

The Steeple



Green's Farms Church Celebrates Homecoming Sunday September 11

*Please join us for Worship &
Music at 10 a.m. followed by
hot dogs & homecoming fun on
the front lawn as we kick off
our 301st year!*

*71 Hillandale Road Westport, CT
203 227 2728*

www.greensfarmschurch.org



It is hard to believe that the school year is upon us and our Green's Farm Church Community is gearing up for more great programs for our kids. Just like last year, we need volunteers to help once or twice this year (or more often if you wish!) to make all these programs meaningful and successful. With help from **YOU**, our fantastic parent and church volunteers, and our dedicated Education Department team we are ready to go!! Sign up sheets with dates will be available at the Education Table on Homecoming Sunday. Thanks so much for all that you do!!!

Sunday School - Pre-school Music Once again, our littlest shepherds will be learning about Jesus and being good Christians through song and music. We are excited for our children to experience worship through song and look forward to them sharing the fun they are having with the congregation this Fall.



Middle School Youth Program - Grades 6, 7 and 8

- * Our Middle School Youth will again be engaged in helping our community and learning about the true meaning of service to others. The program called "Cookies and Conversation," in partnership with the Green's Farm Church Outreach Committee, will have our young people making cookies for one of the local organizations our church helps support. While these busy teens make the goodies, a member of that organization explains their mission of service to the kids. Our industrious Youth will also be running their assembly line of lunch making with our "Hungry Hearts" program for the very grateful and needy Norwalk Emergency Shelter at least one Sunday per month.
- * **NEW THIS FALL!** The Education Team is launching a pilot program "A Faithful World" that is intended to help our Youth build upon their understanding of their own faith tradition and to learn about the different religions in our community and around the world. The program will hold a few initial workshops this fall covering the United Church of Christ and other Christian faiths, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism with the potential for field trips to neighboring places of worship in Winter 2012.
- * The GFC Confirmation Program begins in January and runs through Confirmation Sunday in May. It is open to all interested eighth graders. The program includes Faith Adventures, retreats and regular Tuesday evening classes. There will be a parent information meeting in October. Watch your bulletin and emails for more information.

HOSTING ALEX

It was a great blessing for Green's Farms Church to act as host to Alex Woods, our wonderful summer intern from Duke Divinity School. In just a few short weeks, Alex became a beloved member of the GFC family. He arrived just in time to partake in our June 12 Celebration Sunday. Alex acted as chaperone for our New Orleans Mission Trip, he co-led many worship services, preached three Sunday sermons, visited many of our members in need of pastoral care, helped feed the hungry and homeless, organized volunteers for Pivot House events and assisted with various GFC projects and events. We miss him, his warm enthusiasm, good humor, southern charm and contagious depth of faith.



Dear Green's Farms Church,

Thank you for a truly rewarding summer. As I said in some of my sermons, the thought of coming up north to a community just an hour away from New York City really intimidated me. Coming from the south, I worried every one might think of me as some sort of Jerry Falwell. Once here, it did not take me long to realize these fears were silly. Thank you for the amazing hospitality you showed me. During all the lunches, dinners, and gatherings you invited me to, I never once had to question whether I was welcomed here. You opened up your homes and hearts to me and for that I will always be grateful.

I pray that the Lord will give you strength to run the good race before you. I also echo the prayer of Paul's toward the Ephesians, which is "that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe..." (Ephesians 1:17-19). I can think of no better prayer, and I hope that it will continue to come to fruition in each of your lives. Thank you again for your hospitality and for a summer that I will never forget.

Warmly,

Alex



Icthus Youth Group

NOTES from Alison:

The valiant search for a new Youth Minister is full steam ahead (Many thanks to our diligent search committee members!). In the meantime, the amazing Karen Kosinski has volunteered to, yet again, lead the Icthus charge. God Bless our Karen! Please see her note below.

