

May, 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<p>1 9:15 AM Music Together, Rm 29 9:30 AM Hay Stack, Rm 28 10:15 AM Music Together, Rm 29 4:00 PM Women's Praise Choir 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall</p>	<p>2 7:30 AM Welcoming Committee 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Troop 76 Boy Scouts Mtg., Palmer Hall/Kitchen 7:30 PM AA Mtg, Rm 28 7:30 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>3 9:15 AM Small Grp Bible Study for Moms, Youth Rm/ Nursery</p>	<p>4 3:00 PM Setup ABC Dinner, Palmer Hall 6:00 PM ABC Dinner, Palmer Hall Simply Smiles Mission Trip</p>
<p>5 8:30 AM Communion Sunday worship, Chapel 10:00 AM Communion Sunday, Sanctuary 10:00 AM Pre-Confirmation 11:00 AM Annual Church Meeting immediately following 10:00 am worship, Sanctuary 5:00 PM Confirmation Potluck Dinner/Mtg., Palmer Hall 7:00 PM PF Youth Group, Youth Room</p>	<p>6 10:00 AM CCC 12:00 PM Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance Class, Rm 29 1:00 PM American Red Cross Blood Drive 4:15 PM Junior Choir Rehearsal 4:30 PM Book Club, Parlor 7:30 PM Executive Council Mtg., Parsons' Study</p>	<p>7 9:30 AM Music Together, Rm 29 12:30 PM Music Together, Rm 29 4:30 PM Confirmation Planning Mtg.</p>	<p>8 9:15 AM Music Together, Rm 29 10:15 AM Music Together, Rm 29 4:00 PM Women's Praise Choir 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall 7:00 PM Scout Merit Badge Workshop, Rm 28</p>	<p>9 1:00 PM South Park Food Prep, Kitchen 2:30 PM Confirmation Grp. South Park Inn Soup Kitchen 6:00 PM Bell Choir Reh. 6:30 PM Troop 76 Boy Scouts Mtg., Palmer Hall/Kitchen 7:30 PM AA Mtg, Rm 28 7:30 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>10 10:00 AM Farmington Valley Transition Academy Dinner, Palmer Hall/Kitchen 2:10 PM Junior Fellowship Gathering</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>MOTHER'S DAY 8:30 AM Early Worship, Chapel 10:00 AM Pre-Confirmation 10:00 AM Worship Service, Sanctuary (Mother's Day) 10:15 AM Church School Global Village Event, Palmer Hall</p>	<p>13 10:00 AM CCC 12:00 PM Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance Class, Rm 29 1:15 PM Food Share Truck 4:15 PM Junior Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM All Boards Meeting</p>	<p>14 9:30 AM Music Together, Rm 29 11:30 AM Retired Men's Luncheon 12:30 PM Music Together, Rm 29 4:00 PM Farmington Valley Committee on Ministry, Parsons' Study 7:00 PM Deacon's Committee Mtg., Library</p>	<p>15 9:15 AM Music Together, Rm 29 10:15 AM Music Together, Rm 29 4:00 PM Women's Praise Choir 6:30 PM Bible Study, Library 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall</p>	<p>16 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Troop 76 Boy Scouts Mtg., Palmer Hall/Kitchen 7:00 PM Interfaith Understanding Small Study Group, Parsons' Study 7:30 PM AA Mtg, Rm 28 7:30 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>17 9:15 AM Small Grp Bible Study for Moms, Youth Rm/ Nursery 5:30 PM Wedding rehearsal 6:00 PM Supper Club, Palmer Hall/ Kitchen 7:00 PM Eagle Scout Court of Honor, Sanctuary</p>	<p>18 9:00 AM Confirmation Rehearsal, Sanctuary 5:00 PM Wedding - Pope/Wolff</p>
<p>19 8:30 AM Worship Service, Chapel 10:00 AM Confirmation Sunday Worship, Sanctuary 10:00 AM Pre-Confirmation 6:00 PM Andrew Robe Society Meeting, host home 7:00 PM PF Youth Group, Youth Room</p>	<p>20 10:00 AM CCC 12:00 PM Hopmeadow Nursery School Dance Class, Rm 29 1:00 PM American Red Cross Blood Drive 4:15 PM Junior Choir Rehearsal 6:45 PM Simsbury Trojan Football Mtg., Parsons' Study</p>	<p>21 9:30 AM Music Together, Rm 29 9:30 AM Prayer Shawl Morning Gathering, Rm 28 12:30 PM Music Together, Rm 29 4:00 PM Farmington Valley Committee on Ministry, Parlor 7:00 PM Prayer Shawl Evening Gathering, Rm 28</p>	<p>22 9:15 AM Music Together, Rm 29 10:15 AM Music Together, Rm 29 12:00 PM 4th Wed. Study Group, Rm 28 4:00 PM Women's Praise Choir 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall</p>	<p>23 10:00 AM Retired Men's Luncheon Planning Mtgs., Parsons' Study 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Troop 76 Boy Scouts Mtg., Palmer Hall/Kitchen 6:30 PM Troop 76: Adults & Kids Special Mtgs., Parsons' Study/Library 7:30 PM AA Mtg, Rm 28 7:30 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>24 2:10 PM Junior Fellowship Gathering</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 8:30 AM Worship Service, Chapel 10:00 AM Geranium Sunday Worship, Sanctuary 10:00 AM Pre-Confirmation 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Gathering</p>	<p>27 MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY—OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>28 9:30 AM Music Together, Rm 29 10:00 AM Card Making Group, Rm 28 12:30 PM Music Together, Rm 29 6:30 PM Cub Scouts, Troop 76, Palmer Hall</p>	<p>29 9:15 AM Music Together, Rm 29 10:15 AM Music Together, Rm 29 11:30 AM Hopmeadow Nursery School (rain date) yr end celeb, Palmer Hall 4:00 PM Women's Praise Choir 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall 6:30 PM Scout Merit Badge Workshop, Palmer Hall</p>	<p>30 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Troop 76 Boy Scouts Mtg., Palmer Hall/Kitchen 7:30 PM AA Mtg, Rm 28 7:30 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>31 9:15 AM Small Grp Bible Study for Moms, Youth Rm/ Nursery 7:00 PM Farmington Valley Chorus rehearsal</p>	

