



The Cornerstone

First Church is an Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

SEPTEMBER 2014 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Join Us!

Worship Service: 8:30 am in the Chapel, 10 am in the Sanctuary

September 7

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Rally Day

10 am Worship Service only

including Holy Communion

Romans 13:8-14

Grow Your Heart

Rev. Dianne Arakawa preaching

Followed by Rally Day Picnic for All

September 14

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 18:21-35

Jesus Math

Rev. Kevin Weikel preaching both services

Including Baptisms of

Benjamin Smith

son of Phillip & Rebecca Smith

and Asher Weikel

son of Kevin & Kelley Weikel

September 21

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 20:1-16

Grace at Work

Rev. Dianne Arakawa preaching both services

September 28

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am Service

Luke 10:25-37

Who is My Neighbor

Rev. Kevin Weikel & PF Youth Group

leading worship



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A Message from Rev. Dianne Arakawa, Transitional Senior Minister

*And on the seventh day God ended God's work, which God had done,
and God rested on the seventh day from all [that] work...
Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it....(Genesis 2:1-3a)*

**Rev. Dianne Arakawa
Transitional Senior
Minister**

860-651-3593 x14
dearakawa@
fccsimsbury.org

Out of Office
Fridays

Dear Friends,

As I sit down to write it is the end of an all too short but satisfyingly productive summer. The weather was near perfect in the Farmington Valley—not too hot or humid, not too cool or wet. The sweet corn, aromatic peaches and plump blueberries were abundant. The super-moon in August was awe-inspiring with a few wispy clouds. And I never spotted a black bear; only the resident woodchuck, which likes to make its rounds from behind 6 West to the Hopmeadow School playground then up the hill to our west entrance.

At the church we offered our 9:30 am services with homegrown music to a congregation that was earnest, appreciative and seemed to take special care of each other. Because of the temperate weather we were able to stay in our sanctuary for the entirety of the season. The adult study program on Sundays at 8:30 am continued unabated with that same curiosity of spirit that our small groups promote so extraordinarily well. We gathered for socials and held a few very important meetings for services and for the Search Team.

Parishioners came and went, mostly to lakes and the seashore. Some unexpectedly entered and returned from hospitals and rehabilitation centers. Some actually took our advice and had their last-minute photos taken for our new directory. With fewer immediate pressures, our office staff was found on numerous occasions to laugh heartily or bring their children with blue lips caused by icy slushes to see their workplaces. One child, a Boy Scout, even helped me sweep the round garden of its fallen dried spring blossoms so that we could sit there.

Mostly, though, with the change of pace and surprising juxtapositions in our lives, we had the time to breathe, breathe deeply, as well as take note of the very real presence of the Holy Spirit. My prayer for this new church year is that we together keep and create the space for this same Spirit in our individual and corporate lives. May we nurture the spirit of “the seventh day” through our devotions and service, and allow it to enrich and sanctify our time together.

See you on Rally Day and Sundays!

Yours in Christ,

Dianne

A Message from Rev. Kevin Weikel, Youth & Young Adult Ministry



**Rev. Kevin Weikel
Associate Minister
for Youth and Young
Adults**

860-651-3593 x16
kweikel@
fccsimsbury.org

Out of Office
Wednesdays

Congregation, we have something big to celebrate! Nathaniel Bailey, son of Todd and Diann Bailey, and one of our own, has been selected as one of five young people to serve as a Global Mission Intern (GMI) this year! On Sunday, August 31, we will hold a special commissioning for Nate at our 9:30am worship service. During the service, we will celebrate Nate's call to this important work, and we will ask God to bless him and all those he encounters along the way.

The Global Mission Intern program is part of Global Ministries, the joint international missions effort between two denominations: the United Church of Christ (UCC) and Disciples of Christ (DoC). The GMI program is designed specifically for young adults who are interested in missionary service and have recently completed college. The program provides opportunities for young adult members of the UCC and DoC to work with partner churches around the world.

Global Ministries is about partnership. Global Ministries does not plant churches overseas; instead, they partner with firmly established churches with similar approaches to mission. Nate will be working with the Orthodox Initiative, a ministry of the Eastern Orthodox Church, assisting Syrian refugees in Amman, Jordan.

As many of you know, Nate grew up at First Church. He attended Sunday school and Junior Fellowship (JF) and was part of the 2006 Confirmation Class. He was an active member of Pilgrim Fellowship Youth Group (PF) and describes PF and attending the UCC National Youth Event as early transformative moments in his faith journey.

In 2010, Nate graduated from Simsbury High School and attended Eastern Mennonite University (EMU). In the fall of 2012, he embarked on a cross-cultural experience with a professor and twenty classmates, exploring Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Turkey, Greece and Italy. This past May, Nate graduated from EMU with a dual degree in Peace Building and Development and Environmental and Social Sustainability.

Nate will spend one to two years in Jordan. Upon his return, he will be required to travel the country, speaking and sharing his experiences at UCC and DoC churches. Afterward, Nate plans to enroll in a graduate program for International Relations.

