



FIRST WORD

March 2009

From the Pastor...

Our Confirmation Class this year is a joy! The members are exceptionally bright, highly motivated and open to discussions about faith and daily life.

We started Lent together by having a special dinner at Myrna's, a new Lebanese restaurant on Putnam Avenue. It may not have been exactly what Jesus ate in Galilee but we were in the geographic neighborhood. Following our healthy dinner, we rushed to the Ash Wednesday service at First United Methodist Church where three congregations joined in worship. Having discussed the meaning of the imposition of ashes, we now experienced it.

Faith without experience is anemic. My hope is that our "classroom" discussions of faith, sacrifice, forgiveness, and Lent will take on deeper meaning as our confirmands share meals and worship together. Patterns are being developed, too. I have observed our students not only in worship at First Church but at the pancake breakfast, coffee hour and the open house. They enjoy fellowship. The church is being the church when it provides these fellowship events and intentionally includes the youth. They notice.

Last Sunday, we read and reflected upon the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi. I invite you to take a few quiet moments and read these familiar yet powerful words. Reflect on them and nurture your faith for our Lenten journey.

R. Randy Day

*Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to
be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are
pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born
to eternal life.*

-Francis of Assisi

CE Update

March started with our Bible Story *Luke 19:1-10*. Our K-5th graders watched a DVD about Zacchaeus, a dishonest chief tax collector of Jericho, and how Jesus' acceptance of him changed his life forever. Following the movie the students participated in a fun quiz, which lead to an interesting discussion of situations in our lives when we felt acts of acceptance from others.

The children have made a Countdown to Easter poster – where each week we will pray for a special group of people.

Passover is a Jewish holiday that reflects back on God's deliverance of the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt. Come join us **March 15th** - we will prepare charoseth and have a small Passover celebration.

The Youth Group will continue their *Rob Bell* studies and conclude the month of March with a trip to The Cliffs in Valhalla, NY for some rock climbing on **Sunday the 29th**.

If you have any questions regarding our program, events or trips, please

do not hesitate to contact me at fcroundhill@aol.com.

Have a blessed Lent season.

Susanne Frank

Director of Children's and Youth Ministry

Pancake Breakfast a Success!

Thanks to the fellowship committee and especially Keith and Brownie Roe for making the Pancake Breakfast on February 22nd a huge success.

EASTER FLOWERS

One of the holiday traditions at First Church is to fill the sanctuary with flowers for the Easter season. We need donations to cover the cost of these lovely flowers. A sign up sheet is the in the parlor.

Prayers

We pray for Liz and Russ Harden
Liz is recovering from back surgery.

Habitat for Humanity

Thanks to all the volunteers who participated in our last Habitat Saturday on February 21st. Special thanks to Happy Harrison for her years of service as Habitat coordinator for First Church. She has passed her title on to Peter Abbott.

Holy Week Schedule of Events

Palm Sunday - April 5th 10 am Worship

Holy Thursday - April 9th Worship at Diamond Hill UMC, 7:30 pm

Good Friday - Worship at Diamond Hill UMC, 7:30 pm

Ken Kieffer guest preacher

Easter Sunday - April 12th , one Worship Service at First Church 10 am

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•FIRST CHURCH OF ROUND HILL STAFF•

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Annie Callahan, Secretary
Sandy Regan, Financial Secretary
Ernesto Damm, Property Manager

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