THE CORNERSTONE

A MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR MINISTER

Dear Members and Friends of First Church:

As you now know from my letter dated on April 15th, I have accepted the call to be the Senior Minister of the First Congregational Church in Eugene, Oregon and will begin my ministry there on August 1st. My last Sunday of worship with you will be on June 23rd and my final day in the office will be July 12th. So, the coming weeks will be a time of transition and heart-felt goodbyes. Much work will need to be done and many decisions made, but we will also find ways to celebrate the ministry we have created together.

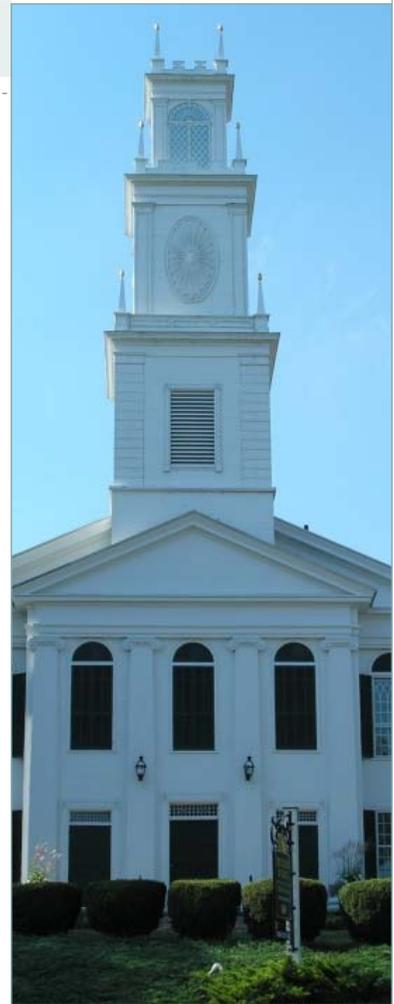
Reflecting on my ten years of ministry here in Simsbury, there is no doubt that my life and my ministry have been enriched by this congregation. Being able to share the challenges and joys of ministry with such incredibly gifted and dedicated colleagues has been a true joy for me. The hard work of our lay leaders as they continue to lead this historic church into the future of God’s vision has been inspiring. Witnessing the many ways each of you lives out your faith through acts of generosity and service has shown me what a community of faith is capable of when the Spirit of our loving God is embraced! Thank you for this rare privilege!