As scripture tells us, we are all part of the body of Christ. Therefore, Nate embarks on this journey as an extension of each of us, and we will be with him in spirit and prayer. For this reason, Nate will remain on our prayer list the entire time he is in Jordan. Nate will also keep a blog, which will allow us to follow along with him on this journey. We will share with you the link to Nate's blog as soon as it is available.

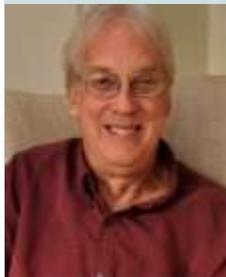
When our young people say, "yes" to their baptisms on Confirmation Sunday, we pray they will hear the call to be God's hands and feet in the world. We also commit, as a congregation, to nurture and support them along the way. Though many in our congregation - young, old and in-between - are answering the call to be servants in this world, we give God thanks and praise for Nate's willingness and courage to answer this extraordinary call to be a Global Mission Intern. We look forward to seeing you on August 31st, as we Commission Nate as he embarks on the next phase of his faith journey.

In Christ,
Kevin



*Nathaniel Bailey
Commissioning
August 31st, 9:30am*

Mark Mercier, Music Ministries



**Mark Mercier,
Director
of Music
Ministries**

860-651-3593 x21
mmercier@
fccsimsbury.org

Out of Office
Tuesdays

A new church year is upon us! Rally Day approacheth, when we can gather together, hopefully renewed after a short but busy summer to talk about what we have done and where we have been - our summer at the lake, or two weeks at the shore, the camping trip, the visit from the grandkids, or, in my case, painting the ole garage. Not quite done, but getting there.

It's also time to take a look at what's coming up here at First. These are exciting times - we are in the process of searching for a new senior minister, and we in the staff who are here have become closer than ever before - we are having fun; creativity and ideas are flowing, and there is a perceptible energy. Our focus is going to be on the possibilities that truly exist here, and the sometimes small steps that we can take to turn them into reality. In the words of Kennedy, we are "looking at what could be, and asking, 'Why not?'"

Musically this is true as well. The tradition of music here, for both worship and community, is a rich one - we have opportunities that are incredible for anyone of any degree of talent or of any age. There are choirs - vocal and instrumental; there are groups that get together to make music in worship, or sometimes just to play or sing together; there is an incredible amount of musically talented people here to play or sing solos. The musical community here is a central part of the life of the church. Besides, we have a lot of fun doing what we do together. Really.

Some exciting changes are here: Junior Choir will now meet on Sunday morning after the 10 AM service - we will have a brief snack and then rehearse. Tammy Warner has done an exemplary job with the kids in the past, and we welcome Lori Lemoine who is joining us as the new Junior Choir director. She has experience with children's choirs and is an elementary school teacher in the Wethersfield school system - I'm sure the kids will have a terrific time and make some great music. We will begin on Sept 14 in the choir room. The cherubs have been directed by the talented Anna Harris, and Suzanne Osborne is climbing on board to work with them as well. They will also meet after church school. (Meanwhile, parents will be relaxing and communing with each other at coffee hour downstairs)

The intrepid Jeannie Boehner has heard the words of W. C. Fields and would rather be in Philadelphia, so the directorship of the Choral Bells is being taken over by yours truly - and I have to say that I'm really really excited about this. Bells are, in present day vernacular - wicked cool. You don't have to sing or be a trained instrumentalist or be of any particular age - and the music you make in community with the rest of the choir is truly amazing, not to mention beautiful. We'll meet at 6 on Thursdays in room 29 (down the hall from the choir room). This is going to be great.

Women's Praise Choir will continue to meet on Wednesdays at 4 in the choir room. This group is a close harmony close-knit group, but new members immediately find themselves warmly welcomed and brought into the fold. It is more than a singing group - it is, in the words of many members, their weekly "therapy", and they wouldn't want to miss singing together for the world.

Same for Chancel Choir - which meets every Thursday in the choir room at 7:30. Here is a group of people that are there because they want to be there - it means that much to them. We sing all kinds and all levels of music, and there is definitely something for everyone. There are people who read music, and some who don't. There are some who sing really well, and some who are pretty good at just holding a tune (don't ask 'em to sing alone - they would rather not). I am constantly amazed at what a great choir this is - being there is energizing and inspiring for everyone in the room. Again - anyone who walks into the room is immediately warmly welcomed to be a part.

We have jazz players. We have folk players, blues players, classical musicians, 5-string banjo bluegrass players, Irish fiddlers, and a saxophone quartet. There is a group that plays rock and jazz music for UnCommon Worship. The 8:30 service has a jazz tradition (we wish the best in the recuperation of our beloved Jim Martocchio) and we will continue have that. We have a Christmas Chancel Orchestra. We have Easter brass. But please, please don't be shy about coming forth and volunteering for something specific that you'd like to do. There's so much happening that if I forget to ask (my apologies) it's not because I don't want you, or love you, or want you to make music here. You will be welcomed with open arms.

