



# THE CORNERSTONE

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR MINISTER

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we continue to move toward a time of transition and prayerful reflection, it is good to take stock in the many blessings that God has bestowed upon this historic and vital church. Just this past week alone, has offered many beautiful examples of the abundance of blessings in our midst. Let me tell you about just three.

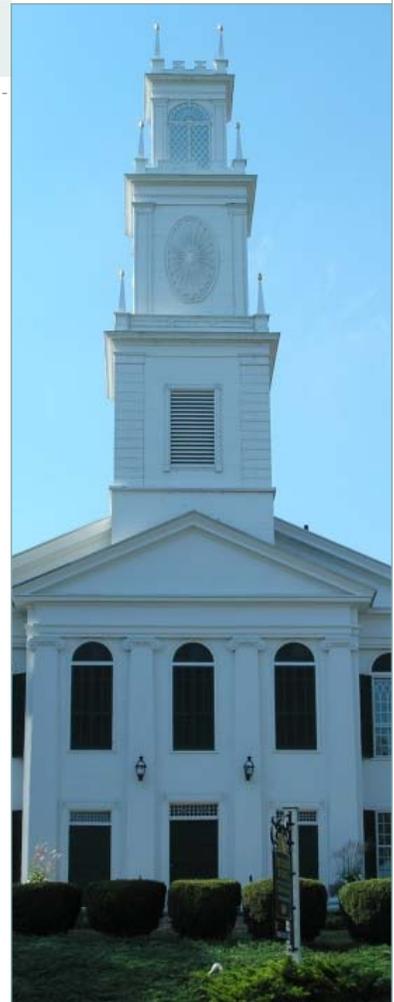
I write this letter with the sounds of our Church Office staff making preparations for our Annual Church Office Volunteer Luncheon. It is our custom to thank and celebrate the time and talent of our 30 + members who help the office by doing things like counting the offerings, proofreading our publications, and folding and mailing our Cornerstone that goes out to over 700 households. First Church is blessed by their dedication and care. We would not be able to do what we do without them!

On Sunday, I had the pleasure of sitting in the front pews to take in our glorious Confirmation Sunday. What a marvelous service of worship! To see our 34 young people offer their testimony and make their promises before God and this congregation was very inspiring! Their energy, their budding faith, and their level of commitment to the Confirmation program, (which I truly feel is one of the best in the country, thanks to Kevin’s visionary leadership and the hard work & dedication of our team of Small Group leaders and advisors), was a joy to witness! First Church is blessed to have such incredible leaders and members, of all ages, who take their faith journey so seriously!

On Saturday, it was my joy to witness the graduation ceremony of Andover Newton Theological School where two of our own, Erica Nierendorf and Diann Bailey, received their Masters in Divinity degrees after many years of devoted study. What an accomplishment! They both aced this very rigorous program of study while continuing to work challenging day jobs... and raise families! After the ceremony, I spoke to my friend, Rev. Sarah Drummond, Dean of ANTS, who shared how impressed she was with both Erica and Diann. After extolling their many virtues, she ended by saying, *“Please thank your congregation for sending these incredible people to us!”* Truly, First Church is blessed to have servants of such deep faith and passion for the church!

The coming days will no doubt be ones of unfolding blessings as you find your way along the path that the Spirit of God is leading you. During this time of transition, be sure to acknowledge and honor the gifts that reside in the hearts and minds of all the members of First Church... including your own gifts!

God bless.



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## JUNE 2013 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Services are held every Sunday at

**9:30 AM for Summer Worship in the Sanctuary**

**June 2nd—COMMUNION SUNDAY**

**Jonathan Morgan preaching**  
*"Losing ourselves While Running to be Found"*

**June 9th—SUMMER WORSHIP**

**Kevin Weikel preaching**  
*"Waiting for God"*

**June 16th—SUMMER WORSHIP, FATHER'S DAY**

**Jonathan Morgan preaching**  
*"A Gentle Caring Presence—The Gift of My Father"*

**June 23rd— SPECIAL SERVICE OF FAREWELL & GRADUATION SUNDAY, A Special Service of Release**

**Jonathan Morgan preaching for the last time at First Church.**  
*"The journey continues - will we ever get there?"*

**A reception to celebration Jonathan's ten years of ministry will follow in Palmer Hall after the 9:30 a.m. service.**

**June 30th—SUMMER WORSHIP**

**Erica Nierendorf preaching**  
*"Seeing God Again for the First Time"*

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

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew, a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and time for peace. ~ Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*



In 1959, Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 was put to music by Peter Seeger. While Seeger recorded his own version of the song, it wasn't until late 1965, when the American folk rock band "The Byrds" covered it and it became an international hit. Today, "Turn Turn Turn" remains a classic and Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 is one of the most recognized passages in the Bible.

I'll admit up front that I used this passage as the foundation for the devotion I led at the beginning of our last Executive Council Meeting. I guess you could say I'm double dipping. However, I keep coming back to its profound observation that, "For everything there is a season." The passage is very fitting for times of transition and change, and we find ourselves in such a time at First Church.

The Rev. Jonathan Morgan, our Senior Minister for the past ten years, has answered a call to serve First Church in Eugene, Oregon. I join all of you in being extremely excited for Jonathan and his family. When Jonathan called on the Sunday of his candidating weekend to inform me it was official, I could hear the excitement and enthusiasm in his voice. This was something God was clearly calling him to do.

But what about First Church, Simsbury? Jonathan has ministered here for ten years, and that's a long time. What does his leaving mean for us and our future? How do we proceed? The answer to these questions is this, "One season at a time," seeking God's guidance every step of the way.