After I depart Simsbury, though my thoughts and prayers will remain with you always, I will no longer be able to serve you in a pastoral capacity. This observance of professional boundaries is an important mandate of the United Church of Christ to help facilitate a strong relationship between my successor and all of you. It is recognition that an incoming pastor needs to minister to this congregation without undue influence or interference from his or her predecessor. Honestly, this is one of the hardest things an outgoing pastor must do in his or her ministry. The bonds we formed over the years are very real and very precious, and thus, hard to release. As difficult as it may be, it will be my final act of love and respect for you as a congregation.

May the years that stretch before us be filled with as many blessings and signs of God’s love as I have experienced with you as your Senior Minister. Thank you for your love, support, and prayers.

God bless.

In the Joy of Christ’s service,



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MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Services are held every
Sunday at

8:30 AM in the Chapel
10:00 AM in the Sanctuary

9:30 AM Summer Worship
begins on May 26th
in the Sanctuary

May 5th COMMUNION SUNDAY

(United Methodist Church Junior
Choir joins our Junior Choir here
at First Church)

*The **ANNUAL MEETING** will
immediately follow the 10:00
a.m. worship service.*

Rev. Jonathan Morgan will be
preaching both services

*"Finding our Footing When
the Way is Not Clear"*

May 12th SUNDAY— MOTHER'S DAY

Rev. Jonathan Morgan will be
preaching both services

"Parental Qualities"

May 19th CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Confirmands will join at the
10:00 a.m. service.

Rev. Kevin Weikel will be
preaching both services

"Thou Shalt Not Stand Idly By"

May 26th GERANIUM SUNDAY/MEMORIAL DAY (First Summer Worship Service beginning at 9:30 a.m.)

Erica Nierendorf will be
preaching both services

"Who is She?"

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

Sabbatical In The Rear View Mirror

In the Cornerstone article I penned before I left, I lifted up this definition of Sabbatical from Alban Institute,

"A ministry sabbatical is not an extended vacation nor is it a time for extensive study, instead it is a release from the routine of the call for the physical, emotional, spiritual, and intellectual well-being of the ministry leader."

As you can see, the definition is rather broad and when I first took to the task of planning my three-months away, I did not know quite where to begin. I knew I wanted to return to you having learned new and exciting things that would be of benefit to both First Church and me. I also knew I wanted to return feeling rested, and come back with a renewed sense of purpose and call. I believe I have accomplished these goals.

In our Annual Report that is to come out next week, I will share a complete overview of my time away – every mile traveled, every book read, and every conversation had about ministry. For our purposes here, however, I would like to briefly lift up just three out of the many rewarding experiences I had on sabbatical.

First, I attended a conference led by Sharon Daloz Parks. Of all my experiences, this was the most interesting, eye opening, and educational. Sharon is principal of *Leadership for the New Commons*, an initiative of the Whidbey Institute. Previously, she held research positions at Harvard University in the schools of Divinity, Business, and the Kennedy School of Government. She is also author of the books *"Leadership Can Be Taught"* and *"Big Questions, Worthy Dreams: Mentoring Emerging Adults in their Search for Meaning, Purpose, and Faith."* During the conference, Sharon presented the approach of *Adaptive Leadership*; a way of leading that relies less on a "one size fits all" style of leadership, but rather a style of leadership that studies and then adapts to the situation at hand. Sharon pointed out that not all situations call for the same kind of leadership, and creatively and effectively helped us think through different ways to lead in a variety of situations. Sharon also has a love for young people and talked a lot about what it means for The Church to be mentoring young people into discipleship in this day and age.