We will be meeting about the formation of a Men's Group - a/l/a Women's Praise, and we'd like to look into doing everything from some *Chanticleer* or *Straight, No Chaser*, to barbershop. This will be fun. We will continue to have concerts in our concert series, and will need suggestions and people to help. Have an idea of who you'd like to perform here? Let me know.

Music is a bridge that brings us next to God. We have a tremendous program here, but just think of what we can accomplish if more came and took part in some way. No matter what your mind tells you you can't do or don't have time for, I urge you to simply pick up the phone and call me for a ride or walk to your car on a Wednesday or Thursday or Sunday (or anytime). Come here, and join this community - for a night, a service, a season, a single piece of music, to play, to plan. It's great to be here at First Church, and it will be greater still. Welcome back!

Mark

Cindy Cole, Children's Ministries

Grow Your Heart At First Church This Year



Matt. 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will also be."

This year our church school theme is "Grow a heart for God." Do you have a heart for God? What can you do this year to help your heart grow? How do you spend your free time? What are your talents? What do you treasure? We will be exploring this topic this fall in church school.

The church school has many volunteers with a heart for God and your children. Adult volunteers are critical to the success of our church school program. The church school is a co-operative program where adults in the congregation keep their baptismal promise and work together with children to grow and learn about our faith. This year we will spotlight some of the faithful volunteers who work with the children at the church and learn why they volunteer.

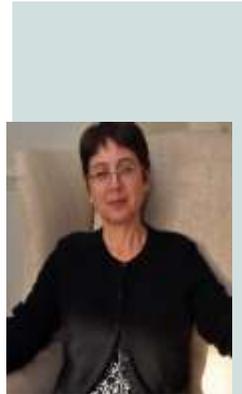
For the Tawney Family, volunteering in the church school is a family affair. The Tawneys joined First Church of Christ approximately fourteen years ago and started volunteering in the church school programs. When asked why they feel it is important to volunteer, Bryan Tawney stated: 1) they feel the need to contribute to the church that provides so much for their kids, 2) volunteering encourages faithful attendance at church (especially if they don't feel like coming a particular day), 3) teaching challenges his faith and makes him think about what he believes and how to articulate it to others, 4) it helps him make mindful decisions in his life. The Tawney family has a long list of volunteer efforts. Below is a brief summary of the many things they have done:

Bryan teaches in various roles in the church school program, has played the male lead in our Church School Christmas pageant (memorizing all those lines!), and assists at special workshop events in Palmer Hall. This year Bryan will be teaching the Pre-confirmation class. We are looking for a co-teacher with Bryan. Are you ready to stretch and grow your heart?

Kim is a long standing member of the Board of Christian Education, teacher and shepherd in the church school program. She organizes the yearly tag sale (which provides funds for church special events and mission projects), organizes young family outings quarterly, and is always ready to lend a helping hand. This fall Kim can be found in the nursery on Sunday mornings.

Two of their older daughters have also been volunteering as teen aids in the church school. Olivia has worked in the church nursery for a couple of years, while Sophia has worked with our preschool students.

Our church school program has been blessed by the participation of the Tawney family, but the Tawneys are just a part of the rich blessing of volunteers we have. Together, volunteers are helping the kids at First Church Grow a heart for God. If you'd like to join in, contact Cindy Cole.



**Cindy Cole,
Director
of Children's
Ministries**

860-651-3593 x17
ccole@
fccsimsbury.org

Out of Office
Thursdays &
Fridays



Kim organizing the tag sale.



Bryan teaching in the game room.



Kim teaching Pre-Confirmation class.



Bryan playing Santa Claus in our Christmas skit.

PRAYER TEAM

Prayer is the soul of a community of faith. We have witnessed, as a Prayer Team, our community of faith expressing a strong spirit of support and love for one another as many have shared their concerns and joys. As Christians, we are called to bear one another's burdens and share in one another's joys. Please continue to ask for prayer by putting your request in one of the Prayer Boxes placed around the Church. These Prayer Requests are all considered confidential by the Prayer Team and are given only to the ministers.



Join Us for the People's Climate March...

Sunday Sept 21st NEW YORK CITY

7:00 am Meet in First Church Parking Lot
10:00 am Arrival and Rally @ Columbus Circle
11:30 am March begins

- leave Columbus Circle and go east on 59th Street
- turn onto 6th Ave. and go south to 42nd Street
- turn right onto 42nd Street and go west to 11th Ave
- turn left on 11th Ave. and go south to 34th Street
- End on 11th Ave. in the streets between 34th Street and 38th Street

*4:00 pm Depart for home
*5:00 pm Stop for dinner and group processing/conversation
*7:00 pm Arrive @ First Church, Simsbury

World leaders are coming to NYC for a UN summit on climate change. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon will be urging governments to support a global agreement to dramatically reduce global warming pollution. As a way to encourage these leaders, several different organizations are coming together to organize the People's Climate March. As world leaders arrive for the summit, and with the whole world watching, thousands of people will descend upon New York to march and demand these leaders to act on climate change legislation. As people of faith, we are called to protect God's Earth and work for the well being of future generations. For this reason, First Church is organizing a group to attend the march.