Right now we are in the season of saying goodbye to Jonathan and celebrating his ministry. On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will join together during and after worship to say thank you and send him off with our love. I hope you will join us that day.

After Jonathan departs this summer, we will enter a new season, a season of discernment. Currently, the Executive Council is preparing for this season by working with The Rev. Tamara Moreland, our Northwest Regional CT Conference Minister, to find an interim minister who has particular gifts for helping churches through transition. This season of discernment will provide for us a time to pause, and it will give us permission to ask questions and reflect. It will be a time of thinking creatively, and it will provide a foundation for fruitful future seasons.

I am looking forward to living out these coming seasons together, as we explore the ways in which God is calling First Church, Simsbury, into the future.

Peace to you,

*Kevin*

## REV. KEVIN WEIKEL—YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

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

### JUNIOR FELLOWSHIP (Grades 7-8)

**Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup>**                      **2:10 - 5:00 pm** (note the extended time). We will celebrate our final JF Meeting of the school year with a picnic at Penwood State Park, Bloomfield. We will utilize the church bus to pick students up at Henry James Middle School. Students attending private schools can meet us at Penwood State Park as they are able.

### PF YOUTH GROUP (Grades 9-12)

**Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>**                      **3:00-6:30 pm**, PF hike lead by Patty Scanlon, followed by pizza at Little City Pizza. Please bring \$10.

**Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>**                      **7:00-9:00 pm**, Mission Trip Pre-Meeting #1 for Participants and Parents, Palmer Hall

**Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup>**                      **7:00-9:00 pm**, PF Picnic and Senior Recognition, Penwood Park (meet at First Church)

**Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>**                      **7:00-9:00 pm**, Mission Trip Pre-Meeting #2 for Participants Only, Palmer Hall

**Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup>**                      **No PF (Summer Vacation)**

### CONFIRMATION GROUP (Grade 8)

On **Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>**, thirty-four students affirmed their Baptism. We continue to celebrate these young people and give God praise for the commitment they have made to God and the ministry of First Church. I would like to lift up the work of our dedicated Confirmation Small Group Leaders: Sarah Gaines, Hayley Maher, Jim Kew, Abby Ritson, Erica Nierendorf, Mia Capobianco, Mark Scully, Gabby Cusano, Patty Scanlon, Chris Towles, Betty Warner, and Kelsey Olson.



CONFIRMATION GROUP 5/19/13

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# MUSIC NOTES



Music doesn't stop during the summer at First Church - We are blessed with many in our congregation with musical talent. This is a chance for any who wish to share their abilities on a summer Sunday, when things are a little more informal, to do so.

We have scheduled some vocal solos, duets, and instrumental presentations that range stylistically from jazz to classical, but we still have room for more! I urge anyone with creative inner souls to be heard - this is the time to have some non-judgmental musical fun, and help everyone's worship experience along at the same time.

There will be an opportunity for the "Summer Choir" to present offerings on a Sunday in July, as well as Women's Praise. If there are any who would like to join these groups for these specific

occasions, you are definitely welcome. I will let you know when these occasions occur.

I would also be interested in hearing any thoughts and ideas you may have for our music program - from concerts to children's programs to musical theater to ...well...anything. Please talk to me at any time, or email me. Those of us who do music here at the church get excited about new stuff of any kind.

Music is a wonderful thing, and it gives us a road to communication with God. Who can resist that in a church - either for ourselves or for those we love? Come and be with us!

Have a great summer!

*Mark*



FARMINGTON  
VALLEY  
ASSOCIATION  
OF THE  
UNITED  
CHURCH OF  
CHRIST

*The Farmington Valley Association*  
of the United Church of Christ

## SPRING MEETING

Sunday, June 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary  
First Church of Christ, Simsbury

689 Hopmeadow Street  
Simsbury

The Farmington Valley Association of the Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ, will convene on **Sunday evening, June 2, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary** for the annual meeting.

Officers will be elected, we will hear a report from the Committee on Ministry, and also hear from the group representing the Farmington Valley Association UCC churches who recently returned from Simply Smiles on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation. We will also have an opportunity to thank the Rev. Jonathan Morgan for his faithful service in the Farmington Valley Association as Senior Minister of First Church of Christ, before his departure for a new call in Eugene, Oregon.

**WE REMIND YOU that in order to act we must have accredited delegates from at least seven member congregations and at least seven ordained ministers whose standing is in the Farmington Valley Association. We further remind you that the power to vote is granted to SIX delegates from each member congregation and to every ministerial member of the Association.**

**K.I.D.S. @ First**  
**Kids Investigating Divine Stories at First Church**

Visit [www.firstchurchsimsbury.com](http://www.firstchurchsimsbury.com) to see the church school schedule, videos, and information about what the kids are doing @ First Church.



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

**Buck Denver Asks...What's in the Bible?** is a new DVD series from VeggieTales® creator Phil Vischer designed to walk kids through the Bible. This summer the students will watch the complete old testament: DVDs 1-9 (Genesis – Malachi).

**June 2: 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.

**June 9: What's In the Bible #3, Wanderin' in the Desert**, Buck Denver and his cast of friends take us through the next three books of the Bible—Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy—helping kids understand how these books fit in with Genesis and Exodus to make up the

Pentateuch and to set the stage for the trials and victories of God's people.

**June 16: What's in the Bible #4, Battle for the Promised Land**, The stories of Joshua, Judges and Ruth are told, --helping children understand God's desire for a special people to bring his special message. The issue of "violence" in the Old Testament is delicately and appropriately addressed.

