11<sup>th</sup> 9:30 a.m. Young Glory Singers Warm-up  
10:30 a.m. Young Glory Singers sing in worship



# CALLING ALL GRADUATES!



If you or a family member are graduating this spring we want to know about it. We want to share in celebrating this life event with you.

We will recognize graduates at the 10:30 A.M. worship service on Sunday, June 12th.

Please send us your:

Graduate's name:

School:

Grade or degree completed:

Future plans (if known):

Submit this information  
to the church office

no later than Sunday, May 15  
by calling 203-336-0152. or via  
email to: [office@goldenhill.org](mailto:office@goldenhill.org)

### JUNE "TOWER" DEADLINE

Our submission deadline for the May issue of *The Tower* newsletter will be May 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** ISHII@goldenhill.org
- Melodye** outreach@goldenhill.org
- Dan** music@goldenhill.org
- Church Office** office@goldenhill.org
- The Tower** tower@goldenhill.org



To see the church calendar, photos, read the Tower newsletter and Grace Notes online, check out our church website at: [www.goldenhill.org](http://www.goldenhill.org)

# Golden Hill United Methodist Women Activity Update

The United Methodist Women is a community of women who nurture and encourage one another in their spiritual growth. Our local unit now participates in the 2011 Reading Program so please visit the General Board of Global Ministries webpage where you can view and purchase the program book list. Join us in prayer and fellowship at our next meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup>.



We are busy at work serving the community. We recently held our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper where we assembled over 100 health kits for the homeless in our community. We continue to provide 51 backpacks to elementary children in the Bridgeport School System.

A child going hungry on the weekends is a growing plight in America that was recently featured on the Today show. Hungry students have difficulty focusing in school and have more frequent visits to the school nurse.

We are grateful to have members who continue to aid the UMW in raising monies and donations to help meet the needs of hungry children in our area. Through your participation we can continue to successfully support this effort, which is more important now as we approach the end of the school year.

Excerpt from <http://new.gbgbm-umc.org/umw/about/mission/>

Mission is **presence, relationship, witness and sharing.**

Mission is **refusing to turn away when the tears of God are being shed**

over the violence and injustice and suffering of God's wayward creation.

-- *United Methodist Women-supported mission intern David Hosey*

## Weekenders Shopping List

Our food inventory was low in April. We struggled to get food together for the backpacks for spring break (April 18-22), and our inventory going forward could use some shoring up! Realizing that some food items cost more than others, people may be able to donate less expensive items, in larger quantities. A continuing need is protein items: tuna, Vienna sausage, beef stew, chili and pasta with meat.

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