The best time I had with my family was the time we spent in Florida. Not only did Kelley, Sadie and I enjoy a few days in Disney World (with thanks to a few generous church members who double as ESPN employees), but we also drove to Miami where we stayed at the newly renovated "Sabbatical Apartment" at Plymouth Congregational Church. For two weeks. I attended staff meetings, lectionary breakfasts, and engaged in discussions with the three ministers on staff, at this very large church. In the afternoons, they would say, "Go to the beach with your family." Should I share with you that we were on the beach when you all received 34 inches of snow? I guess I just did!

Finally, I attended an event for *Youth Ministers at Large Churches in the UCC*. They define a large church as any congregation that consists of 750 members or more. Spending five days with colleagues who are doing the same work as I am and who love and care for this type of ministry, was both refreshing and encouraging. I learned of new resources and made connections that will benefit me going forward, and I had a lot of fun as well.

My time away on Sabbatical was absolutely terrific. But it is also good to be back. Kelley, Sadie and I missed First Church. I've been extremely busy since I've been back and in some ways it seems I never left, but I do feel this time away gave me rest and renewal that I can now draw upon each day. Thank you for giving me the gift of a Sabbatical, it was a true blessing.

YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS

REV. KEVIN WEIKEL—YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

PLAY, DISCUSS, WORSHIP, GROW, SERVE, LOVE...

JUNIOR FELLOWSHIP (Grades 7-8)

For students who attend Henry James, 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 of HJMS (the bus parking lot). Just walk out the back doors of HJMS and you'll see the church bus in the back corner of the lot. For students who attend other schools, you can still join us, and please do. Just come by the church after your school lets out.

May 10th 2:10—4:00 pm

May 24th 2:10—4:00 pm

PRE-CONFIRMATION (Grades 6 and 7)

May 5th If there is only one God, why are there so many different religions? (re-form)

May 12th Global village event in Palmer Hall

CONFIRMATION GROUP (Grade 8)

Sunday, May 5th 5:00-7:00 pm. Potluck Dinner and Confirmation Decisions Discussion in Palmer Hall for Students and Parents. Families, please bring the following by last name. **A-D, Salad/Fruit; E-G, Dessert; H-Z, Main Course; (I will provide drinks, plates, cups, napkins and silverware)**

Tuesday, May 7th 4:30-6:00 pm. **Optional Confirmation Sunday Planning Meeting.** For every Confirmand interested in helping to plan and/or read, speak, sing, or do something creative during Confirmation Worship Service.

Saturday, May 18th 9:00-10:15 a.m. **Confirmation Rehearsal** in the Sanctuary.

Sunday, May 19th **Confirmation Sunday!** (Confirmands gather at 9:30 a.m. in the Youth Room; Service begins at 10:00 a.m.) Confirmation Sunday in the Sanctuary followed by a reception in Palmer Hall.

PF YOUTH GROUP (Grades 9-12)

May 5th 7:00-9:00 p.m. Regular gathering in the Youth Room.

May 12th **No PF Youth Group—Mother's Day**

May 19th 7:00-9:00 p.m. Regular gathering in the Youth Room.

May 26th **No PF Youth Group—Memorial Day Weekend**

Youth and Young Adult Summer Mission Trip!

The registration deadline is May 1st. However, we may have just one or two spots left. Contact Kevin at kevin.weikel@1stchurchsimsbury.org ASAP for information. If we have spots, they are first come first served.



First Church Youth & Young Adults

MISSION TRIP

To West Virginia

July 20-28, 2013

Appalachia's poorest families need your help to make their homes warmer, safer and drier. But they can help change your life, too. Through their eyes, you'll see yourself as the person you've always wanted to be.

Compassionate.

Committed.

With the power to make a difference.





MUSIC NOTES

Music continues to be an active part of worship here at First, even though May is here and the summer is approaching.

Our Junior Choir will be participating with the United Methodist Junior Choir at the annual combination choir event on May 5th at their church (they were here last year). Our Junior Choir will be on hand on May 12th for the morning service here at First Church.

The Choral Bells have been busy learning new pieces, and are also eager to be a part of Sunday worship, on April 28th and on May 5th.

Women's Praise Choir will be presenting pieces throughout the month, and the Uncommon Worship Band will be here to help celebrate Confirmation.

The Chancel Choir will continue into June, and we will begin implementing Summer Music then, as well. We are blessed with many talented and creative musicians, and these wonderful people enhance our worship all summer long.

