

**COURIER**

**EASTER/SPRING 2010**

# PASTOR'S MESSAGE

At our Annual Meeting, many of you had questions about our financial obligations to the wider church and an excellent discussion ensued. Last week we received the following letter (slightly excerpted) from our Conference Minister, the Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree. It was so apropos to our discussion that I wanted to share it with you. It gives you an overview of where we are in Connecticut and how we are trying to develop a vision to carry our vitality into the future and develop strategies and approaches to help us do so.

Mary Lou Howson

**From: Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree, Conference Minister**

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ who both frees and unites us!

Thank you! First, a huge thank you for the way in which our churches came through with giving to Our Church's Wider Mission and Per Capita Fellowship Dues despite the difficult economy. With your gifts and those of individuals through Friends of the Conference, combined with major cuts in our budget and spending, we came out favorably at the end of the year. Much work remains to be done to quantify that, but we believe we can move into 2010 with relative stability. That's good for our churches and good for our national and global concerns.

No one knows better than I that our decision last spring to have two of our Regional Ministers serving half time has been difficult, especially for the Eastern and Fairfield County Regions. We eagerly look forward to the time when those positions can be restored to full time, or to a time when a new design for our life becomes clear. We have heard feedback from some churches and clergy that they feel less cared for, and the truth is that all our churches are receiving less attention as a result of the financial stringencies. As we analyze the results of 2009 giving and receive your pledges for 2010, we are praying for ways to increase our capacity to guide our churches in this difficult era. Some of our churches with greater capacity do not need as much guidance, but the great majority of our churches need our united efforts now more than ever.

And Another Thank You! Yesterday I returned to my desk late afternoon from a series of appointments and meetings and found a file folder on my chair. It was thick with letters for me to sign to thank those who have given so far for Haiti. We have had an outpouring of generosity, both through offerings in our churches and through gifts online at [www.ctucc.org](http://www.ctucc.org) <<http://www.ctucc.org/>>. As of today, gifts from individuals range from \$10 to \$2,000, and gifts from churches range up to over \$18,000! To date, we have received and put to work \$122,868.

It is in moments like this that we are indeed freed by Christ from holding on to resources that are needed by others and united in our determination to transform life for those in need. Thankfully, because of your ongoing gifts through Our Church's Wider Mission, the structures and relationships are already in place so that 100% of your gifts go straight to work for those in desperate need of our presence and our caring. The combination of regular giving through OCWM and giving through special offerings means that as the United Church of Christ we are both effective and faithful in our witness in a time like this. We minister there through partners like CONASPEH, the Protestant ecumenical council of Haiti, and Church World Service and ACT.

## **Standing at the Future's Threshold**

For the past two years, your Conference staff has been engaged in a process of discerning strategic priorities for our ministries. We began this work before the economic downturn of the fall of 2008, and have found it even more imperative since then.

For several years it has been clear to us that we cannot continue to carry out Conference ministry the way we always have. It is not simply a question of available resources, but a matter of strategic investment of the energy of Christ's body, the Church. . . .

So the outcome of our deliberation together is an experiment, a pilot project. We have concluded that we need to invest more time in churches that show signs of vitality. We will not abandon any church in the process, but revise our approach so that we can invest ourselves more in those that can step over the threshold to new and stronger vitality in the years to come. It is our belief, after much dialogue and analysis, that by investing in those who are most ready, through their growth and development, neighboring churches will also be helped on their road to vitality.

Consequently, this winter we are in conversation with seven churches of varying sizes and settings about their participation in the Threshold Initiative. We had a large number of potential candidates for this pilot project, and these seven just happened to be chosen because of our desire that this first round be diverse in particular ways so we can learn the most together. It is our intention that if the pilot works well, we will have a more open invitation process for next year's churches.

The fundamental idea is that our staff will invest ourselves and our skills in each of these churches over the course of approximately a year. If they discern a need for growth in an area where we cannot offer the best resource, we will find staff from the national UCC, our UCC seminaries, other Conferences and other congregations who can address the need. We will have an explicit covenant with each church, and both the congregation and our staff will have specified understandings of what each will agree to provide.