**June 23: What's in the Bible #5, Israel Gets a King!**, ...the stories of **Samuel, Saul, David and Goliath, and Solomon**. A good overview of all their stories, and emphasizing that even Kings can make mistakes, ...and how David responded to God.

**June 30: What's in the Bible #6, Israel Divided!** ...the stories from **Kings and Chronicles**. Including Elijah. It's refreshing to see how they make Kings and Chronicles UNDERSTANDABLE for kids (and adults).

**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](mailto: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 1-5 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.

**1<sup>st</sup> grade shepherd**—

**2<sup>nd</sup> grade shepherd** -

**3<sup>rd</sup> grade shepherd** – Erin Naspo

**4<sup>th</sup> grade shepherd** – Jackie Brooke

**5<sup>th</sup> grade shepherd** -

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

**Pre-Confirmation Teachers:** Ann Marie Prabulos, Kim Tawney (subs: Betsey Zackeo, Aynsley Hodges)

**Church School**

**Up coming events for your Calendar**

**June 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30:**

Nursery for ages 0-3,  
 Ages 4 & up begin in church,  
 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 pm;  
 Tuesday, Wednesday,  
 & Thursday, 9:00 am-  
 12 Noon  
 At the Methodist  
 Church**

Monday: God's love helps us stand strong; David writes about God's love (Psalm 18:1)

Tuesday: Family and friends help us to stand strong; Mordecai encourages Esther to do the right thing (Esther 1-9)

Wednesday: Prayer helps us stand strong; Nehemiah perseveres to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem (Nehemiah 1-6)

Thursday: The Bible helps us stand strong; King Josiah follows God's way (2 Kings 22:1-23:23)

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.silverlakeect.org](http://www.silverlakeect.org).

***A Message  
from Erica  
Nierendorf,  
Associate  
Minister for  
Parish Life...***



Dear Friends in Christ,

"Today is the first day of the rest of your life." This trite saying captures my frame of mind as I return to my ministry with you at First Church, after having graduated with my Master of Divinity degree from Andover Newton Theological School this past weekend. It was a profound time of fruition, not only for me, but also for fellow seminarian sojourner, Diann Bailey, who also graduated. To share this day with my friend, also a member of this church was unique and quite special; I do not believe there were any others graduating in our class who were from the same church.

First Church should take pride in this fact, and also I believe, hear it as a call to continue to nurture not only future clergy, but all who seek to know Christ. Whether we are mentoring our youth or encouraging adults through study or mission or coffee hour conversation, this community is called to be a home base or launching pad for each of us.

During our graduation, one of our classmates compared our role as Christians, to that of honeybees. They grow and mature within their nest and when they have matured to a certain age, they leave the nest to search for pollen. As they fly from flower to flower, they drop pollen from their wings and legs into the flowers, which pollinates them. We know this process is pivotal to all types of gardens. As followers of Christ, we need the nest, our home base in which to grow and mature in our faith. And then the time comes when God asks us to leave our nest and to be pollinators. This 'work' is pivotal to God's garden; we are called to reach out, to invite others into the nest, to help them grow in faith and then to send them forth to invite in others. And like a nest of honeybees, we can't go it alone; we need each other.

My particular path in life drew me to seminary and the next step will be ordination, God willing, within a year or so. In this post-seminary time, it is a new beginning, and very exciting for me! I believe God asks each of us to be pollinators in our own way, and that the journey can be surprising and lead to new beginnings many times throughout our lives. Let us pray for each other, that we each find ways to be 'worker bees' for God. Amen!

With gratitude for the nurturing community that First Church provides,

*Erica*

*Please Join Us!*

*We will be celebrating Jonathan's  
10 years of ministry at First Church!*

*on*

**Sunday, June 23, in Palmer Hall  
immediately following the 9:30 a.m.  
worship.**

**Jonathan will be preaching for the last  
time at First Church and there will be a  
Special Service of Release.**

**There will be a reception following and  
a light luncheon will be served.**

**If you would like to help with the  
celebration, please contact Tina  
Osborn (860-658-6293) or Jeannie  
Boehner (860-658-1245).**

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## **FIRST CHURCH/COMMUNITY FARM PARTNERSHIP**

Thanks to many First Church volunteers, the clients of Gifts of Love again look forward to fresh organic vegetables (they have already enjoyed lettuce, swiss chard and spinach).

For June, July and August, normal planting days will be Mon., Wed., and Sat. at 9:00 a.m. or later to 12:00 Noon. If other times would work better for you, please contact Maggie Saska, the Farm Garden Manager, and arrange them with her. You can call her at 860-217-0453 at the farm or 860-294-2424, her cell, or email [msaska@communityfarmofsimsbury.org](mailto:msaska@communityfarmofsimsbury.org).

The farm welcomes young children with their parents. Please call Maggie first so that special activities and times can be scheduled.

If you have any questions, please contact Dave Wadhams at 860-836-7368 or email him at [wadhams.nd@comcast.net](mailto:wadhams.nd@comcast.net).



## SIMPLY SMILES MISSION TRIP

On May 4th through the 11th, Jonathan led a group of 26 adult members from nine Farmington Valley Association UCC churches on a week-long mission trip to the **Lakota Native American Reservation in La Plant S.D.**

It was a challenging and deeply moving experience as the group came together to build a 150 foot outdoor pavilion and several greenhouses for the community. They also organized and ran a day camp for 35 children and offered five community meals during the week for everyone in that small and struggling community.