Lots of great stuff in store for our high schoolers this year, including a Sunday morning discussion group in the refurbished Adirondack style lodge-like space formally known as the Youth Room. Submit your suggestions on Homecoming Sunday for a new name for this wonderful new space!

The calendar is a work in progress but we will certainly keep you posted via bulletin announcements, emails and website updates.

afisher@greensfarmschurch.org



GREETINGS from Karen:

The New Icthus Youth Room is 99.9% complete and we will be gathering there for our first Youth Group Meeting on Thursday night, September 22nd from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. A special thank you to Jan for all of her work in making this room special for us.

If you are an incoming Freshman or are new to Green's Farms Church and attend High School, please join us on Thursday nights for an evening of fellowship and spirit moving discussions, as well as pizza! Along with our weekly discussions we have planned a busy calendar of events with various fellowship opportunities such as Fright Fest at Six Flags Great Adventure in October, dinner with the men of Pivot House in November, skiing in Vermont in January and much more. So make sure you take a look at our calendar.

If you cannot join us on Thursday evenings, then please join us on Sunday mornings beginning September 11th for a Youth Bible Study taking place in our new Youth Room during the 10:00 a.m. worship service and led by Yours Truly. We will spend about an hour each week reading and getting into the "real meat" of the Scriptures through great illustrations and discussion starters that will get everyone talking. The material will be relevant and practical to our daily lives.



High School Bible Discussion Group	Sunday mornings @ 10am Beginning September 11
Icthus Meetings	Thursday evenings from 7 til 8:30pm Beginning Sept. 22
Fellowship Hosts @ Coffee Hour	First Sunday of every month Beginning October 2
Fright Fest @ Six Flags	Saturday, October 22
Halloween Party	Thursday, October 27
Make a Difference Project	TBA
Youth Group Hosts Pivot House for dinner	Thursday, November 10 @ 5:30pm
Mission Trip PARENT Info Meeting	Thursday, November 3 @ 7pm
West Side Story @ SHS	Thursday, November 17 @ 7pm
Icthus Hosts Advent Service Fellowship	Thursday, December 1 @ 7pm
Icthus Caroling & Christmas Party	Thursday, December 15 @ 7pm



Got music?...Join the Green's Farms Church band!
Full of hot air? Got a thing for strings? We want you!
Look for details and sign up sheets on Homecoming Sunday.
Contact Kirsten Horton for more info
kirstenhorton@hotmail.com 203-613-3333





Kids Ask the Darndest Things

"Where does God live?"

"Why are there are three Gods? Really, I thought there was only one?"

"What is sin?"

"What happened to Grandpa when he died?"

"Why do we go to church?"

"Caitlin's family is Catholic, Ben's family is Jewish, what are we?"

"Why did Jesus have to die?"

One of the biggest challenges of being a parent is answering all those questions! My then 3 year old (now college age) son was a mile a minute talker. I remember asking him to take a five minute breather from asking me any more "why" questions one day, just so I could catch my breath. His response? "Mom, how come?"

Abstract questions about faith can be difficult to answer when talking with curious young concrete thinkers, especially when we're not so sure about the subject ourselves. Parents at Green's Farms Church come from all sorts of faith perspectives, experiences, and traditions. So this Fall the Education Department is expanding it's lending library to include some new books designed to help parents share conversations around those tough questions with kids of all ages. During the year I'll be highlighting some of the new titles here in the Steeple, and hope you'll always feel welcome to come in to talk about your child's questions and challenges, big and small. We know that faith grows at home and hope to provide the parents and kids of our church with the resources to share meaningful times together. So come to Homecoming Sunday on September 11 at 10AM, connect with friends old and new, take a peek at some of our new books, and start a conversation. Who knows where it will lead.

Always a blessing to grow in faith with you,
Lynn

Sunday School in September!

September 4 Labor Day Weekend – our last day of Summer Sunday School.