The churches that become Threshold churches will later become resources to the wider Conference, joining those we will call on in other ways along the way. We anticipate their continuing the learning cycle by becoming teaching churches. . . .

We will "go public" with the names of the Threshold churches as soon as they have each completed their decision-making process. Until then, we'd like them to be out of the limelight and able to deliberate well.

In order to ensure that we are able to invest ourselves in this work, we began almost two years ago talking about what we would no longer do. That is perhaps the hardest decision of all because we are committed to this ministry and its importance in building strong churches and strong covenants among us. Our conclusion so far is that we will need to amend our approach rather than eliminate portions of our ministry. Through a combination of incremental changes, we will carve out the time that is essential so that all of us will learn together what it takes to be a vital church in this decade.

The Special Commission on Conference Sustainability (voted by the Fall Meeting) has had its first meeting and has several more scheduled. They will present a preliminary report on May 8th. They are off to a great start and are digging into important issues related to the life, work and viability of our Conference. A story about them will appear soon on our website.

United in Prayer:

Weekly our staff prepares an electronic Spirit Calendar offering you spiritual reflection and a list of prayer concerns. If you are not receiving it already, you can sign up by going to [www.ctucc.org/FIDO](http://www.ctucc.org/FIDO) <<http://www.ctucc.org/FIDO>> In the past I included prayer concerns in my pastoral letters, but have shifted that over to Spirit Calendar so it will be more up to date. There are many across our Conference and around the world in need of your prayers and I invite you to join us in this way.

David and I wish to thank you for your steadfast prayers for us over these eighteen months of our bouts with cancer, and for our daughter, Elizabeth, who is still recovering from a massive stroke suffered in December. Prayer is powerful, and we are grateful.

May Christ accompany you in your daily life and work, in the decisions you make and the gifts you share. May the Holy Spirit inspire you to ever deeper dedication to the Biblical vision of shalom/salaam for the world, the church and every person. And may God grant you peace and hope!

## LENT AND EASTER MESSAGE

In line with the Deacons' goals of opening ourselves to the baby steps and big steps we can take in faith, we are planning some special worship services during Lent and Easter.

On Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17, we will all be able to come to the foot of the cross (Dave Cote has made us a large one.) to offer our confessions and resolutions. It is an opportunity not only for prayer but also for personal reflection and action.

The Confirmands are working on projects that they would like to turn into a sermon. We are trying to schedule that for March 14. If that is not possible, their presentations will be after Easter.

Confirmation Sunday is March 21 – a time for joy and celebration as we welcome six extraordinary young people into full membership in Christ's church.

Palm Sunday is March 28. We will include an opportunity for people to enter the events of Holy Week through scripture and art. This portion of worship will occur at the end of worship so that those who do not wish to participate may leave without missing worship.

Maundy Thursday is April 1. Worship will follow the normal pattern with communion but include a more dramatic reading of scripture.

The Good Friday evening vigil will once again open with reflective worship intended to settle our restless spirits and open us to the Spirit of God. Meditation materials and quiet music will be available for all who come to spend some quiet time.

On Easter, the joyful celebration of Christ's resurrection, will occur at outside at 7:30 am (weather permitting) and inside at 10:00 am. Once again we will rejoice and praise God.

We wish for you and Lenten season of preparation, reflection, and practice that truly opens your hearts and lives to the amazing power of resurrection and new life.

# DEACONS CORNER

Hello Everybody,

What an interesting dark winter this has been with lots of cold, lots of snow and lots of reported but unmaterialized snow. In the midst of all this the Deacons have created the new Deacon Team. We have added Holly Karuzie and Ben Errera to our returning team of Deacons which include Glenn Dulko, Barbara Welker, Eileen Ede, Bob Guynn, Dee Dee Dear, and Sarah Bachenheimer.

The Deacons have decided it is time to go “BIG” to really shine our light and more fully show the glory of God, through ourselves and through our church. More participation, more inspiration, more connection, more joy and light are all in the picture. We are not sure what this all means yet and the Deacons are having a Vision Retreat in March to create a BIG Vision of what our church could really be. Please feel free to corner Glenn Dulko or any of the Deacons at any time to share your ideas, wants and wishes for our church, our church service and our church family...to really, joyfully share the love of God----BIG.