If you have any desire to help with this by playing or singing, either alone or in a group, please let me know. Also, know that I will help you in any way if you need music, accompaniment, or just moral support.

We are also making plans for next year's musical activities. If you have any ideas, please get in contact with anyone on the Music Ministries Board or myself. I know that there are many who have thoughts about how we can improve music here, or have some creative programs in mind. No matter how crazy or "out there" you think they might be, let us know.

Under any circumstances, PLEASE PARTICIPATE! Music cannot exist here without you. In order for it to be a priority here at the church, music needs to be a little higher on your own priority list as well. There are small and large ways that you can take part, and they are all more rewarding than you know. Many thanks to all who contributed this year, and I look forward to all of us being creative together.

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 @ First Church.



Church School

Up coming events for your Calendar

May 12: Global Village Event, Palmer Hall 10:15 a.m.

May 19: Confirmation Sunday Nursery for ages 0-3; older students attend church.

May 26: Nursery for ages 0-3; older students attend church.

June 2: Nursery for ages 0-3; Ages 4 and up begin in church, then are dismissed to Rm. 22 for Summer Sunday School.

Vacation Bible School: June 24-27 (Mon-Thursday)

Vacation Bible School:

June 24-27 (Mon-Thurs)

Monday, 1:00-4:00 p.m.,

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon



Registration forms are on the 3rd floor bulletin board. We need 1 adult volunteer for every 5 kids who sign up.

Sign up for **Silver Lake overnight UCC camp**



Week long programs are available for students in 4th-12th grade.

See the 2013 Summer calendar for camp topics posted on the 3rd floor bulletin board.

Registration online is at www.silverlakecc.org.

The Global Village: Respecting the Differences in Others

Palmer Hall
May 12th at 10:15 a.m.
Get your airplane ticket, passport, & travel around the world



Activities:
"I never forget a face" Matching Game
Where in the world? activity
"Become a Peacemaker" activity
"Don't laugh at me" cake walk
Windows on the World activity
International food court

Learn about people in Mexico: make a Mexican pinch pot
Learn about people in Japan: make a water color fan
Learn about people in Australia: make Aboriginal dot painting

Summer Sunday School Program, begins on June 2: What's in the Bible? Series

Buck Denver Asks... What's in the Bible? It's a new DVD series from VeggieTales®. Creator, Phil Vischer, designed it to walk kids through the Bible.



This summer the students will watch complete Old Testament: DVDs 1-9 (Genesis – Malachi).

June 2nd: What's in the Bible #1, In the Beginning, kids are introduced to the Bible and Genesis by your host, Buck Denver, and his cast of puppet friends. Kids will learn about the key people in Genesis and the important lessons their stories teach.

Fall Teacher/Shepherd Opportunities, Sept 8-Dec 8, 2013

The church school is a co-operative program where parents work together to teach their children about their faith. Please contact cindy.cole@1stchurchsimsbury.org to volunteer.

Pre-K—2 Teachers needed

Job description: The teachers lead the class each Sunday in learning the basics about faith: our church, prayer, God, etc. The students use learning center activities, crafts, and read Bible stories in circle time. All the teaching materials and crafts are provided to the teacher.

Kindergarten—Patti Scanlon, Theresa Carlson

Grades 1-6 Rotation Program: Fall units: Respect: Living God's Word, Into the Promised Land(40 years in the wilderness), Christmas

Workshop Teacher Job description: Teachers remain in the classroom teaching the same unit lesson to the different grades as they rotate into the room. Two teachers are assigned to each workshop and they decide which teacher is going to teach on a given Sunday.

- Computer room** – Sarah Guasta, **1 teacher needed**
- Cooking room** – **2 teachers needed**
- Art room** – **2 teachers needed**
- Game room** – **2 teacher needed**
- Movie room** – **2 teachers needed**

Shepherd job description: Shepherds meet their students in the chapel each Sunday, take attendance, hand out name tags, etc. They lead the students to class and are in charge of monitoring class room behavior, building relationships, and assisting the teacher as required.

- 1st grade shepherd**—
- 2nd grade shepherd** -
- 3rd grade shepherd** – Erin Naspo
- 4th grade shepherd** – Jackie Brooke
- 5th grade shepherd** -

Teens are welcome to sign up as classroom or shepherd aides.