To sign up contact Eileen Kaczor in the church office @ ekaczor@fccsimsbury.org, 860-651-3593.

For additional information contact Mark Scully @ mwscully29@gmail.com.

Join us as together we march to bend the course of history!
—Mark Scully, Haley Callahan and Rev. Kevin
(First Church and People's Climate Change Planning Team)



We are asking \$10 per person to cover a professional driver, gas and parking.

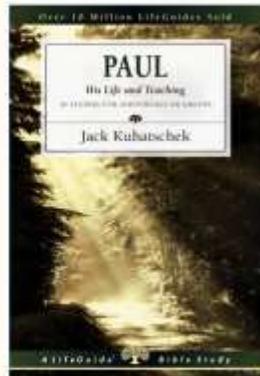


www.peoplesclimatemarch.com

*times are approximate and subject to change

Blinded by the Light: Apostle Paul

Join us for a new adult study group on the apostle Paul. Together, we will explore the highlights of his life as well as the core teachings of his writings.



The apostle Paul led a dramatic and fascinating life from his conversion on the road to Damascus to his imprisonments to his speeches in the public square. His letters shaped the believers in the early church just as they do today. In this study guide by Jack Kuhatschek we will survey both the highlights of his life and the core teachings in his writings.

Sunday mornings, 8:30 to 9:45 am,
Starts September 21st. For more information,
contact Mark Scully (mwscully29@gmail.com)

First Church of Christ
Simsbury, Connecticut



Grow Your Heart @ FIRST

First Church of Christ, UCC, Simsbury, CT

Sunday, September 7
First Church's Annual Rally Day
Come worship with us at 10:00 AM, and then join our celebration to kick off the new church year! Enjoy delicious food, terrific music, and the great community that's here @ First! (rain or shine)

Starting Sept 14 - Sunday Worship Services:

- 8:30 AM early worship with jazz
- 10:00 AM worship with Church School
- Contemporary "Uncommon Worship" on four Sundays throughout the year

Come to First Church for:

- Spirit-filled Sunday worship
- An engaging, imaginative children's Church School
- Informative adult studies that stimulate hearts and minds
- An exciting youth program where kids get together to play, discuss, worship, grow, serve, and love
- Far-reaching and life-changing service and mission opportunities
- An incredible music ministry for all ages
- and especially...
a community of faith that cares about you!

Open and affirming of all God's people

Following Christ ~ Building Community ~ Changing Lives

689 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury • 860-651-3593 • www.fccsimsbury.org



K. I. D. S. @ First

Kids Investigating Divine Stories at First Church

Visit www.firstchurchsimsbury.com to see the church school schedule, videos, and information about what the kids are doing at First Church.



Children's Ministry News

Back Pack Blessing and Mission Project:

During the Service the students and adults had the opportunity to have their back-packs and brief cases blessed for the upcoming year. During the breakfast in Palmer Hall, students had the opportunity to make "Grow Your Heart" buttons for their back-packs and to fill 50 back packs. Covenant to Care will be distributing the backpacks for children in need. For more pictures go to www.firstchurchsimsbury.com.



Upcoming events for your Calendar

- Sept 7:** First Day of Church School, Rally Day Picnic
- Sept 28:** Teacher Breakfast at 9:30 in the Parlor
- October 19:** Bible Sunday
- October 26:** Intergenerational Square Dance hosted by PF

Church School Fall Session 2014

The church school is a co-operative program where adults in the congregation keep their baptismal promise and work together with children to learn about our faith. Please contact ccole@fccsimsbury.org to for additional information or to volunteer.

We currently need the following fall volunteers:

- Art room: teacher needed**
- Pre-Confirmation (grade 6&7): shepherd needed.**

Fall Church School Mission Project Bicycle Ambulance for the Faith Health Care Clinic in Masooli, Uganda



Offerings in September and October, will be sent to the clinic to purchase a bicycle ambulance to support the families who visit the Faith Health Care Clinic in Masooli, Uganda. The ambulance is needed to help the families in Masooli get to and from the health center when they are unable to walk.

Visit www.firstchurchsimsbury.com for additional information.
Each spoke space = \$25 dollars. We are trying to raise \$600 for the bicycle ambulance.
Let's fill the spokes on this bicycle wheel!



Fall Church School Registration:



This year we are re-registering all students in the church school program. Students will not automatically be moved up to the next grade.

Please visit:
www.fccsimsbury.org/childrens-ministrieschurch-school-registration-form/), download the registration form, and sent it to ccole@fccsimsbury.org or drop it off at church to register your child(ren) for the fall session.