September 11 Homecoming Sunday – take this chance to connect with old and new friends on the front lawn, learn about what’s new this fall at church, register for Sunday School, enjoy hot dogs, and try to beat Rev. Twiname to the big blow up!

September 18 “Roots Roadtrip” – join us on the big yellow school bus as Grades 1-6 kick off the new program year by heading to the Green’s Farms Road site of the second meeting house which has been designated an historic site, visit the old cemetery there, do some gravestone rubbings, and be sure to make time for fun and games!

September 25 Workshop Rotation Begins – don’t miss the excitement as the Bible Detectives follow new clues to find Jesus’ mission for his disciples!

Grown ups - Join the fun! It takes lots of helping hands and very little time to pull off the many activities we have planned for Sunday School this year. If you like science, history, using your hands, kids, making a mess, having fun, learning about the Bible or sharing faith with a room full of eager beavers we could sure use your help! Let us know by filling out an interest sheet in the bulletin if you have one hour, three hours, or a semester of Sundays to give and we’ll find a place for you. Chaperones for the roadtrip and waterproof leaders for our upcoming festival day are among our current needs.

Parents are also needed to help our middle school students in grades 6-8 reach out to neighbors and grow in faith. If you’re interested in helping us continue “Hungry Hearts” or “Cookies and Conversations” or begin the new once a month program “Faithful World” please let us know which Sunday you’re available to help these enthusiastic learners!

Sunday School for our youngest children will also begin on Homecoming Sunday. Do you have a young child hoping to be a part of our church family this year? At Green’s Farms Church we welcome infants, toddlers, preschoolers and kindergarteners to age appropriate classes led by terrific teachers who know how to show kids and their parents what we mean when we say love is the foundation of our faith.

Children heading to the nursery may be brought to there before the worship service begins. Threes, Fours, and Kindergarteners will be dismissed from worship to go to their classrooms after the children’s message. If your child feels shy or uncertain about coming to a new room with unfamiliar faces, please let me know so that we can be sure to help with successful transitions in this welcoming environment.

See you at Homecoming,
Lynn Rider



MUSIC NEWS

September, 2011

Eileen Hunt, Minister of Music

I hope you all have enjoyed a wonderful summer. Mark and I have just returned from an exciting trip to Europe, where we heard lots of great music, visited some wonderful places and brought home lots of great memories!

We have a great year of music to look forward to for our 2011-2012 season. It will be impossible to top what we did in celebration of our 300th, but the new season holds some wonderful musical components for our worship services. We will start with a very festive Homecoming Sunday service on Sunday, September 11, 2011 with the return of our choir and soloists after our summer break, and guest musicians Kenneth Tedeschi, trumpet, James Allen, timpani, and Jonathan Henken, bagpipes, will join us. Our music will feature some brand new compositions by Edward Thompson, who was one of our commissioned composers for the 300th. Ed just gave me a new set of compositions for trumpet and organ this summer, with permission to play them at GFC. Ken and I are looking forward to playing these beautiful new pieces for you next month. A very special part of the service will feature soprano Culver Casson joining with Ken and me to offer a fabulous aria from Cantata #51 of J. S. Bach, scored for soprano, trumpet and organ. This absolutely stunning piece of music will have you all on the edge of your seats! It is not to be missed. Jonathan Henken will be playing traditional piping tunes on the lawn as you arrive, and will join me during the service for "Highland Cathedral." He will serenade us once again following the service. If you would like to join us for choir that morning, the rehearsal call is for **9:15 AM**, no prior rehearsal required, and the music is easy and fun to sing. We'd love to have you join us to ring in the new year at GFC!

Thursday night choir rehearsals resume on **Thursday, September 15, 7:45 - 9:15 PM** in the Choir Room. We'd like to invite anyone who would like to sing to visit us on any of the Thursday evenings in September, or the Sunday mornings, beginning at 9:00 AM. The music for September is easy and very familiar, and it is a great time to try out choir! Come when you can and join us in making a joyful noise. You are always welcome! There is lots of wonderful music coming along throughout the fall, and especially during the months of November and December.