Pre-Confirmation Teachers: Ann Marie Prabulos, Kim Tawney

SIMPLY SMILES MISSION TRIP

May 4 - 11, 2013

Approximate Cost: \$ 750

A Joint Mission Trip for Adults
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe in South Dakota
Farmington Valley Association
of the United Church of Christ



Offering Hope

The needs on the Reservation are staggering. The cause of these needs equally so. But we must draw a line, and start from this new point. We must base our opinions of people and of situations only from our personal interaction with them. A persistent problem can often only be solved when looked upon from a fresh angle. Everyone deserves a clean slate in someone's eyes. And we need to see and to use the good in everyone to have any chance at success, to have any chance for change.

Simply Smiles is dedicated to providing bright futures while improving the daily lives of impoverished children. We are committed to fulfilling this mission statement for our new friends on the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reservation - and we promise we will do our very best. For a hard rain can indeed fall there. Smile by smile, handshake by handshake, house by house, one by one the stains of yesterday and today will be washed away. The path to a bright future will be clear before each individual and everyone will be able to see the beauty and value of the Lakota people.

The work

Physical Demands

This experience is very physically demanding. You should be in good health and ready for a challenge. We will be doing construction work which sometimes involves heavy lifting, climbing ladders, etc. The South Dakota spring can be unpredictable. It is not uncommon to have 40+ degree temperature changes. Our work days are long and intense. All of this at an altitude we are not used to here in CT. The demands are high, but the rewards are great.

Accommodations

In a word... Rough

- We'll sleep on the floor in one large community room on inflatable mats.
- Our only "shower" will be an evening dip in the Missouri River since there is no plumbing.
- We will only have outhouses or port-a-lets most of the time.
- But we will do all this for the opportunity to bring a smile to the face of a child.

For more information go to:

www.fccsimsbury.org

COMMUNITY FARM YEAR II

Our early planting schedule is shown below with our **start time at 9:00 a.m.**

May, 2013: 1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 29 (beets, carrots, swiss chard, beans, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, cukes, squash, peas, lettuce, spinach and more)

Please join us! Maggie will be there to guide us. Also, we will be adding a special schedule tailored to families with small children.

Please let **Dave Wadhams** know by email wadhams.nd@comcast.net which dates work best for you, or phone Dave at 860-836-7368 with any questions.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the farm!



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There are lots of ways to get involved at First Church! You can teach Church School, serve at the soup kitchen, participate in card making or prayer shawl ministries, sing in a choir, help with youth groups... there are endless possibilities! Contact one of our ministers for more information!

APRIL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



April Executive Council Highlights

Dave Wadhams, Chair of the Board of Mission and Outreach, made a presentation of suggested changes to the governance of that board. Flowing from the BMO's mission statement and given responsibilities, Dave presented the current challenges that the BMO faces in maintaining an active and full board of 9 members, each member serving a 3 year term. The proposed changes would reduce the size of the board to a minimum of 5 members, supplemented with a number (3 to 4) of part-time non-voting board members. Dave's presentation included rationale for the proposed functioning of this arrangement in keeping with First Church's recent strategic plan. The smaller Board would monitor and manage the board's responsibilities and functioning, while the Associate members would be more specifically engaged in the particular hands-on mission projects such as the Community Farm, the Mobile Foodshare, and the Walk for Hunger. The general consensus of the Executive Council members present was favorable to this proposal.

A new West Street Task Force was established by President Westbrook to identify alternative uses of the building. Its members include Dave Wadhams (convener); Jim Trimble; Kevin Weikel; and a representative to be named from the Board of Trustees. A tentative list of uses surfaced at the meeting and included: educational, service projects, housing, mission uses, multiple/integrated uses, youth/young adult uses, social, etc. Input from the congregation was encouraged as well.