Junior Fellowship (JF)

Junior Fellowship (JF for short) is our youth group for 7th and 8th graders. This year, JF will gather once per month from 2:10-4:30 pm during the school year (see the schedule below). At JF, we eat together, play games together, and participate in engaging activities and faith-based discussions together. **Here's how you can join:**

For Henry James students: The church bus will pick you up from school. It's simple, the bus will be parked and waiting for you in the back lot (the bus parking lot). Just walk out the back doors of HJMS, take a right past the gym and tennis courts, look to your left, and you'll see the church bus parked next to the field.

For students who attend schools other than Henry James: You can still join us and please do! Just meet us at the church, even if you will be late. If we happen to be heading somewhere special, we will let you know ahead of time through our email communication. If you would like me to add your email to the list, contact me at kweikel@fccsimsbury.org. We require a Parental Permission and Health Authorization Packet for each participant. Please download the form @ www.fccsimsbury.org/junior-fellowship-grades-7-8, fill it out, and drop it off at the main church office, scan it and email it to cbahrens@fccsimsbury.org, or mail it to 689 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury. Once on file, your form is valid for the school year. JF will meet on:

September 26th October 24th Nov. 21st December 19th
January 23rd February 27th March 20th April 24th June 5th

For more information or to add your email to our communication list, contact Rev. Kevin at kweikel@fccsimsbury.org.

Confirmation Registration is Open!

Is your child in 8th grade?
Or, has your child been active
in PF Youth Group
and not experienced Confirmation?

If so, now is the time to sign him or her up for a concentrated time of exploring what it means to be Christian. We will do this through large and small group gatherings, mission/service work, experiencing and reflecting on worship, going on retreat, and much more. The goal is for our Confirmands to build positive and grace-filled relationships with one another, develop a deeper understanding of God's love for all people, and explore what it means to follow Jesus.

For more information visit
the Confirmation website
www.fccsimsbury.org/youth-and-young-adult/confirmation-8th-grade
and/or contact Rev. Kevin at
kweikel@fccsimsbury.org or 860-651-3593.



In the words of a past Confirmand, "Confirmation was amazing. I didn't want it to end." And from a parent of a past Confirmand, "Having my child go through Confirmation gave me a new understanding of what Church is about and I could not have been filled with more joy than I was on Confirmation Sunday."

Pilgrim Fellowship (PF)



August/September

Sunday, August 31, 9:30am: Former PF'er Nate Bailey has been selected as one of five Global Mission Interns in our denomination. Join us for morning worship as we commission Nate before he departs for Amman, Jordan, to assist Syrian refugees for a year and a half. Check out <http://fccsimsbury.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Article-Nate-Bailey-GMI-Commissioning-August-31-2014.pdf> for more information.

Saturday, September 6, 7am-10am: PF Freshman and New Friends "Kidnapping"

Sunday, September 7, 10am-12noon: Rally Day Worship and Picnic! We will sit together for the 10am worship service and then head outside to lead games and trivia. Oh, and there will be a dunk tank! **Sunday, September 7, 7-9pm:** First Regular Gathering in the Youth Room!

Sunday, September 14, 7-9pm: Regular Gathering in the Youth Room.

Sunday, September 21, 8:45am-8pm: Special Event, "People's Climate March in New York City." Check out <http://fccsimsbury.org/event-items/peoples-climate-march-in-nyc-september-21st/> for more information.

Sunday, September 28, 10am: DC Pilgrimage Sharing Service. **Sunday, September 28, 7-9pm:** Regular Gathering in the Youth Room.

New Women's Small Groups being formed!

Women's Small Groups meet twice a month in people's homes. There are about eight women in a group. This year they are studying the Books of ACTS. This is a wonderful way to deepen relationships with other women and with God. We will be having sign ups for our new groups both day and evening on Sunday, September 14th and 28th following the Church Services. Special groups for Young Moms will also sign up at that time. Call Sara Burrows for info @ 860-408-1459.

A small group for Mothers of young children is being formed. Information will be available at tables set up at the September 7th Rally. If interested, stop by or contact Francesca Caponetti @ 203-470-6858 or fcaponetti@gmail.com.

SUPPER CLUB

Friday, September 19th

Social Time: 6:00-6:30

Catered Dinner: 6:30 PM

Program: 8:00 Jack Edwards of the Boston Bruins



Supper Club invites you to a catered dinner, prepared by our own Suzy Sabia followed by our speaker, Jack Edwards, "Voice of the Boston Bruins" (Hockey Team). At the tail end of a record-setting career as a soccer player, Jack started broadcasting at the student radio station at the University of New Hampshire and at WGIR radio station in Manchester, N.H. From a morning drive news writer & producer to covering some of the biggest events in the sports world with ABC Sports and CBS Sports; to national cable TV with ESPN, Jack has covered as a reporter: Winter & Summer Olympics, Stanley Cup Finals, the World Series, the NBA Finals; the Super Bowl; the U.S. Open Golf Championship; and the America's Cup yacht races. In 2005, Jack became the play-by-play voice of the Boston Bruins on NESN. Jack and his wife Lisa live in Simsbury with their three children Nina, Dagny, & Elijah and dog, Stanley Pup. He is the son of our own, Ruth Edwards. We hope you will join us in Palmer Hall on September 19th. If you are not contacted by the Supper Club Calling Committee, you must make your reservations by calling...

