

GRACE NOTES

A weekly publication of the
Golden Hill United Methodist Church
210 Elm Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604
Telephone: (203) 336-0152 Fax: (203) 336-9457
Website address: www.goldenhill.org
Office e-mail address: office@goldenhill.org
Pastor's e-mail address: ISHII@goldenhill.org

September 5, 2010

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Church consultant Alex McManus holds training events for people who sense a call from God to launch new communities of faith. For several years now, he has promoted these events with this invitation: "Heroes wanted for a quest to save the universe. Safe return doubtful." In employing such language, McManus captures two often-neglected elements in Jesus' core message: mission and cost.

Both of those elements are present in Jesus' words about discipleship (Luke 14:25-33), but to really hear what he was saying, we should remember that he was on his way toward death on a cross and resurrection from the dead. Apart from that backdrop, we may hear Jesus' words simply as a call to an unattainable life or perhaps even to an undesirable one. Who among us wants to embrace a view of life in which family members, including spouses and children, are hated? Who among us can imagine what it would mean to completely renounce and give away all of our possessions?

But if we walk away from this text with only these questions in our mind, we have missed the true force of Jesus' words. That's because Jesus here reminds us of the Gospel's call to the only true life worth living - a life of full commitment to God's mission as a follower of Jesus.

Ask yourself: What if following Jesus Christ were the only true way of living the life that I was created to live? What is keeping me from being "all in" for the Gospel?

*Blessings!
Taka*

GRACE NOTES

is a weekly publication of church notices. Comments directed to the pastor or church office are always welcome. The deadline for submission is Wednesday Noon.

WEEKLY WORSHIP

Sundays

8:30 a.m. – Preaching service, Holy Communion, Chapel

10:00 a.m. – Preaching service, Sanctuary

Wednesdays

6:30 p.m. – Taize Service, Chapel

Worship attendance for August 29, 2010: 109

8:30 a.m.: 23; 10:00 a.m.:87; Taize:65

Nursery: 4; Helper: 1

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Please turn off or mute all electronic devices.

WELCOME VISITORS! We pray you experience God's presence among us. Please make yourself known to the pastor. After the 10:00 a.m. service, please join us in the Narthex for coffee and conversation. We appreciate your willingness to wear a name tag.

VISITOR'S PARKING: As a sign of hospitality, two spaces in the upper parking lot have been designated for visitors' parking. Please be sure the spaces are available for guests when they arrive. Take this opportunity to greet a visitor as you come or go.

OUR RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP helps us welcome our guests and members. Please write your name and address on the Friendship pads, located on the center aisle, and pass them to your neighbor.

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS at both morning services may be obtained from an usher or greeter. These highlight the gospel reading. Colored pencils are provided for your convenience. Please return the pencils to the box in the narthex so they may be used next week.

LARGE TYPE BULLETINS AND HYMNALS are available from the ushers.

OUR 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE is recorded each week. To obtain a copy of any service for a nominal fee, speak to Pat Longway.

FLOWERS:

Chapel: Summer arrangement made by Ullie Drew in memory of their daughter, Linda.

Sanctuary (*Front of Cross*): Given in memory of Shirley and all departed family members by Ruth Engelhard.

CARE NOTES are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary.

WORSHIP LEADERS

8:30 a.m. Rev. Taka Ishii, Senior Pastor
Melodye Merola, Director of Outreach Ministry
Daniel Pettit, Director of Music Ministries
Tyrone Hart, Usher

10:00 a.m. Rev. Taka Ishii, Senior Pastor
Melodye Merola, Director of Outreach Ministry
Daniel Pettit, Director of Music Ministries
John Blossom, Lay Speaker

COMMUNION STEWARD: Opal Crosdale

COMMUNION SERVERS: Rev. Ishii, Melodye Merola, John Blossom, Roena Littlejohn.

TELLERS: Roland Wright. Lorine Bilisko, Vinette Fisher, Shernice Mitchell, David Nelson, Rene Reed
NURSERY CARE: Donna Green, Carmen Williams – Infant to 5 years old.