I look forward to greeting all of you in person on Homecoming Sunday!



The 300th celebration allowed us to reflect and be thankful for the devotion of past Green's Farms members. Their care and concern has meant GFC has been blessed by 300 years of Sunday services.

Think about how you can be part of Green's Farms future and

**BECOME A
FOUNDING MEMBER*
OF THE
GREEN'S FARMS CHURCH LEGACY PARTNERS**

Make a Planned Gift: A Bequest in Your Will; Charitable Remainder Trust; or Gift Annuity (that will pay you income and save you taxes) or other legacy gift. Additional information can be found on the GFC website and within the Legacy Partners brochure.



* Present a letter certifying your past or current provision of a planned gift by All Saints' Sunday, **November 6, 2011.**

Message From The Treasurer

Green's Farms Church has moved its brokerage account into which we receive gifted stock. It is now at an entirely different financial institution so please ask JoAnne LaBella, Office Manager, or Andrea Register, Treasurer, for a copy of the most current instructions before making a stock donation.

Please contact Andrea by email, andrearegister@optonline.net or phone, 203-216-6792 with any questions. Also, please remember to inform the treasurer that the stock is on its way as our broker does not alert us of its arrival or provide the name of the donor to us. Thank you!

GEAUX THE DISTANCE

“Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.”.....1 Timothy 4:12 (NIV)



GFC ALL CHURCH GOLF OUTING





The Pivot House Block Party was held on Saturday, July 30. Members of GFC participated in this second annual outreach event, which spiritually and physically benefits all those who attend.





ADULT EDUCATION

Faith Formation and the Spiritual Gym

Starting September 25th, Dan England will lead a three week study of the letters of John. Happily, there are three of them. This three week course is designed for people who would like to try out the Spiritual Gym without making a long-term commitment up front. (You know how it is, you realize your faith is a little flabby and you don't have as much spiritual stamina as you once had and you are determined to do something about it. It's great for the first few weeks and then, well, you realize why you didn't want to do all this exercise in the first place or you feel so much better you want more.) So come join the throng for three Sundays and see how you like it. If you feel faith-fitter, then you can join us for the following six weeks as we delve into the Gospel of John. This is the only gym in town where we guarantee you'll gain weight -- in this case, spiritual gravitas.

The Women's Study Group

The Women's Study Group has chosen to continue its walk through the Old Testament with its new project, 1 & 2 Chronicles. In these books, written after the Persian conquest of Babylon, when many Jews were allowed to return to Jerusalem from exile, we read the account of a hopeful people, looking to the future, rather than lamenting the losses of the past. The material is similar to what we read in Samuel-Kings, but now the perspective and theology have changed and we are able to observe a people experiencing new insights appropriate to their new circumstances. It was written in an era of peace and stability in Judea and Jerusalem, when there was time to reflect on what it means to be the people of God. How can these stories be applied to our lives, and what lessons can we learn from them?

Come and explore these wonderful Old Testament books with a group of women who are both welcoming and committed to learning more about the Bible and our Christian roots. We meet on **Thursdays from 10-11:15 am in the parlor, starting September 22**. Study Guides will be available for \$10 on Homecoming Sunday at the Adult Ed Table. Contact Diana Mrotek (dianamrotek@gail.com, 203-226-9034) with questions.

GFC SENIORS — 2011 EVENT SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 7 – 2PM MATINEE AT WESTPORT PLAYHOUSE – In celebration of Tennessee Williams’ 100th birthday the Playhouse is presenting one of his classic dramatic plays - SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER. Group tickets costing \$20 per person for tier two orchestra seats can be reserved by contacting Dell Horsfall at 203 255-0806. We expect some last minute seats at this group rate will still be available until Monday September 5.