Mim Shepard (658-6386) or Cynthia Yoczik (658-7460) by Sept. 14th.

WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE?

The following three excerpts were all written by former Church Historian Donna Hopkins, extracted directly from the October and November 2010 editions of the Cornerstone...

October 2010

The new exhibit on the 2nd floor in the new display cases asks this question. Our first minister, Dudley Woodbridge, was ordained in November 1697 and began our body of faith's history. He and his wife lived in a tiny town on the edge of the frontier surrounded by forests with wild animals and Indians that was populated by people who had emigrated from southern England. It's hard for us, living in Simsbury in the 21st century, to imagine what life was really like for him and his wife, Dorothy. We have a fair amount of documentation about him and we have the inventory taken after he died in 1710 at the young age of 35. His inventory of his belongings indicates that they were fairly well-off for the time and that among the possessions were spinning equipment and wool and flax that Dorothy would have used. She was a minister's wife and regarded with the respect that her husband commanded owing to his education, but she still had to spin wool and flax and make yarn and thread. Every other wife and daughter had to do these chores for her family so they could have clothing and towels and sheets and blankets and other useful textiles. The wives either wove on a loom of their own at home or had an itinerant weaver make the things they needed out of the yarns and threads that they created. Imagine having to do that today and how different our lives are today.

Stop by and look at the exhibit and take time to read it and look at the illustrations done by Edwin Tunis from his wonderful books on colonial living, frontier living, and colonial craftsmen. Included are some real things that were from the inventory and the textile equipment and fibers that they used.

--313 years after Dudley Woodbridge

November 2010: The Rev. Mr. Timothy Woodbridge

After the untimely death of the Rev. Mr. Dudley Woodbridge in 1710, the committee authorized to find a new pastor recommended his kinsman, the Rev. Mr. Timothy Woodbridge. Timothy had been a minister in Hartford and agreed to come out to Simsbury to preach the gospel. For the first four years of his ministry, beginning in 1710, he was to receive "provision pay" worth 70 pounds and his firewood for a year's salary. After this they would give him 100 pounds in provision pay, but he had to find his own firewood. A year's worth of cordwood, about 40 cords, had gotten too expensive.

Provision pay was pay for service issued once a year AFTER he had served that year, given in certain produce. Provisions at this time, ordered by the General Court of the Colony of Connecticut, were bushels of wheat, Indian corn and/or rye.

In 1716 the Town added pork to the list. The Court annually set a value for each item. The pastor was paid in these items and he could feed his family with them, pay his bills or trade them for other items. There was little real "money" around at this time in either paper or coins so this was the only way to pay people for goods or services.

Timothy wasted no time wooing Dorothy, Dudley's widow. She was owed the back pay that was coming to Dudley for the year he served before he died. Dorothy had a new man and could remain in her home, the parsonage provided to Dudley. They had four sons together and Tim adopted young Dudley, Jr. Timothy went on to serve in Simsbury for 32 years, the second-longest pastorate in our history. He died in 1742.

There is more interesting information and stories about Timothy and his trials during his ministry here in Old Simsbury. You can read more about him and his successors and the rest of the fascinating history of our church in our written history titled: "To Settle Ourselves in Gospel Order..." written by former minister Lyman Potter. He worked on this history for fifteen years after he retired in 1986 and then a committee of volunteers got the book ready to be published, finally, in 2002. You can buy a copy for \$15.00 by stopping by the church office and asking for one.

--268 Years After Timothy Woodbridge

(to be continued next issue)



HISTORICALLY
SPEAKING



Gordon and Nancy Crouch Commit to our Endowment!

Gordon and Nancy have taken an important step by including First Church in their wills. Why did they take this step? "The Church has given purpose to our lives and support to carry out that purpose and we want to give the same opportunity to the next generation" said Nancy. According to Gordon "Giving to the endowment helps to sustain the mission of the Church for which we are called by our Christian faith."

The Crouches are members of the Andrew Robe Society, which exists to recognize members and friends of First Church who have made a commitment to the Endowment of First Church. The Society is named for a member, Andrew Robe, who made the first recorded gift to the Church back in the mid 1700s, a parcel of land now part of our Church setting on Hopmeadow Street.

The Endowment can be considered a financial foundation, allowing us to carry out the mission of the Church and providing stability in times of emergencies or in unusual circumstances. Our current endowment exists because of many contributions by past generations, plus the investment income on these funds.

In the interview with the Crouches there were strong threads of gratitude in their expressions, that the members of First Church have over many years offered amazing support and strength especially in times of difficulty for fellow members and the community-at-large. Thanks to Gordon and Nancy for allowing us to pass their inspiring convictions along to the entire congregation.