The Visiting Ministries committee with Barbara Welker and Eileen Ede is coordinating visits with our home bound members and are able to offer communion for those who wish. Please share your heart with them as they spread our love with those unable to join us in person but who are right beside us in Spirit.

Hey it's the 21st Century...We have a webpage: <http://www.bethanyfirstchurch.org/> and we are on FaceBook: [FirstChurch Congregational Bethany](#). These are two more great places to get and share information on “what's shakin” at our church. Next time you are surfing the World Wide Web... stop by, take a peek, find out what is new and share your ideas too.

In making a joyful noise to the Lord we are inviting all members of the community to join our choir. Do you have a friend, relative, or neighbor who wants to sing and have more fun in their lives? Invite them to sing and laugh with our choir as we come together as one voice, one heart on Sunday mornings. We welcome all levels of singers and all spiritual backgrounds.

In forming the going “BIG” theme for our lives and our church and trying to define what “BIG” means, the following messages dropped into our laps....

- “I understand that you must wonder, sometimes to the point of bewilderment, at what you're truly capable of doing. Yet, therein lies the "problem," because living the life of your dreams is far more about what I'm capable of doing.”

God

- “All I need from you is a vision, followed by an unending march of little, tiny baby steps in its direction.”  
God
- “BIG” is an acronym for Belief In God.

With these sign posts we know we are on the right track. It is time for us to go “BIG”. To more fully show and shine our “Belief In God” in our community, in our church and in our hearts.

As we leave the darkness of winter behind for the warmth and light of spring let us grow, blossom and bloom into a “BIG” beautiful garden for all...

### **We need Ushers, Greeters and Coffee Hour Signups! !**

Please remember to sign up on the usher and greeter volunteer lists now located in the Church Hall. There are several slots remaining open for the year. It is an easy and fun job to do. Also don't forget to signup for coffee hour. Don't be afraid to ask questions of any of the Deacons!

## **PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

The charge of this committee is to support the relationship between the pastor and members of the congregation by serving as a liaison between the pastor and congregants, offering support to the pastor, and to provide a framework to deal with conflict. Pastoral Relations Committee members are also available to meet with church members and the pastor to discuss concerns upon request (and confidentially as needed).

The following members of the committee are available to church members should any concerns arise regarding the relationship between the pastor and the congregation: Doreen Fox – 393-1561, Beth Reilly-Roman – 393-2752, David Calhoun -393-3215.

The Pastoral Relations Committee meets on a quarterly basis.

Anyone that has anything to be discussed please call on the committee.

# MISSION AND STEWARDSHIP

Title: Attention All Men age 13-19, 20-29, 30-55, 55+

"Iron Sharpens Iron" is coming to Connecticut, Saturday, March 27th !!! This will be a powerful day that you will not forget !

Do you have one area in your life that needs to be sharpened? Is there an area in your life that a unique resource like a men's conference will give you the encouragement and tools you need to press forward? Then an Iron Sharpens Iron conference is for you - so that you can take on areas on "Saturday" that are not covered the same way on "Sunday".

The conference on Sat March 27th from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM at The First Cathedral in Bloomfield, CT (Hartford) is designed for 4 age groups.

- **Emerging Men** age 13-19: men who are aggressively moving from living as a boy to living as a man. Give them the room to grow.
- **Pioneering Men** age 20-29: men who are carving out their place in life. What to do? Where to do it? Who to do it with?
- **Full Throttle Men** age 30-55: men who are the producers and the providers. They are warriors and are fully engaged in everything they do.
- **Seasoned Men** age 55+: men who have "been there" and "done that" - and have lived to tell about it. They are a living legacy.

Keynote speakers are Kenny Luck and Barry Black. Kenny Luck is the Men's Pastor at Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, CA. He is also the Founder and President of *Every Man Ministries* which helps churches worldwide develop and grow healthy men's communities. Barry Black is the 62nd Chaplain of the United States Senate. He is a retired Rear Admiral in the U.S. Navy. Barry ended his distinguished 27 year career as the Chief of Navy Chaplains.