Discussion occurred about the proposed Veteran's Memorial. President Westbrook indicated that the veterans group that presented their plan to the Executive Council some time ago is currently looking for a decision from us on their proposal. Phil Wilde, representing the Board of Trustees, reported that the Trustees have considered the matter and with the addition of updated material, do not recommend support for the project. There was no consensus on the matter and it was determined that the matter was not ready to bring to the congregation for vote. Reverend Morgan agreed to communicate to the veteran's organization that First Church is not now ready to decide on the request to construct a veteran's memorial on the proposed site (the north east corner of church property along Hopmeadow Street).

Phil Wilde, Board of Trustees, informed the meeting of the recently conducted security review. This was a follow-up to prior security considerations addressed a month or so back concerning the security of both the building and individuals working in/visiting or attending nursery/church school classes. The Board of Trustees secured a review and proposal by a security firm which was presented to the Executive Council. The security firm addressed almost exclusively that matter from a camera image recording perspective. The installation of two inside cameras and eight to ten outside cameras would come to an estimated \$14,000.00 cost. The Board of Trustees felt this was a very expensive proposal. There was discussion that we need to go back and re-think what we are really looking for with respect to security: what do we need, what do we really want to accomplish, and what is the best way to achieve the desired security needs. It was generally concluded that the security objective we desire is to fill in the gaps to the system/s we currently have to protect the people, church school, nursery school, and property.

Janice Johnson, Co-Chair of the Board of Personnel, presented a number of Personnel Policy changes and sought approval. The four changes related to Leave Policy, Sick Leave, Salary Verification, and Employee Benefits - Group Medical and Dental Benefits. The changes were unanimously approved by Executive Council.

Bill Ketchabaw
Clerk of the Congregation

WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE?

We Remember Them Every Day

Continuing the story of Memorials in the church begun in the April issue of the Cornerstone.

The Memorial Garden is a place of solitude and reflection where the cremated remains of our members and their loved ones are interred in the earth among the trees and flowers. In earlier times the theological significance of being buried near the church was well understood. In Center Cemetery today, there are stones of earlier residents dating back to the earliest settlers in Simsbury. Mercy Buel was the first person buried there in 1688 and near her stone there is a large brown stone to mark the location of the first meetinghouse in Simsbury. When the second and third meetinghouses (the present meetinghouse was built in 1830) were built at the top of Mr. Drake's hill, there wasn't room for much of a burial ground. In 1987, a group of people assembled who felt the need to establish a sacred place on the church property in which to inter the cremains of departed saints. Mr. Robert Naylor was minister then and helped them get started. In the Fourth Century Campaign undertaken in 1994, this project was included in the goals of the church. After the passing of Mrs. Ellen Riley in March 1995, her family held her ashes until the new sacred burial ground could be established. She was the first person to be interred there in the new Memorial Garden in June 1996. *As of October 2012, there are 47 cremains there.* Their names are there on a large stone at the entrance to the Garden.

The Naylor Wing built in 1997 – 1998 was dedicated in May 2001 to the service of *Robert H. Naylor* who had been minister here for fourteen years, from 1987 until 2001. The building includes the unique round structure containing the ministers' offices and work rooms, storage for church school supplies, a bathroom, etc. The new library/media center was enlarged as well as classrooms and meeting rooms for many activities. The new Archives Room was added for the storage of our historical documents and artifacts and a new office complex was built for the staff to do the work of the church. Also included is the new large meeting room that is called The Parsons' Study.

The Memorial Windows are located in the west wall of the Parsons' Study. On a sunny afternoon with the light shining through them they truly are spectacular. They were created by an unknown Italian glass artisan and installed in the original west wall of the sanctuary behind the altar. They were part of a redecoration done on the church interior in 1883. They contain inscriptions on the bottom for the first four important ministers who served this church. They were *Dudley and Timothy Woodbridge, Samuel Stebbins, and Allen McLean*. The full story about the windows is told on a plaque in front of the windows. The name "Parsons' Study" seemed appropriate. The windows themselves have survived an explosion in 1892, the great fire of 1965 and the process of restoration. They are now safely displayed where their beauty can be appreciated.

Other Memorial gifts have been given to the church over the years in memory of loved ones. The list is long and I shall not try to include it here. Another type of memorial gift in terms of a financial gift to the church can be made as part of church member's wills. Our members are encouraged to do that when writing or updating wills.