If you have not already done so, we hope you will consider making a commitment to our Endowment to help sustain our mission into the future. This can be done in many different ways. If you would like to have more information or want to discuss the various options, please contact a member of the Committee.

Len Clough, Bob Lyle, Ruth Meyer, Bruce Powell



Gifts of Love & Community Farms of Simsbury



These pictures are of a gathering held this past June at Community Farms of Simsbury to celebrate Gifts of Love & Community Farms of Simsbury endeavors - and the addition of a new tractor to the farm's equipment (secured by a grant initiated by Gifts of Love/Community Gardens of Simsbury). Pictured are Doreen Cunningham, Maggie Saska (Farm Manager) & Dave Wadhams (Chair of Board of Mission and Outreach).

First Church of Christ

689 Hopmeadow St
Simsbury CT 06070
860-651-3593
Fax 860-408-9229
Kitchen 860-658-9043

STAFF

Rev. Dianne E. Arakawa
Transitional Senior Minister
dearakawa@fccsimsbury.org

Rev. Kevin Weikel
Associate Minister for
Youth and Young Adults
kweikel@fccsimsbury.org

Mr. Mark Mercier
Director of Music Ministries
mmercier@fccsimsbury.org

Ms. Cindy Cole
Director of Children's Ministries
ccole@fccsimsbury.org

Ms. Kristin Garcia
Church Administrator
kgarcia@fccsimsbury.org

Ms. Eileen Kaczor
Administrative Assistant
ekaczor@fccsimsbury.org

Ms. Catherine Behrens
Membership Coordinator
cbehrens@fccsimsbury.org

Ms. Stacey vonRichthofen
Financial Assistant
svonrichthofen@fccsimsbury.org

Mr. Joe Martinez
Facilities Manager
jmartinez@fccsimsbury.org



FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE

September 2014

9/7
Rally Day—No Coffee Hour
9/14
Families
9/21
Families
9/28
Families



PLANNING MEETING FOR... ADVENT SUPPER, WREATH-MAKING & CHURCH DECORATING

This year we are planning an all-church Advent supper, wreath-making and one-time church decorating event for Sunday, November 23rd from 4-7 pm. At that time individuals and families will have the opportunity to make wreaths for themselves and Simsbury Celebrates!, have a meal together, as well as help decorate the entire church for Advent and Christmas—trees at the Palmer Hall and office entrances and in our sanctuary and parlor as well as wreaths on our church doors and lampposts. If willing to help plan the event, please sign up with:

**Eileen Kaczor in the church office @
ekaczor@fccsimsbury.org**

or contact members of the Welcome Team—Kathy Wildman, Kris Barnett, Penny Roskin, Dane Woodberry—or Suzy Sabia, our representative to Simsbury Celebrates! We are considering a meeting for Tuesday, September 16th 11:30 am to 2:30 pm, if possible. New people and ideas welcome!

~ Please notify the church office of any address changes. ~

First Church of Christ

689 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070
(860) 651-3593
www.fccsimsbury.org