This conference will feature sixteen different equipping seminars presented by 8 powerful speakers. Some of these seminars include:

- The Billboards of a Dad's Life
- Apologetics for Every Man
- Fight the Good Fight: Sexual Integrity in 2010
- For Pastor's Only: Secrets to Reaching Men
- Lessons from San Quentin

Signup sheet will be in the office area starting Feb 21st. Early registration of 10 men is \$39 per man. Student Registration (age 13-22 and full time student) is \$29 per man. Standard registration is \$55 per man. Last year, all tickets were sold-out approx 2 weeks before the event. Visit <http://www.ironsharpensiron.net/conference-details.php?conference=143> for more info.

You can contact Kerry Meier, 723.5336, for more info or to sign up.

# MISSION AND STEWARDSHIP

The Board of Mission and Stewardship for 2010 consists of 7 members: Shari Austin, David Cote, Emily Guynn, Kerry Meier, Judy Monarca, Jim Roman, and Donna Zielinski. We will meet the last Wednesday of each month.

Thanks to all members who pledged for 2010. Pledges are still coming in.

Faith Deposits will be available in the parlor. By filling out these cards, members have an opportunity to make a commitment to tithe 10% of their Federal and State Income Tax return. Please put in the collection plate any Sunday.

Below is our Missions Giving Calendar for the year. Spring highlights include the 30 Hour Famine for World Vision, One Great Hour of Sharing for OCWM, the Youth Group Coffee House and Talent Night, Easter donations for St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank in Derby, and the Connecticut Food Bank Walk Against Hunger.

## 2010 First Church of Christ, Bethany Giving Calendar

Activity	Date	Purpose/Recipient
30-hour Famine	February 12	World Vision
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering	March 14	OCWM
Youth Group Coffee House	March 13	First Church of Christ Congregational
Easter donations	March/April	St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank, Derby
Walk Against Hunger	May 4	Connecticut Food Bank
Pentecost offering	May 23	Mission recipient determined by Mission & Stewardship
Strawberry Supper	June	10% to mission; balance divided between Men's Club and Women's Club: typically pledged to church
Neighbors in Need offering	October	OCWM
Thanksgiving baskets	November	Local need-Bethany Town Hall
Christmas Bazaar/Roast Beef Supper	December	10% to mission; balance directed per congregation vote at annual meeting
Angel Tree	December	CCA
Christmas Fund offering	December	OCWM

If you have any questions, feel free to contact anyone on M and S. God Bless.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shari, David, Emily, Kerry, Judy, Jim, and Donna

# SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Search Committee continues to meet every Sunday and as needed on Thursday nights.

We have received many profiles and are considering every one of them closely. We have conducted first interviews with four of the candidates with more in the pipeline.

Please feel free to contact any member of the Search Committee with your questions. We ask for your prayers and patience as we continue to search for a new pastor.

Search Committee:

Sarah Briggs, Chairperson

Buff Bachenheimer

Colby Plaskowitz

Beth Reilly-Roman

Eileen Ede

Bob Guynn

Steve Primus

David Cote

# CHILDREN'S PAGE

February 2010

## \*A JAR OF\* Love and Appreciation



Sometimes we forget to show love and appreciation to people who are closest to us. Use this fun craft to let everyone in your family know how much you care.

### What you need:

- Plastic jar with lid
- Heart-shaped foam pieces
- Heart-shaped stickers
- Glue
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Pencil or crayons

### What you do:

1. Decorate the jar and lid with heart-shaped foam pieces and stickers.
2. Cut out 2" or 3" heart shapes from the construction paper.
3. On each paper heart, write what you appreciate and love about your family and each member. Have all family members do this, too.
4. Place the heart messages inside the jar. Fold them in half, if necessary.
5. On each day in February, pull out one heart and read the message aloud to the family.
6. Notice the changes in your family when everyone feels loved and appreciated!

**Just for KIDS**

## Our first love

In Deuteronomy 10:12 (NIV), Israel is asked a question that's also for us to answer: "What does the LORD your God ask of you?"

To find the answer, write the words from the puzzle pieces on the matching shapes in the completed heart.

... your heart and with all your soul ...

Answer:  
" ... fear the LORD ... to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all ..."

## An everyday God

A missionary was telling a Native American about Christ, the Son of God, and how we gather every Sunday to worship our Creator. The man was curious why Christians worship together each week. "Does this God come only on Sundays?" he asked.