Members of the group were horrified by the terrible housing and living conditions of these proud and spiritual people and came away with an even deeper sense of gratitude for the work of **Bryan Nurenberg** and his **Simply Smiles** organization. Through the vision and leadership of Bryan, and the efforts of groups like ours, lives are truly being changed. Children's lives are being nourished, homes are being renovated or completely rebuilt, and hope is returning to that community after many year's of neglect and persecution by our country.

You can learn more about the trip and next year's plans by attending the **FVA Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 2 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary.**



## YOUTH MISSION TRIP NEEDS...CAN YOU HELP?



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Our summer youth mission trip to West Virginia will take place this July 20-28<sup>th</sup>. The trip is full; we have 40 students signed up with 6 additional students waiting to see if ASP (Appalachia Service Project) will open more spots for us.

We have quite a few needs for this trip and we have decided to reach out and ask for a little help. Can you chip in and give us a hand through any of the ways listed below? If so, please contact Rev. Kevin at [kevin.weikel@1stchurchsimsbury.org](mailto:kevin.weikel@1stchurchsimsbury.org) right away.

### Mission Trip Needs...

**Adult Chaperone/Leaders:** Are you in search of something meaningful, fulfilling, and fun? Are you intrigued by the idea of helping the resource-poor in rural Appalachia? Do you like to work hard? Do you enjoy spending time with and getting to know teenagers? Are you open to spiritual things? If the answer to these questions were "yes," then contact Rev. Kevin. He will be glad to put you in touch with a "veteran" Adult Mission Trip Chaperone/Leader who can answer all your questions.

**Give Full or Partial Scholarships:** A few of our participants are in financial situations that make paying for the full cost of the trip difficult. Without assistance, these folks would not be able to participate. Would you be willing to give a full or partial scholarship or more? A full scholarship is \$495.

**Lend us your Minivan or Large SUV:** Lending us your minivan or large SUV for the week would be just as helpful as contributing a full scholarship.

**Roof Rack Shells:** We are on the search for 9 Roof Rack Shells for minivans and SUV's. Would you be willing to lend us yours?

We are very much looking forward to our trip and we thank you for considering ways in which you can help. If you are interested in learning more about what we will be doing in West Virginia, visit the Appalachia Service Project website at <http://www.asphome.org>. We anticipate sharing about our experiences during the 10:00 am worship service on September 29, 2013.

Peace to you, Rev. Kevin and the PF Advisor Team

**MINUTES**  
**ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING**  
**MAY 5, 2013**  
**FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST AND ECCLESIASTICAL SOCIETY**

In the absence of President Westbrook, Vice President Jim Trimble called the meeting to order at 11:05 am. Clerk Ketchabaw confirmed, by visual observation, that a quorum was present.

It was moved; seconded; and carried that a reading of the 2012 Annual Meeting minutes be dispensed with since the minutes were published in the 2013 Annual Report. It was moved; seconded; and carried that the minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting be approved as presented in the 2013 Annual Report.

Vice President Trimble reviewed the highlights of the President's report as contained in the Annual Report.

Reverend Morgan, in his comments, noted that he was proud and honored to have served First Church for the past 10 years as Senior Pastor and that the ministry of life changing events continues. He commented, with encouraging words, that the ministry at First Church will continue to prosper and grow.

In the absence of Dane Woodberry, Chair of the Nominating Committee, Bill Ketchabaw presented the Nominating Report for the period of 2013/2014. In his opening remarks, and on behalf of the Executive Council, he expressed appreciation to those whose terms were expiring and to those who had agreed to serve again by extending their terms. It was moved; seconded; and carried that Susan Babcock White is elected to serve on the Panel of Delegates and that Susan Butler is elected to serve on the Board of Deacons, each for a term of three years.

In his remarks, Treasurer Ron Patterson expressed his appreciation to the Board of Finance membership for their dedication and support to the management of finances for First Church. He then commented on the highlights of his report contained within the Annual Report. In his closing remarks he complimented Cindy Cole on the success of the recent tag sale that raised approximately \$4,700 in support of the Board of Christian Education.

Treasurer Patterson proceeded to overview for the meeting the need for a new roof for the entire First Church complex based on a consultant evaluation. With that need in mind, Rick Wilde and Dane Woodberry have worked for the past several months to develop a proposal to receive funding from a State Historic Grant Fund to partially offset the cost of the roof replacement. As the beginning step a funding request to the Historic Grant organization has been approved for Technical Assistance, to be followed by a formal grant request application in the October 2013 timeframe, and an anticipated approval in early 2014. To underwrite the initial cost of \$90,000 for the roof repair, which will be reimbursed at 50% if the grant request is approved, Treasurer Patterson presented a resolution for approval that would fund the repair by borrowing \$90,000 from our Endowment Fund with repayment to be done over time from our operating budget. It was moved; seconded; and carried that the resolution be approved.

Paul Bryant, Chair of the Board of Elders, informed the meeting that based on the recent Open and Affirming approval by the congregation, the establishment of a committee to initiate implementation activities has moved slowly. Their purpose is to address implementation strategies to improve upon optics within the community and the congregation. Over the next few months we can expect to witness activities related to signage; media press releases; and guest speakers on the topic.

Based on recent correspondence received by the Church Executive Officers from several members of the congregation recommending that Kevin Weikel be appointed as our Senior Minister after Jonathan departs, Vice President Trimble discussed the actions taken to date by the Executive Officers and the many factors that must be considered. Several meetings have been held individually, and as a group, by the Officers with Kevin in an effort to touch base with him.

