



# FIRST WORD

September 2009

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## *From the Pastor...*

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September is always a month of exciting beginnings! Our Church School and Youth Group will start their new programs on Sunday, Sept 13th. You will find details in this newsletter. Children's Stories by the pastor will be central to the worship services at 10am every Sunday. Our choir will be back in full glory! We want very much to see you every Sunday in September and throughout the fall!

Grace and peace,  
*R. Randy Day*

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## Chris Cole Update

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Below is an update to the article Chris wrote for our newsletter last spring:

### Jamaica'n Me Crazy

Eight dollars and hour does not sound like much, but it was great news for our "adopted" fifth child. And great news for the rest of us as well. Pottery Barn in the Stamford Mall hired our Jesse and today marked his first day, afternoon to night actually, on the job. The news highlighted a weekend in which Jesse wore a tuxedo for the first time, and basically enjoyed what most high schooler's take for

granted, the high school prom. The smile on his face the next afternoon, not morning, told the whole story; Jesse was fitting in and loving it. Of course, progress is often offset with hardship – or reality for that matter; the football coach kicked him off of the team for next year because his job will interfere with pre-football season practices and likely practices during the season. When you have no money, and frankly do not like pain much, exchanging a football role for a good job is a trade worth taking.

Interestingly, Jesse's "good fortune" in finding our family through the First Church of Round Hill, has not been appreciated by his extended family. While his mother in Jamaica appreciates our support, the father and aunts on both sides have been down right obnoxious. Jesse's father has slandered him and removed his healthcare benefits. The aunts have accused him of not striving to be independent. None offer financial help, but all are upset that he would take support from non Jamaicans. Having never been a minority in this country, I cannot comprehend the logic. I am sure, however, that there is logic there somewhere. All I know is that it is very difficult for a young man to gain employment without considerable parental guidance,

significant effort, and a strong dose of good fortune.

Jesse has moved up the list for Stamford's SRO, single room only, subsidized housing program. We would love to see him find a place soon since our home is filling up with our returning college students and his work/school in Stamford makes the Greenwich commute challenging. The SRO process has been long and complicated so I have no real idea when/whether Jesse's hopes will materialize on this score.

My family and I have learned plenty of Jamaican and been tested in ways only parents of teenagers can fully appreciate. He is a good sole and we are happy that he has landed in our little world. And as with our own college age children, we will be happy to watch them fly away, finding their own niche, their own happiness.

*Chris*

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## YOUTH INFORMATION

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Dear Parents,

As we prepare for and are excited about a new Sunday school year we'd like to explain a significant change that will be implemented this fall.

**5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades** These two grades are in separate schools within Greenwich public schools, but we recognize that these students are at similar learning levels and hope by combining them we capitalize on their unique developmental stage. These grades will be taught together by Marta Vagnone and myself.

We will also have some big shoes to fill since Daisy is leaving us due to her exciting but very demanding new position. We wish her well in her future endeavors.

Currently we are looking for a candidate who has a deep love of Jesus Christ and a desire to share that love with others.

### **PROGRAMS**

**Youth Service** The First Sunday of the month our Youth Group students will be attending and participating in the Sunday Service. Throughout the year they will plan for and help implement some of the studies they are working on into the worship service.

**Off-site Events** Once a month we plan activities after Youth Group time, such as participating in various outreach programs, rock climbing, pool party, “get-togethers” with other Youth Groups

(please see monthly flyer for details), etc.

**Friday Nights** Once a month we will have a fun evening in our state of the art Youth room. Parents sign up to host the evenings.

Friends are always welcome to all activities!

### **REMINDERS**

**Registration** This will help us better serve you. We are looking to update our database, and by you registering, you are helping us do that.

**Emergency Card** Never have to worry about signing release forms for the rest of the academic school year. Please be aware that students cannot participate in off-site events if we do not have an emergency card on file.

You can find and download all forms from our website at [firstchurchofroundhill.org/registration/](http://firstchurchofroundhill.org/registration/)

Our entire schedule can be viewed on the web. It is also posted on the bulletin board in the parlor. To make things simple, here are the first few dates for you to remember:  
Sunday Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> Youth Group kick-off and pool party at the Weinstein’s home 11:30am – 2pm  
Friday Sept 25<sup>th</sup> First *Friday Night Fun* in Youth Room

Sunday Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>-Pacific House 1pm – 7pm

Friday Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> -*Friday Fun Night* Halloween Extravaganza

Thank you for your on-going support and participation in Student Ministries. We are so thankful for your time and prayers.

*Susanne Frank*

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### **Women’s Clothing Drive**

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There is a rack in the choir room for women’s clothing to be donated to the women’s shelter in Stamford. Please bring in your gently worn women’s “work” clothes for donation.

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### **Stewardship**

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Please, please make every effort to pay your pledge up through September. The pastor and stewardship committee realize that many families are on the move during the summer months. This is a friendly reminder to honor your pledge so the church may resume full programming now that we are in September. Thank you very much!!

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Daisy Melo, Youth Director  
Annie Callahan, Secretary  
Sandy Regan, Financial Secretary  
Ernesto Damm, Property Manager

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