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 28 – BOAT CRUISE AROUND SCENIC THIMBLE ISLANDS. Join Captain Mike and the crew of the Sea Mist as you tour the famous Thimble Islands off the coast of Branford, CT. We plan to meet at GFC at 10:30 AM to car pool for the 40 minute drive to the dock in Branford CT. After a 45 minute narrated cruise with stories about both celebrities and pirates who resided there, we plan to go to lunch at a nearby restaurant. With a group of about 20 the cost of the GFC chartered boat will be about \$12 per person payable on board. To reserve a seat please contact the Event Organizer - Bruce Blomfield at 203 227-4674. Our boat holds up to 45, so all GFC members and friends are most welcome.



WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 26 – 2PM MATINEE AT PLAYHOUSE – TWELFTH NIGHT - A comic masterpiece written by Shakespeare.

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 30 – CHRISTMAS SHOW AT RADIO CITY – Last spring we purchased tickets for 30 people. Our chartered bus seats 47, so in October we plan to reopen our reservation list.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 15 – ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AT GFC

July Event — Boat Cruise on CT River in Greater Hartford Area



Chowing down at the Chowder Pot



Cruising down the river on a summer afternoon



NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

Summer has flown by, and we are so excited to welcome everyone back to school in September! GFNS Classrooms are buzzing with activity as our dedicated teachers carefully prepare their classrooms for the exciting school year ahead! We are thrilled to welcome our new Music & Movement teacher, Colleen Oppenheimer, who will treat the students to song and dance once a week this year! This month, we will celebrate our new GFNS family with two School Spirit Days on September 22nd and 23rd. Select spots are still available for 2011-2012 at all age levels, but going fast! Please contact Christina, director@gfns.org, or Laura, mrsr@gfns.org, in the front office (or call 203-227-9363) to arrange a tour today!



JOYS & BLESSINGS

Baptized this summer were Harper Althea Hawley, daughter of Donielle and Stuart Hawley and Elisa Antonia DiMiceli, daughter of Emily and Joe DiMiceli.



We celebrate the June 6th birth of Alexcia Patterson Schroll's daughter, Truly.

PRAYERS & CONCERNS

We mourn the loss of Steve Parrish's mother, Hazel Parrish; Bruce & Marge Allen's daughter, Susan Allen; Ed Barlow's sister, Marion Knox; Roxie Hennemuth's father, Captain Edward Potter; Elizabeth Rubidge's mother, Tilly Kmec; Jeff Blauvelt's mother, Claire Blauvelt; Jennifer O'Brien's father, Marshall Arnold, Jr; Mark Pflug's mother, Andrea Pflug; friend of GFC, Eleanor Groschel; and long time members Lois Lenfest and Janet van Laer. Janet's memorial service will be held at GFC on Friday, September 23 at 10 a.m.



We pray for healing and support for our brothers and sisters in faith: Marge Allen, September Bigelow, Betsy Blomfield, Norman Blomfield, Carol Brown, Gail Calandra, Henry Chilton, Francisco Estevez, Ethel Ferenc, Tony Fiore, Margot Hayward, Emma Kriewald, George Lenfest, Jonathan Miller, Brad Myers, Annette Nielsen, Lori Redmer, Charlie Raymond, Don Rider, Walt Schlenker, Ford Slater, George Taylor, Charlie Watson, and David Hanson Wright.

On this 10th anniversary of 9/11, we keep in our thoughts and prayers all those who lost their lives on this tragic day in our nation's history and ask for God's continued healing for their families and for our nation.