The conclusions reached at this point are that Kevin is open to expanding his role but that he loves his current role of Youth and Young Adult ministry and is in no rush. Jim commented that the role of Senior Minister carries with it a tremendous responsibility and that we are open to expanding Kevin's role at First Church, but we must take our time and see where God leads. With the selection of and guidance from an Interim Minister, as well as input from Kevin, we want to explore different models of ministry and find what is best for First Church going forward. Jim concluded that the interim time will be a time of discernment for both Kevin and First Church.

Much discussion and comment from the congregation in attendance followed concerning support for Kevin as our future Senior Minister. Several members in attendance rose to voice the concern that the interim ministry and the settled pastor search process should not be circumvented and that it might not be fair to Kevin to push him into that role – he needs time to personally reflect on his interest and role. Following a misunderstanding by a member of the congregation that the Officers had interviewed Kevin for the position of Senior Minister, Jim Trimble clarified that action had not been undertaken and Kevin, as well as Erica, had been interviewed for their reactions and personal thoughts on their roles and the future of First Church.

Jim announced that more frequent congregational meetings would be held going forward to keep the congregation informed of progress and plans.

It was moved; seconded; and carried that the meeting adjourn at 11:47 am.

Respectfully submitted;

William Ketchabaw  
Clerk of the Congregation

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## INFANT CARE BAGS UPDATE

The last meeting to assemble infant Care Bags (until next fall) will be on **Sunday, June 9th at 11:15 a.m. in Room 29**. All are welcome to come help put together these tote bags for children who are entering emergency foster care. ***The group will be assembling 20 bags and have many needs in order to have adequate supplies for the bags. Please review the following list and see if you are able to donate any of the needed supplies.***

sleepers for girls (2 each for sizes 18 months & 24 months)  
sleepers for boys (2 for size 24 months)  
baby cereal (8 boxes)  
individual packets of plain instant oatmeal (24)  
small plastic bowls (7)  
formula (12 containers)  
milk (8 "milk boxes")  
toothpaste (7 containers - cannot contain Fluoride)  
individual tissue packs (10)  
bottles (6)  
sippy cups (2)  
bibs (10)  
teethers (3)  
small toys for infants and toddlers



Any help would be greatly appreciated! Items can be dropped off in Palmer Hall in the big gray bin labeled "Care Bags." If you have any questions, please contact **Susan Sizer (860-658-4311, [susan.b.sizer@gmail.com](mailto:susan.b.sizer@gmail.com))**. It would also be great if you could contact Susan regarding any donations you leave in Palmer Hall. That will help in figuring out the shopping list for the June meeting.

Thank you!

# MAY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

## May Executive Council Highlights

Vice President Trimble led a discussion of the Annual Meeting held on Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup>. Overall the meeting was considered to be positive, especially the endorsement by the Congregation to borrow endowment funds, when appropriate, to initially fund the roof replacement with an expected historic grant to offset 50% of the cost.

Discussion on communication and transparency with the congregation concluded that the Executive Council highlights, currently published in the Cornerstone, should also be published by Clerk Ketchabaw in the worship bulletin as soon as possible following the Executive Council meeting. In addition, Treasurer Patterson will consider the publication of our financial status on a periodic basis along with highlights from the Board of Mission and Outreach on mission activity.

Reverend Weikel led discussion on how we might improve our program scheduling of activities for the forthcoming program year (July through June) in order to avoid conflicting programs and the elimination, if possible, of impacts on attendance by the congregation. The discussion ended with agreement that the major portion of our June 3<sup>rd</sup> Executive Council meeting would focus on the development of a program calendar.

John Ritson informed the meeting that he would be the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, replacing the co-chairpersons – Steve Paine and Phil Wilde.

At the request of Vice President Trimble, Paul Bryant, Chair of the Board of Elders, shared with the meeting recent feedback from the Elders concerning what they thought would be appropriate action to replace Jonathan Morgan.

It was noted that there had been no action or change to the Church security by the Board of Trustees since the last meeting of the Executive Council in April. Dave Wadhams, Chair of the Board of Mission and Outreach, summarized the progress of the subcommittee exploring possible uses of the West Street property. Following discussion, it was agreed that rather than a congregational survey of the potential uses identified, congregational suggestions will be solicited and the format of soliciting those suggestions will provide narrative on the topics or ideas that have surfaced to date.

John Ritson identified that Trustees plan to place a “suggestion box” in a convenient location for congregational feedback on repairs. John was encouraged to work with the Welcoming Committee to determine the best location. John also noted that the Trustees plan to isolate upper level parking locations for “seniors”.

Treasurer Ron Patterson brought to the attention of the meeting that we are behind on pledge income by \$38,000 and that some of our projected income will not materialize; specifically planned income from leasing the West Street House. Accordingly he asked the various Board chairs to submit a “2013 budget spend spreadsheet by month” for the balance of 2013. Mid-course adjustments may need to be made to assure we don’t encounter a deficit this year.

Bill Ketchabaw  
Clerk of the Congregation

May 17, 2013



# WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE?

## What Do Our Records Tell Us?

I've talked before about the old church and ecclesiastical society records that we had duplicated in 2004 and how important they are. Let's look at what they really tell us and what kind of window they are to look into our past and the life of our ministers and members. They are fun to read and sometimes what we learn can be quite amazing. Remember that the Church functioned separately from the Ecclesiastical Society. The Church's function was to meet the religious needs of the congregants: regular worship, the serving of communion, the performance of weddings, baptisms and funerals, and to provide religious education for adults and children. The Ecclesiastical Society functioned to run the business of the church: to control the finances of the church, to raise money for salaries of the ministers, the repair and maintenance of the church buildings, and to house the minister. Two sets of books were kept to record the events important to each body. They kept separate records until 1956 when they joined. After that we have only one record.