**How would you have answered?**

# CHILDREN'S PAGE

March 2010

## DIRT CUPS


Make this easy snack for your family or your friends at Sunday school. As you eat it, celebrate the miracles God brings in the spring.

### What you need:

- 2 cups milk
- 1 (4-serving size) box of chocolate instant pudding
- 1 (8 oz.) tub of frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (16 oz.) package Oreo cookies, crushed
- 8 (9 oz.) plastic cups
- gummy worms and frogs
- plastic flowers (optional)

### What you do:

1. Mix milk and pudding in a large bowl. Beat with a whisk until well blended. Let stand 5 minutes.
2. Add whipped topping and half of the crushed Oreos.
3. Place 1 tablespoon crushed Oreos in each cup. Fill cups  $\frac{3}{4}$  full with pudding.
4. Top with remaining crushed Oreos.
5. Chill at least 1 hour or until ready to serve.
6. Decorate with gummy worms and/or frogs.
7. Place the stem end of the plastic flower into the center of the pudding dessert.








*God's teaching is like....*




In Deuteronomy, Moses' words to the children of Israel remind us of spring, which brings growth and new life.











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









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




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







“Let my teaching fall like    









and my words descend like    ,

like          

          ,

like abundant      

Answers: rain, dew, showers on new grass, rain on tender plants

## What is faith?

“Sight is not faith, and hearing is not faith, neither is feeling faith; but believing when we neither see, hear nor feel is faith; and everywhere the Bible tells us our salvation is to be by faith. Therefore we must believe before we feel, and often against our feelings, if we would honor God by our faith.” —Hannah Whitall Smith

# JUNIOR YOUTH SCHEDULE

Friday, February 12-Saturday, February 13 30-Hour Famine

**(Need parent volunteers!)**

Sunday, February 14	no meeting	
Sunday, February 21	meeting	Austin
Sunday, February 28	meeting	Plaskowitz
Sunday, March 7	meeting	Swain
Saturday, March 13	Coffee House	Tajmajer
Sunday, March 21	Confirmation-no youth group	
Sunday, March 28	meeting	Austin
Sunday, April 4	Easter-no youth group	
Sunday, April 11	Church Spring Cleanup	Dulko
Sunday, April 18	meeting	Fritz
Sunday, April 25	Spring yard work for congregation's needy/elderly	Plaskowitz
Sunday, May 2	Walk Against Hunger	Swain

# SENIOR YOUTH

Hi everyone!

I hope this article finds you all well. The Senior Youth Group has had an amazing 5 months. We've been involved with the Fall Clean Up, the Christmas Bazaar, Living Nativity and most recently, the kids from both youth groups participated in the 30 hour famine raising over \$800 for World Vision. By the time you all read this, we will also have helped out with the Shrove Tuesday Celebration.

The upcoming events that we will be engaging in are the Coffee House/Talent Night Fundraiser on March 13<sup>th</sup>, we will be sponsoring coffee hour in honor of the confirmands on Confirmation Sunday March 21<sup>st</sup>, and both youth groups will partake in the Spring Clean up on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

I'd like to take this opportunity to personally thank all the people that have supported me in my first year as Senior Youth Group Coordinator. I came into this position unsure of my abilities and quite frankly a little intimidated by the role. As the weeks pushed on and the encouraging words and compliments poured in, I find my insecurities fading. I have been blessed with an amazing group of kids that keep me looking forward to each and every event; we never have a dull moment. I hope that I have been able to make as much of an impact on them as they have made on me. I'm constantly learning new things from them. I thank you all again for your continued support and encouragement.

With that all said, I, very enthusiastically, encourage everyone to join in the fun and talent that is being planned for the annual Coffee House/Talent Night Fundraiser. It's being held on Saturday March 13<sup>th</sup>, Joe Masulli has been gracious enough to MC the evening and we already have a wonderful assortment of talents on the schedule. We hope you will make it out to join in the fun with us!

Until next time, take care and peace be with you all.