SEPTEMBER 11





**Did we miss your birthday?
Let us know— 227-2728**

Sep 1 Jason Cook
Emily Duranko
Alison Lindsey-Noble
Brad Menchaca
Steven Orban
Sep 2 Abigail Nevin
Kim Penwell
Sep 3 Cecily Doonan
Danielle Kosinski
Melanie Minella
Alex Suppan
Sep 4 Ted Buckenmaier
Grace Chiang
Kaye May
Julia Paschal
Cal Rider
Sep 5 Craig Barney
Eileen Hunt
Sep 6 Bob Custer
Tom Kottler
Sep 8 Chloe Emilio
Julie Hlawitschka
Mary Plato
Sep 9 David Hoyt
Jacob Lee
Sep 11 Andrew Moy
Luke Paschal
Sep 12 Scott Porter
Sep 13 Beatrice Hobbs
Jacob Miller
Fred Williamson
Sep 14 Harry Birch
David Pryde
Sep 15 Kathi Arciola
Ellie Hoyt
Dick Montague

Sep 16 Annabel Peterson
Sep 17 Jared Edwards
Sep 18 Fred Klein
Donna Reisner
Sep 19 Genevieve Domenico
James Horton
Sep 20 John Fisher
Robert MacColl
Sep 21 Cole Kinyon
Alexander Laudico
Allie Parkhurst
Larry Price
Emily Siegel
Sep 22 Katharine Booth
Valerie Smith-Malin
Charlie Overton
Sep 23 Michaela MacColl
Sep 25 Ann Avery
Lucy Barney
Cheryl Stoebe
Sep 26 John Booth
Holly Kear
Anna Kercher
Stephan Taranko
Sep 27 Vince D'Agostino
Lorraine Feliciano
Adam Rackliffe
Sep 28 Bobbi Hennelly
Grace Horton
David Kercher
Jennifer Mastrianni
Sep 29 Cindi Hamm
Walker Mason
Tony Menchaca
Ryan Phelps
Sep 30 Stacey Berman
Ben Gerig



THE STEEPLE CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 11:30 AM Prayer Circle 7:30 PM Church Council	2	3
Labor Day Weekend 4 8:30 AM Compo Beach 10:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Child Care 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Summer Social Hr	5 Office Closed 	6	7 2:00 PM GFC Seniors 5:00 PM Gillespie Center 7:30 PM Trustees	8	9	10 11:30 AM Prayer Circle
Homecoming Sunday 11 9:00 AM Choir 10:00 AM Child Care 10:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Youth Bible Study 11:00 AM Barbeque/Games	12	13	14	15 8:30 AM Church & Ministry 11:30 AM Prayer Circle 7:45 PM Choir	16 5:00 PM Gillespie Center	17
18 9:00 AM Choir 10:00 AM Child Care 10:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Youth Bible Study 11:00 AM Social Hour	19	20	21 Steeple Deadline 10:30 AM Membership	22 8:30 AM Prayer Circle 10:00 AM Women's Study Group 7:00 PM Icthus @ GFC 7:45 PM Choir	23 10:00 AM Janet van Laer Memorial Service	24
25 9:00 AM Choir 9:00 AM Study of John 9:00 AM Child Care 10:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Youth Bible Study 11:00 AM Social Hour	26	27 7:00 PM GFNS Parents Night 7:30 PM Sophia's Circle 7:30 PM Church Council	28 10:30AM GFC Seniors	29 10:00 AM Women's Study Group 7:00 PM Icthus @GFC 7:45 PM Choir	30 	

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

September 4 Labor Day Weekend

8:30 a.m. Final Compo Beach Service
10:00 a.m. Rev. Daniel England preaching

September 11 Homecoming Sunday

10:00 a.m. Rev. Jeffrey P. Rider preaching

September 18

10:00 a.m. Rev. Jeffrey P. Rider preaching

September 25

10:00 a.m. Rev. Jeffrey Rider preaching

Donations for weekly altar flowers & steeple lighting:

Contact the church office at 203-227-2728

Steeple Deadline for the October edition is

Wednesday, September 21: Email articles to
jlabella@greensfarmschurch.org

GREEN'S FARMS CHURCH
71 Hillandale Road
Westport, CT 06880

Return Service Requested

HOME COMING SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 11
10:00 AM

hot dogs, fun & games,
immediately following worship



OUR CHURCH WELCOMES YOU!

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
Paid
Westport, CT
Permit 226