The oldest of our Church Records chronicles the events from 1682 until 1929. In these pages are recorded 247 years of annual meetings, special meetings, members added, members who left or died, baptisms, marriages, deaths, income and expenses and reports from the various other committees and the church school. In the annual and special meeting minutes, we can trace the officers of the church and the people who were directing the church school, and other functions. All this was duly recorded by hand in ink in a large ledger book by the church clerk. As the clerks changed, so did the handwriting. Some of it was beautiful cursive and easy to read today, and some of it was not so much. In the beginning, it tells about the early history of the church, from Dudley Woodbridge to Benajah Roots, and then Samuel Stebbins election and ordination in 1777.

After Mr. Stebbins left in 1806, the records cover the time of Allen McLean, who was ordained in August of 1809 and who served until he died in 1861. It lists the members under McLean and then lists Dudley Woodbridge's records, including baptisms, etc. It continues to cover the comings and goings of other ministers and some interesting discussions of a new Covenant of Faith and rules for admission and dismissal of members. In 1862, they voted to publish a history of the church. This was the first of several Church Manuals published by First Church. They still serve as a short history of our ministers and members. In 1874, the members voted to revise the Church Manual. In 1884, the church was formally incorporated. In the annual meeting minutes for December 1887, we learn the current membership was 161 people. When it was time to decide to build a new parsonage, much discussion ensued and a special meeting was held in October 1889 to vote to add to the parsonage fund. A new parsonage was built on Hopmeadow Street in 1890. Recall that it is still visible as part of a larger building where a hearing aid business now resides.

Charles Stowe was voted to be the next minister in 1891 and he and his family were the first to live in the new parsonage. In January 1892, at the annual meeting, the members considered building a chapel. In November of 1895, they discussed finding money for the chapel. Two men donated \$2500 that was to cover the expense. In 1896, they voted to use envelopes to collect money for charities and then set up a committee to prepare for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary, to be held in November 1897. The members chosen for the committee were the movers and shakers of the church and the community. The church published a little red hard cover book for the anniversary and it continued the history of the church. It is a treasure of information and has photographs taken at the time that show the interior of the church and some of the ministers who served the church. Mr. Stowe served here until 1899 and it is interesting to read his resignation and the record of the process of dismissing him. More next month.

Donna M. Hopkins,  
Church Historian



**HISTORICALLY  
SPEAKING**





## **ALL WOMEN OF FIRST CHURCH ARE INVITED!**

**Women's Fellowship Meeting  
Tuesday, June 4th at 7:30 p.m.  
Palmer Hall**

**Topic: Change, Transition & New Beginnings**

*Are you currently in the midst of change or transition in your life? Has that happened to you? Wondering how everyone deals with it and how you can deal with it yourself?*

*Come hear Susan Levine, MA, LPC, whose own change and new beginning was opening a counseling practice devoted to helping women who are experiencing the emotional challenges of change and major life transitions.*

*Sign-ups are available outside of the Parlor, in Palmer Hall during coffee hour or by calling the church office at 860-651-3593.*

*Would you like to help set up, clean up or contribute something for a light dessert? Contact **Cindy Braunlich** at [cbraunlich@gmail.com](mailto:cbraunlich@gmail.com) or 860-217-1810.*



### **Letter to Artists and to the Congregation**

After fourteen wonderful years planning and exhibiting your art to the congregation, it seems a good time to pass this ministry on to another team. This has been a very rewarding experience for me, particularly working with Lee Ora, who knows so much about art, and has a great eye for hanging each piece. We will be happy to work with a new Arts Committee to find artists and to organize exhibits. I think all the kinks are worked out so that it should be fairly uncomplicated – and fun!

We thank you all for your encouragement and loyal support.

*Nancy Poole*

I have been involved with the Arts Committee at First Church for over twenty years. It has been enjoyable and interesting to work with people who support the Arts. Working with Nancy Poole, who loves everything about art, has made the time fly. The new display areas also have made a big difference in showing the art at the church. However, I also feel that it's time to have another group carry on this ministry. Many thanks to everyone who has supported us and the Arts.

*Lee Ora*

## Board of Finance Report

The Board of Finance has had a busy year and I want to thank all our Board members for their hard work and time spent in 2012-2013.

We conducted an audit by Morgan Stanley Smith Barney of our Endowment Policy this year and the report confirmed the Board's policies, procedures and investment policies complied with our guidelines outlined in the church Bylaws. The investment returns this year were quite good and exceeded the indexes for our asset allocation model.

We also concluded a Financial Review, which we do every five years by an outside accounting firm, to review our internal policies and procedures used for financial reporting and controls. The report conducted by Whittlesey & Hadley, P.C, found that our reporting was in compliance with proper standards. Some recommendations in the report are being reviewed by the Executive Council and the Board of Finance for approval.

The Board approved a budget for 2013 and presented it at the Annual Financial Meeting in February where it was approved by the congregation. The pledge projection was \$745,000 versus \$755,000 for 2012. The overall income projection for 2013 is \$890,190, including a surplus carryover from 2012 of \$25,571. Currently, we are running behind on pledges by about \$37,000 year-to-date, which is a concern. We also have some projected income shortfalls from rentals not anticipated in February. So some mid-term adjustments to various Board budgets may be required.