Appreciating our past by remembering our Memorials,
Donna M. Hopkins,
Church Historian



HISTORICALLY
SPEAKING



CALLING ALL WOMEN OF FIRST CHURCH!



Mark your calendars for
Friday, June 7th at 7:00 p.m.
for the next all women's meeting!
Topic TBA.

Interested in helping plan this event?

Contact **Erica Nierendorf** at enierendorf@fccsimsbury.org or
call 860-651-3593, x15; or **Cindy Braunlich** at
cbraunlich@gmail.com

Supper Club

BINGO NIGHT!

You are invited to **SUPPER CLUB** on
Friday, May 17th

Social time: 6:00 pm
Dinnner time: 6:30 pm
Program time: 7:45 pm



Dinner will be grilled Steaks
(at a cost of \$16.00 per person)

The program for the evening will be award winning BINGO. Each participant is requested to search high and low (i.e. attic and basement) for an appropriate White Elephant "gift" (gift wrapped, please) which shall constitute the Bingo prizes. All are invited and welcomed.

For reservations, call Shirley Meyer (693-1944) or Cynthia Yoczik (658-7460) **no later than May 12th.**

A Message from Diann Bailey:

“You have searched me, LORD, and you know me.

You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.” (Ps 139:1-3)

You know the familiar saying, “If you want to make God laugh...tell God your plans.” Well, personally, “If I had known of God’s plans, I might well have died of hysterical laughter!” When our family stood in the sanctuary of First Church, Simsbury, sixteen years ago to become members, I never imagined that one day I might also be ordained into ministry in that same sanctuary. For the past five years, I have pursued a Master of Divinity degree at Hartford Seminary and Andover Newton Theological School. This May, I will graduate and begin to search for a call to a congregation. Once I receive a call, I will be ordained...in our sanctuary. What an unexpected, but joyous journey this has been. Surely, God has a sense of humor!

You may have noticed that I have been missing this past year. I was a Seminarian Intern at First Church of Christ in Suffield. Surprisingly, it was a bit like going to a relative’s home, one whom I had not met, but who knew of my church family. I had not realized that many members of First Church, Simsbury grew up in the Suffield Church or have friends and family there. It was wonderful to share these connections. While at Suffield, I focused on planning and leading worship, learning the administrative and leadership roles of ministry and developing cross-generational worship and ministerial offerings. I worked closely with Rev. Bridget Fidler; a great mentor who provided me with many learning opportunities and afforded me much autonomy. It was a great experience with a remarkable congregation.

However, I have missed First Church, Simsbury. It was difficult to be away from the church family that helped to nurture and support my call to ministry. As I write this in late April, I am looking toward a very busy May. Our youngest son, Nate will be returning from his semester long cross-cultural trip in Jordan, Israel, Palestine, Turkey, Greece and Italy—just in time for his older brother’s wedding! Ben Bailey and Hannah Beachy will be married on May, 4th in Harrisonburg, VA. Two weeks, later, on May 18th, I graduate from Andover Newton Theological School. To wrap up my time in Suffield, I will preach my last sermon on May 19th and then return to Simsbury and my home congregation.

In the middle of all this, I will also have my Ecclesiastical Council. Tentatively scheduled for May 14th, I will present my ordination paper to the Farmington Valley Association of the Connecticut Conference. I will be questioned by both clergy and lay people alike in order to determine my readiness for ordained ministry. After a sufficient time of discussion, a vote will be taken to (hopefully, with God willing) approve me for ordination in the United Church of Christ. After this, I will then pursue a call to congregational ministry.

The Ecclesiastical Council is open to ALL and I hope that many of you will attend. I would love to share this very important moment in my journey toward ordained ministry. I have been deeply blessed by this congregation and I am grateful for the many ways in which you have guided, challenged and encouraged me along the way. Please consider this an open invitation:

Diann H. Bailey—Ecclesiastical Council
Tuesday, May 14th @ 7:00 p.m. (Tentative Date)
First Church of Christ, Simsbury in the Sanctuary

First Church of Christ

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FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE MAY 2013

5/5/13 Annual Meeting—**No Fellowship Hour**
5/12/13 Annette Lilly & Friends
5/19/13 Memorial Garden Committee
5/26/13 Bylaws Committee

First Church of Christ

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