September 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>31 8:15 AM Adult Study Group, Parsons' Study 9:30 AM Summer Worship Service and Nate Bailey Global Missions Commission/Blessing, Sanctuary</p>	<p>1 Church Office Closed (Labor Day) 10:00 AM CCC 1:15 PM No Foodshare Truck (Labor Day)</p>	<p>2 10:30 AM Valley Saxophone Quartet, Library 1:00 PM American Red Cross Blood Drive 6:30 PM Zumba Palmer Hall (cx'd) 7:00 PM Cub Scout Pack 276 Leadership Mtg, Parsons' Study 7:30 PM Executive Council Mtg., Parsons' Study</p>	<p>3 4:00 PM Women's Praise Choir, Music Room 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall</p>	<p>4 First Day of Choral Bells and Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM Bible Study Book Club 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal, Room 29 6:30 PM Troop 76 Boy Scouts Mtg., Palmer Hall/Kitchen 7:00 PM AA-Alcoholics Anonymous Mtg, Rm 28 7:30 PM Chancel Choir/Music Room</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 7:00 AM PF Freshman and New Friends "Kidnapping"</p>
<p>7 First Day of Church School 8:30 AM Adult Study Group, Parson's Study 8:30 AM Early Worship with Communion, Chapel (cx'd) 10:00 AM First Day Choir Sings 10:00 AM Rally Day/Fall Festival & Picnic 10:00 AM Worship Service with Communion, Sanctuary 7:00 PM PF Youth Group, Youth Room</p>	<p>8 First Day of Junior Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM CCC 4:15 PM Jr. Choir 7:15 PM pre-All Boards Meeting, Chapel 7:30 PM All Boards Meeting - All Rooms</p>	<p>9 9:00 AM Retired Men's Luncheon 10:30 AM Valley Saxophone Quartet, Library 6:30 PM Cub Scout Pack 276 Den Meeting, Classrooms 26, 27, 28, 29 and Library 6:30 PM Zumba Palmer Hall (cx'd) 7:00 PM Deacon's Committee Mtg., Library</p>	<p>10 First Day of Women's Praise Rehearsal 4:00 PM Women's Praise Choir, Music Room 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall</p>	<p>11 8:00 AM Prayer Team Meeting, Parlor 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal, Room 29 6:30 PM Troop 76 Boy Scouts Mtg., Palmer Hall/Kitchen 7:00 PM AA-Alcoholics Anonymous Mtg, Rm 28 7:30 PM Chancel Choir/Music Room 7:30 PM Search Team Committee, Parsons' Study</p>	<p>12 10:00 AM Farmington Valley Transition Academy</p>	<p>13 10:00 AM Simsbury Arts & Crafts Fair</p>
<p>14 Confirmation Enrollment Forms/Waiver & Health Packets Due 8:30 AM Adult Study Group, Parson's Study 8:30 AM Early Worship, Chapel 9:00 AM Baptism Ben Smith, parlor 10:00 AM Worship Service & Asher Weikel & Ben Smith Baptisms, Sanctuary 11:00 AM Junior Choir, Music Room 12:00 PM Simsbury Arts & Crafts Fair 7:00 PM PF Youth Group, Youth Room</p>	<p>15 10:00 AM CCC 1:00 PM American Red Cross Blood Drive 1:15 PM Foodshare Truck 4:15 PM Jr. Choir 6:30 PM Trojans, Parsons' Study 7:00 PM Missions Board, Library 7:30 PM Officers Mtg., Sr. Minister's Office</p>	<p>16 9:30 AM Prayer Shawl Morning Gathering, Rm 28 10:30 AM Valley Saxophone Quartet, Library 6:30 PM Zumba Palmer Hall (cx'd) 7:00 PM Prayer Shawl Evening Gathering, Rm 28</p>	<p>17 4:00 PM Women's Praise Choir, Music Room 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall</p>	<p>18 9:30 AM Bible Study Book Club 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal, Room 29 6:30 PM Troop 76 Boy Scouts Mtg., Palmer Hall/Kitchen 7:00 PM AA-Alcoholics Anonymous Mtg, Rm 28 7:30 PM Chancel Choir/Music Room</p>	<p>19 9:30 AM Supper Club, Palmer Hall & Kitchen</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 8:30 AM Adult Study Group, Parson's Study 8:30 AM Early Worship, Chapel 8:45 AM People's Climate March in NYC 10:00 AM Worship Service, Sanctuary 11:00 AM Junior Choir, Music Room 7:00 PM PF Youth Group, Youth Room</p>	<p>22 10:00 AM CCC 4:15 PM Jr. Choir</p>	<p>23 10:00 AM Card Making Group, Rm 28 10:30 AM Valley Saxophone Quartet, Library 6:00 PM Masooli FMHCC Board Meeting, Parsons' Study 6:30 PM Cub Scout Pack 276 Monthly Meeting, Palmer Hall/kitchen 6:30 PM Zumba, Classroom 29</p>	<p>24 10:00 AM Cornerstone Collating, Parsons' Study 4:00 PM Women's Praise Choir, Music Room 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall</p>	<p>25 Rosh Hashanah 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal, Room 29 6:30 PM Troop 76 Boy Scouts Mtg., Palmer Hall/Kitchen 7:00 PM AA-Alcoholics Anonymous Mtg, Rm 28 7:30 PM Chancel Choir/Music Room</p>	<p>26 2:10 PM JF Monthly Group Meeting, Youth Room</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 American Indian Ministry Sunday 8:30 AM Adult Study Group, Parson's Study 8:30 AM Early Worship, Chapel 9:30 AM Teachers Breakfast Meeting 10:00 AM PF Youth Group DC Pilgrimage Sharing & Worship Service, Sanctuary 11:00 AM Junior Choir, Music Room 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Gathering 5:00 PM Confirmands Get Acquainted Picnic/Pot Luck and Information Meeting, Palmer Hall 7:00 PM PF Youth Group, Youth Room</p>	<p>29 10:00 AM CCC 1:15 PM Foodshare Truck 4:15 PM Jr. Choir</p>	<p>30 10:30 AM Valley Saxophone Quartet, Library 6:30 PM Zumba Palmer Hall (cx'd)</p>	<p>1 4:00 PM Women's Praise Choir, Music Room 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall</p>	<p>2 9:30 AM Bible Study Book Club 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal, Room 29 6:30 PM Troop 76 Boy Scouts Leadership Mtg., Parsons' Study 7:00 PM AA-Alcoholics Anonymous Mtg, Rm 28 7:30 PM Chancel Choir/Music Room 7:30 PM Troop 76 Boy Scouts Adult Committee Mtg., Parsons' Study 7:30 PM Troop 76 Boy Scouts Venture Mtg., Youth Room</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Womens' Day Retreat</p>