We still have not initiated a Capital Campaign to address the long term, as well as some short term capital needs, such as a new roof. We have initiated a request for a 50% reimbursement of costs for a much needed roof replacement with the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation. We are hopeful we will be successful but will still need to pay the initial costs of the roof out of church funds (estimated to be \$90,000). So this issue will need to be discussed and approved by the congregation, as we may need to borrow money from our endowment portfolio on a temporary basis.

We face financial challenges this year as do most churches in this economy and culture. With your help, we will strive to keep expenses down and encourage generous pledge donations to accommodate our strategic and spiritual goals.

*Ron Patterson, Treasurer*

## Thank You, All!



On Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, in our sanctuary, I had my Ecclesiastical Council with the Farmington Valley Association of the CT Conference. After presenting my ordination paper and responding to questions, they voted to approve me for Ordination, pending a call to a church or authorized ministry. It was a joyous culmination of a four and a half year journey toward ordination in the United Church of Christ.

This evening was special in so many ways, but most importantly it was the many First Church members that came to support me and affirm my call to ministry. What a gift it was to see the breadth and depth of your support. WOW! I was truly overwhelmed! Thank you!

I also want to offer my sincerest gratitude to the Board of Elders, who planned the event and the marvelous reception afterwards. The food, the decorations, and the flowers were beautiful! In particular, I would like to thank Cindy Braunlich, Mary Porter Wright, Sara Batchelder, Carol Pollock and Penny Roskin for all of their behind-the-scenes work and attention to the small details that made this evening very special. Additionally, I want to thank all those who volunteered to read my Ordination paper and offer feedback; this was no small task and I am grateful. Last, but not least, I have deep gratitude for Jonathan, Kevin, Erica, Mark, Cindy, Cathie, Darlene, Ann and Joe for all that they have done, both large and small, over the years to help me come to this time and place.

It has been a journey, not of one, but of many....I am truly blessed. Thank you!

*Diann*

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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!

**First Church of Christ**

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**FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE  
JUNE 2013**

- 6/2/13** Welcoming Church Ministry Team
- 6/9/13** Board of Finance
- 6/16/13** Board of Trustees
- 6/23/13** Board of Mission & Outreach, including Care Bags
- 6/30/13** Board of Elders