WEDNESDAY, 9/8

COMMUNITY SUPPER

**5:00 p.m. – Terry Perkowski, Community Supper Captain,
Golden Hill UMC cook, prep, serve and cleanup**

6:30 p.m. Taize Service – Chapel

Military personnel around the world, especially those affiliated with Golden Hill: Jason R. Carroll (Ida Radshaw's grandson), ***SSG Kenton Corry*** (son of Allen & Karen Corry), ***Sgt Jeffrey Dick*** (Lil Harcarik's nephew), ***Renaldo Hill*** (nephew of Geri & Jim Floyd, soon to be deployed to Afghanistan), ***Spc. Peter Janoski, L Cpl. Stephen L. Kaine*** (Wyona Kaine's grandson), ***SFC Richard Perry*** (son of Allen & Karen Corry), ***Eric Petterson*** (Ruth Hastings great nephew), ***Mario Sanderson*** (Icyline Satchwell's grandson), ***Pierce Torrence*** (Polly Torrence's nephew), ***2nd Lt. Amelia Janoski Zargan***, niece of Dave & Dale Janoski (currently serving in Afghanistan), ***Capt. Robert Zargan*** (husband of Amelia) currently serving in Afghanistan.

NY CONFERENCE CHURCHES IN OUR PRAYERS:

Olivebridge [CH]	Palenville [CH]
Olivebridge: Samsonville [CH]	Parksville [CH]
Orient [LE]	Patchogue [LE]
Ossining [MET]	Pawling [NC]
Ossining: St Matthew's [MET]	Peekskill [NC]

TODAY AT GOLDEN HILL:

Kids' Club today is for children Grades 1 through 3. The children gather in worship, leave about 10:15 a.m. for their lesson until the end of 10:00 a.m. worship. Our leaders today are Jenny McLachlan and Mize Johnson.

Greeting you after worship is Rev. Ishii and Melodye Merola.

Coffee Hour follows the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service in front of the church. This week's Coffee Hour is sponsored by Bethan Beckford.

Stop & Shop Fundraiser S&S Gift cards are sold every Sunday after chapel and before the 10:00 service. This Trustee sponsored fundraiser supports our Current Program costs. Don't forget to bring your checkbook and do your weekly grocery '*shopping*' every Sunday!

Gospel/Praise Choir rehearsal resumes Sept. 5th in the chapel, following 10:00 A.M. worship service.

Steel Drum Band rehearsal , Sept. 5th at 11:30A.M. in Locke Hall.

Next Sunday is Homecoming Sunday! Regular worship hours return next Sunday, September 13th with 8:30 A. M. Chapel and 10:30 A. M Sanctuary Services. Sunday School starts for all ages (children and adults) with a light breakfast and craft activities at 9:15 in Locke Hall.

Volunteers needed to serve at Community Supper **this WEDNESDAY 4:45 – 6:30 P.M.**. Please speak to Melodye if you can assist.



STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

Weekly reflections on our membership vows to "covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, **our gifts**, our service and our witness."

Golden Hill has been an integral part of my life since 1986 when I started coming here. I felt I had "come home" because of the diversity of people and their welcoming attitudes. I was, and still am, impressed by the congregation's deep commitment to mission work in Bridgeport and the youth of the community. Membership in different discussion groups, Bible studies, committees and mission projects and trips has strengthened my ties to Golden Hill, helped me make good friendships and deepened my spiritual life.

With all that Golden Hill has done for me, how can I give back to the church and to God?

Two passages in the Bible have always had special meaning for me. The first is from Micah 6:8. "...what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?". The second is from 1 John 3:17-18. "How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action."

To me, these passages mean that we need to shake ourselves out of our indifference to face and try to right the injustices we see in our community and in the world, whether it is racism, violence toward immigrants, or the deepening divide between the rich and the poor. That also means that I need to extend myself beyond my comfort zone. Over the past 25 years of work with service agencies and organizations in Bridgeport, I have learned more than I've taught, and gained far more than I've given. There are so many possibilities for mission work right in our own backyard, but that mission work needs to be done with respect and kindness. I can give my time, experience and commitment to helping Golden Hill members find new ways they can be involved in ministries locally.

As part of my stewardship to Golden Hill, I also need to share more of "our world's goods" to help my brothers and sisters in need. Funding the necessary repairs to our building will also allow us to think creatively about how we can further use the building for mission work, to put our love in action, even more than we do now as a congregation.

I truly believe that will help us grow as a church community doing God's work in the world.

Phyllis Machledt

NEXT SUNDAY

Scripture: Jeremiah 4:11-12, Psalm 14, 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-10

The sermon texts are subject to change, but it is always recommended that the Lectionary scriptures be read each week. These texts are universally selected and read.

INTERGENERATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL EVENT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2010 AT 9:15 A.M.

It's that time of the year where we all start back to Sunday School! As always, all are welcome as we have classes for everyone! I know our teachers are preparing wonderful and exciting lessons for us all. So let us come and start this church school year off rejoicing in hearing the Word of God!

Hopefully, everyone has had a wonderful and glorious summer. We will kick off this year with our Intergenerational Event on Sunday, September 12, 2010 at 9:15 A.M. with a meet and greet and always a light breakfast to set us off! Remember, Sunday School is an important part of our Christian journey where God has something to say that He wants us to hear! So mark your calendars and get ready!

Yours In Christ,
Sonya Green, Church School Superintendent

UPCOMING MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

CHANCEL CHOIR rehearsal resumes on Sept 8th at 7:30 P.M. in the chapel. No auditions ... All are welcome!

HANDBELL CHOIR begins on Sept. 15th at 6:45 P.M. in the Wesley Suite.

YOUNG GLORY SINGERS will resume on September 19th at 11:45 A.M. in the Wesley Suite.

SAFE SANCTUARY TRAINING TO ALL THOSE WHO WORK WITH CHILDREN IN OUR CHURCH FACILITY:

There will be early safe sanctuary training sessions this year. Upcoming safe sanctuary training will be offered on Sunday, October 10, 2010 at 11:45 A.M. in the Parlor and also on Sunday, October 24, 2010 at 11:45 A.M. in the Parlor. Early notice is being provided here in the Grace Notes, in the Tower and reminder cards will go out for your convenience. Please make arrangements to attend one of the aforementioned dates. **TRAINING IS MANDATORY!**

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via home phone #203-336-9360 after 7:30 P.M. or via email at sgreen9187@yahoo.com. Looking forward to seeing you all!

Yours in Christ,
Sonya Green
Safe Sanctuary Coordinator

OTHER NEWS OF NOTE

SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY For the past 6 years, a group of students and adult leaders from Sacred Heart University have stayed at Golden Hill for their "Community Connections" program, a week of community service and reflection for incoming freshmen. This year 31 participants stayed from August 28-Sept. 3, helping with Community Suppers and the Weekenders program and working at places such as Habitat for Humanity, Merton Center, and Columbus School. Many of these students continue their involvement at Golden Hill with the Christmas Basket program, Community Suppers and Evergreen Network. Thanks to the SHU students for their service to the Bridgeport community!

WEEKLY CALENDAR AT GOLDEN HILL

<u>Sun. 9/5</u>	FIFTEENTH SUNDAY
	AFTER PENTECOST
8:30 a.m.	Holy Communion – Chapel
	Sunday School begins September 12 th
10:00 a.m.	Holy Communion – Sanctuary
11:00 a.m.	Coffee Hour – Narthex/Outdoors
11:15 a.m.	Gospel/Praise Choir – Chapel
11:45 a.m.	Steel Drum Band – Locke Hall
<u>Mon. 9/6</u>	LABOR DAY
	OFFICE CLOSED

Tues. 9/7

2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting – Pastor’s Office
6:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee - Parlor
7:30 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous – Clubrooms

Wed. 9/8

5:00 p.m. Community Supper – Locke Hall
6:15 p.m. Weekenders Packing – Locke Hall
6:30 p.m. Taize – Chapel
6:45 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal – Wesley Suite
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Chapel

Thurs. 9/9

Fri. 9/10

Sat. 9/11

Sun. 9/12

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion – Chapel
9:15 a.m. Intergenerational Sunday School Breakfast –
Locke Hall
9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Gospel Praise Choir
and Steel Band Warm-Up - Sanctuary
10:30 a.m. Worship – Sanctuary
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour – Narthex/Outdoors
Noon Picnic
5:00 p.m. Steel Drum Band – Locke Hall
5:30 p.m. UMYF Adults – Oak Room
6:00 p.m. Gospel/Praise Choir - Chapel
6:00 p.m. Knitting Group – Lounge
6:30 p.m. UMYF – Clubrooms

GOLDEN HILL PARISH STAFF

Rev. Taka Ishii, *Pastor*

Melodye Merola, *Director of Outreach Ministry*

Daniel Pettit, *Director of Music Ministries*

Shannon Dihmes, *Office Manager*

James House, *Sexton*

Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 9:00 to 3:00 o'clock