-Taryn Finley

# HISTORIAN CORNER

Dot Love, Historian

## **BIRTHDAYS**

### **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Trevor Etkin	2/01
Jacqueline Tamm	2/05
Anne Czepiga	2/06
Doreen Johnstone	2/06
Charlie Deer	2/07
Bob Guynn	2/09
George Welker	2/13
Lois Steigert	2/16
Rachel Fox	2/16
John Hryb	2/19
Sherman Woodward	2/19
Grant Johnson	2/19
Becky Errera	2/24
Lauren Fox	2/24
Tory Adamczyk	2/26
Daniel Cote	2/28
Brenton Roman	2/28
Kathleen Tajmajer	2/28
Ann Cote	2/29

## **WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

Don & Geri Finley – 2-7  
Joe & Judy Monarca - 2-8  
Charlie & Dee Dee Deer – 2-12

## **BIRTHDAYS**

### **MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

Judith Monarca	3/02
Lee Keck	3/03
Geri Finley	3/03
Janice Longe	3/07
Barbara Welker	3/08
Linda Francois	3/08
David Cote	3/09
Timothy Errera	3/10
Grace Swain	3/12
Jeanne Hein	3/17
Christopher François	3/19
Edyth Carrington	3/31
Kay Downs	3/31
Claire Jennings	3/31

# **BIRTHDAYS**

## **APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

Maggie Monthei	4/01
Nancy Jo Poland	4/02
Sarah Bachenheimer	4/03
Frank Mozealous	4/03
Robert Love	4/05
Jacob Primus	4/07
Eileen Ede	4/08
Kerry Meier	4/10
Ashley Snyder	4/11
Andy Zielinski	4/11
Jerry Cafasso	4/17
Steve Primus	4/18
Ben Errera	4/28

## **WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

Les & Jean Rushworth – 4-9  
Richard & Donna Ives – 4-10  
Jerry & Martha Downs – 4-3

## Meeting Dates

Christian Education	Feb.4 & 23, March 30, April 27 @ 7:00 pm
Pastoral Relations	@ 11:30 am
Mission & Stewardship	Feb. 24, March 31, April 28 @ 7:00 pm
Church Committee	Feb. 8, March 1, April 5 @ 7:30 pm
Trustees	Feb. 18, March 18, April 15 @ 7:30 pm
Deacons	March 29, April 26 @ 7:30 pm

Sanctuary Choir-Every Wednesday @ 7:30 pm.

Cross Town Players Sunday mornings @ 11: 30 am

### Men's Club

The Men's Club meets the first Monday of every Month. The next meeting will be Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:45 pm. All men of the church are welcome. Join us on the second Sunday of every month for our awesome pancake breakfast from 8:30 – 9:30 am.

### Women's Club

The Women's Club meets on the fourth Thursday of every month.

The next meeting dates are March 25<sup>th</sup> and April 22<sup>nd</sup>

**FIRST CHURCH  
EVENTS & FELLOWSHIP**

*First Church of Christ*  
*Coffee House!*  
*Talent Night!*

*Please come to The First Church of Christ Coffee House!  
Enjoy a night of entertainment, laughter, and food!*



*When: March 13*

*7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.*

*Where: First Church of Christ Congregational*

*511 Amity Rd. Bethany.*

*Cost: \$5 for admission plus 1 dessert;*

*\$3 each extra dessert*

*We, the junior and senior youth group of First Church of Christ,  
hope you have a great time and enjoy the food and desserts! See  
you there!*

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Keeping the Census dates on your mind**

- February 2010 to April 2010 questionnaire Assistance Centers and Be Counted sites open to answer questions.
- March 2010 United States Postal Service delivers census questionnaires.
- April 1, 2010 Census Day-Send your questionnaire back!
- May 2010 to July 2010-Census takers follow up with households that did not return questionnaires.
- December 2010-U.S. Census Bureau delivers apportionment counts to the President of the United States.

### **Need Free Help with Your Taxes**

Free income tax assistance is provided at the Janice von Beren Senior Center by the AARP Tax-Aide program for low to moderate income taxpayers of all ages, with special attention to those 60 and older. Call 203-393-2100 ext. 351 a certified Tax-Aide counselor will call you back so you can obtain additional information or schedule an appointment with them. Dates are every Wed., Feb. 3 – April 14, 9:00 am – 1:00 PM. Last appointment is 12:00 pm.