**First Church of Christ**

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# JUNE 2013

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday  |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|---|
|  |   |  |   |   |  | 1<br>9:00 AM<br>Farmington Valley<br>Chorus, Palmer Hall  |
| 2<br>8:00 AM Meeting the Spirit<br>Bible Study, Parsons' Study<br>9:30 AM Worship Service,<br>Sanctuary<br>10:00 AM Pre- Confirmation<br>11:15 AM Care Bag Committee<br>Assembly, Rm 29<br>7:00 PM Farmington Valley<br>Assoc. of the United Church of<br>Christ Annual Mtg., Sanctuary<br>7:00 PM PF Youth Group, Youth<br>Room   | 3<br>10:00 AM CCC<br>12:00 PM<br>Hopmeadow<br>Nursery School<br>Dance Class, Rm 29<br>1:00 PM American<br>Red Cross Blood<br>Drive<br>4:30 PM Book Club,<br>Parlor<br>7:30 PM Executive<br>Council Mtg.,<br>Parsons' Study              | 4<br>9:30 AM Music<br>Together, Rm 29<br>10:30 AM Private<br>meeting/Parlor<br>12:30 PM Music<br>Together, Rm 29<br>6:30 PM Bible<br>Study, Library<br>7:30 PM Women's<br>Fellowship Mtg.,<br>Palmer Hall  | 5<br>7:30 AM Executive<br>Officers Mtg.,<br>Parsons' Study<br>8:00 AM Craft<br>Seminar, Palmer<br>Hall/Kitchen<br>9:00 AM Volunteers<br>folding/stuffing<br>letters, Parsons'<br>Study<br>9:15 AM Music<br>Together, Rm 29<br>9:30 AM Hay Stack,<br>Rm 28<br>10:15 AM Music<br>Together, Rm 29<br>4:00 PM Women's<br>Praise Choir<br>7:00 PM<br>Farmington Valley<br>Chorus, Palmer | 6<br>7:30 AM Welcoming<br>Committee<br>6:00 PM Bell Choir<br>Rehearsal<br>6:30 PM Troop 76<br>Boy Scouts Mtg.,<br>Palmer Hall/Kitchen<br>7:00 PM Interim<br>Search Committee/<br>Parsons' Study<br>7:30 PM AA-<br>Alcoholics<br>Anonymous Mtg,<br>Rm 28<br>7:30 PM Chancel<br>Choir | 7<br>10:00 AM<br>Welcoming<br>Committee/<br>Welcome Centers<br>2:15 PM Junior<br>Fellowship<br>Gathering                             | 8   |
| 9<br>2:00 AM Setup Piano Recital<br>8:00 AM Meeting the Spirit<br>Bible Study, Parsons' Study<br>8:30 AM Baptismal family<br>gathering<br>9:30 AM Jansen Baptism<br>9:30 AM Worship Service,<br>Sanctuary<br>10:00 AM Pre- Confirmation<br>11:15 AM Infant Care Bags<br>Assembling, Rm. 29<br>3:00 PM Piano Recital,<br>Sanctuary<br>7:00 PM PF Youth Group<br>Mission Trip Pre-Mtg., Palmer<br>Hall | 10<br>10:00 AM CCC<br>12:00 PM<br>Hopmeadow<br>Nursery School<br>Dance Class, Rm 29<br>1:15 PM Food Share<br>Truck<br>7:30 PM All Boards<br>Meeting   | 11<br>9:30 AM Music<br>Together, Rm 29<br>12:00 PM Retired<br>Men's Luncheon<br>4:00 PM<br>Farmington Valley<br>Committee on<br>Ministry, Parsons'<br>Study<br>7:00 PM Deacon's<br>Committee Mtg.,<br>Library<br>7:00 PM ONA<br>committee<br>meeting/Parsons'<br>Study | 12<br>9:15 AM Music<br>Together, Rm 29<br>10:15 AM Music<br>Together, Rm 29<br>4:00 PM Women's<br>Praise Choir<br>7:00 PM<br>Farmington Valley<br>Chorus, Palmer<br>Hall  | 13<br>9:00 AM Women's<br>Small Grp. mtg.,<br>Library<br>4:00 PM Women's<br>Praise Picnic<br>6:00 PM Bell Choir<br>Rehearsal<br>6:30 PM Troop 76<br>Boy Scouts Mtg.,<br>Palmer Hall/Kitchen<br>7:30 PM AA-<br>Alcoholics<br>Anonymous Mtg,<br>Rm 28<br>7:30 PM Chancel<br>Choir      | 14<br>9:15 AM Small Grp<br>Bible Study for<br>Moms, Youth Rm/<br>Nursery<br>3:30 PM Wedding<br>Rehearsal-Timbie/<br>Click, Sanctuary | 15<br>1:00 PM Wedding-<br>Timbie/Click<br>5:00 PM set up for<br>Eagle Scout<br>ceremonies<br>6:30 PM Bible<br>Study, Library<br>7:00 PM Gschwind/<br>Carr/Lungarini-<br>Eagle Scout<br>Ceremonies/<br>Sanctuary/Palmer<br>Hall/kitchen<br>7:30 PM Troop 76<br>Adult Committee<br>Mtg., Parsons' Study |
| 16<br>8:00 AM Meeting the Spirit<br>Bible Study, Parsons' Study<br>9:30 AM Worship Service,<br>Sanctuary<br>10:00 AM Pre- Confirmation<br>7:00 PM PF Picnic & Senior<br>Recognition, Penwood Park  | 17<br>10:00 AM CCC<br>12:00 PM<br>Hopmeadow<br>Nursery School<br>Dance Class, Rm 29<br>1:00 PM American<br>Red Cross Blood<br>Drive<br>7:00 PM Board of<br>Mission Mtg.,<br>Parsons' Study  | 18<br>9:30 AM Prayer<br>Shawl Morning<br>Gathering, Rm 28<br>12:30 PM Music<br>Together, Rm 29<br>4:00 PM<br>Farmington Valley<br>Committee on<br>Ministry, Parlor<br>6:30 PM Bible<br>Study, Library<br>7:00 PM Prayer<br>Shawl Evening<br>Gathering, Rm 28           | 19<br>4:00 PM Women's<br>Praise Choir<br>7:00 PM<br>Farmington Valley<br>Chorus, Palmer<br>Hall   | 20<br>6:00 PM Bell Choir<br>Rehearsal<br>6:30 PM Troop 76<br>Boy Scouts Mtg.,<br>Palmer Hall/Kitchen<br>7:30 PM AA-<br>Alcoholics<br>Anonymous Mtg,<br>Rm 28<br>7:30 PM Chancel<br>Choir  | 21<br>8:00 AM<br>Preparation for<br>JJM's reception  | 22<br>Reception<br>preparation for JJM  |
| 23<br>8:00 AM JJM reception after<br>9:30 service<br>8:00 AM Meeting the Spirit<br>Bible Study, Parsons' Study<br>9:30 AM Worship Service,<br>Sanctuary<br>10:00 AM Pre- Confirmation<br>2:30 PM Vocal recital/Kelsey<br>Hagstrom, Sanctuary<br>7:00 PM PF Youth Group<br>Mission Trip Pre-Mtg. #2,<br>Palmer Hall   | 24<br>7:00 AM PALMER<br>HALL CLOSED -<br>CLEANING FLOORS<br>10:00 AM CCC<br>12:00 PM<br>Hopmeadow<br>Nursery School<br>Dance Class, Rm 29<br>1:15 PM Food Share<br>Truck<br>6:00 PM FMHCC<br>Board of Directors<br>Mtg., Parsons' Study | 25<br>10:00 AM Card<br>Making Group, Rm<br>28  | 26<br>12:00 PM 4th Wed.<br>Study Group, Rm 28<br>4:00 PM Women's<br>Praise Choir<br>7:00 PM<br>Farmington Valley<br>Chorus, Palmer<br>Hall  | 27<br>9:00 AM Women's<br>Small Grp. Mtg.,<br>Library<br>6:00 PM Bell Choir<br>Rehearsal<br>6:30 PM Troop 76<br>Boy Scouts Mtg.,<br>Palmer Hall/Kitchen<br>7:30 PM AA-<br>Alcoholics<br>Anonymous Mtg,<br>Rm 28<br>7:30 PM Chancel<br>Choir  | 28   | 29  |
| 30<br>8:00 AM Meeting the Spirit<br>Bible Study, Parsons' Study<br>8:30 AM Baptismal family<br>gathering/parlor<br>9:30 AM Baptism of Cooper<br>Armstrong<br>9:30 AM Worship Service,<br>Sanctuary<br>11:30 AM Lunch Bunch<br>Gathering  |   |  |   |   |  |   |