


THE CORNERSTONE



Working together for the good of all.

September, 2011

SEPTEMBER, 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				6:30 Troop 76 Leadership & Committee Meeting, Parsons' Study 7:30 AA meeting - Room 28	10:00 Hopmeadow Nursery School's - 'Meet The Teachers' Open House - Nursery School Rooms	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:30 Worship - Sanctuary	Holiday - Office Closed Labor Day 	First Day of Class at Hopmeadow Nursery School 1:00 Red Cross blood drive 7:30 Executive Council meeting, Parsons' Study	9:30 Hay Stack, Rm 28 4:00 Women's Praise Choir 7:00 Teacher/Shephard Orientation, Parlor 7:30 Supper Club Board, Parsons' Study 7:00 Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall	6:00 Bell Choir, Rm 29 6:30 Occasional Choir 7:00 Boy Scout Troop 76 Meeting, Palmer Hall 7:30 AA meeting, Room 28 7:30 Chancel Choir	2:10 Junior Fellowship	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10:00 Worship - Sanctuary 10:00 Church School 11:00 Fall Festival following Worship service 7:00 PF Youth Group	4:15 Junior Choir 7:15 All Boards meeting, All rooms booked	12:00 Retired Men's Luncheon 4:00 Committee on Ministry, Parlor	4:00 Women's Praise Choir 7:00 Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall	6:00 Bell Choir, Room 29 6:30 Occasional Choir 6:30 Boy Scout Troop 76 Meeting, Palmer Hall 7:30 AA meeting, Room 28 7:30 Chancel Choir	5:00 Cunningham/Underwood Wedding Rehearsal, Sanctuary	10:30 Cunningham/Underwood Wedding, Sanctuary
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:30 Sunday Worship, Chapel 10:00 Worship, Sanctuary 10:00 Church School 11:15 Committee of Deacons Mtg., Library 11:30 Women's Small Grp Mtg, Parsons' Study 1:30 South Park Inn Meal Prep, Kitchen 7:00 PF Youth Group	1:00 Red Cross blood drive 4:15 Junior Choir	9:30 Prayer Shawl Mtg., Room 28	8:30 Music Together classes, Rm 29 4:00 Women's Praise Choir 7:00 Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall	6:00 Bell Choir, Room 29 6:30 Occasional Choir 7:00 Boy Scout Troop 76 Meeting, Palmer Hall 7:30 AA meeting, Room 28 7:30 Chancel Choir	2:10 Junior Fellowship	6:00 Church School Lock-In - Palmer Hall, Kitchen, Sanctuary
25	26	27	28	29	30	
8:30 Worship Service, Chapel 10:00 Church School Lock-In ends—kids prep/serving coffee hour - Palmer Hall, Kitchen, Sanctuary 10:00 Worship, Sanctuary 10:00 Church School 1:00 Card Making Class, Palmer Hall & Kitchen 7:00 PF Youth Group	8:00 Card Making Class, Palmer Hall & Kitchen 4:15 Junior Choir 6:00 FMHCC Board of Directors meeting, Parsons' Study	10:00 Card making group, Room 28 6:00 Columbian Missionary Visit, Michael Joseph, Palmer Hall	8:30 Music Together classes, Rm 29 12:00 4th Wed. Study Group, Rm 28 4:00 Women's Praise Choir 7:00 Farmington Valley Chorus, Palmer Hall	6:00 Bell Choir, Room 29 6:30 Occasional Choir 7:00 Boy Scout Troop 76 Meeting, Palmer Hall 7:30 AA meeting, Room 28 7:30 Chancel Choir		

THE CORNERSTONE

SEPTEMBER 2011 WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

**Sept. 4th 9:30 a.m.—Worship in the Meetinghouse—
Communion Sunday (Last Summer Service)**
Jonathan Morgan preaching

**Sept. 11th 10:00 a.m.—Worship in the Meetinghouse—Fall Festival
(ONE SERVICE ONLY)
Sunday School Begins**

Jonathan Morgan preaching on Romans 12: 1-8
“Claiming What is Good and Perfect in a Decidedly Imperfect World”

SPECIAL FALL FESTIVAL CELEBRATION AFTER WORSHIP
Bring a friend or neighbor!

BEGINNING OF TWO WORSHIP SERVICES STARTING SEPT. 18TH

**Sept. 18th 8:30 a.m.—Worship in the Chapel
10:00 a.m.—Worship in the Meetinghouse**

Alison Buttrick Patton preaching both services
“The measure you give...” Luke 6:38

**Sept. 25th 8:30 a.m.—Worship in the Chapel
10:00 a.m.—Worship in the Meetinghouse**

Kevin Weikel preaching both services

From the Senior Minister's Desk

Dear Friends in Christ,



It is good to be home!

As we begin this new church year, I do so with a deep sense of gratitude for my time of rest, reframing, and revitalization you offered me during these past three months. My time away on Sabbatical was a rich and fulfilling experience and I am excited to begin the process of assimilating my experience into our wonderful ministry here at First Church. The time away has helped broaden my knowledge as a pastor and deepen my faith as a follower of Jesus Christ while refreshing my vision of where we may be called as a community of faith. It was truly a blessing!

There are so many I need to thank for this blessing. I am grateful to my Pastoral Relations Committee members and the entire Leadership Team for their support and guidance. I am also grateful to the members of the Church who helped finance my Sabbatical through generous gifts, and the many who offered their heart-felt encouragement. Lastly, I am deeply grateful to our talented and caring staff who worked extra hard to serve the needs of this congregation and our ministry so faithfully, and for the exceptional coverage offered by our Seminararians, Diann Bailey and Erica Nierendorf-Petitti. And then there are Alison and Kevin... what can I say other than I am not surprised but deeply impressed with how well they handled the numerous challenges and joys of pastoral ministry in my absence with such grace and expertise. We are truly blessed to have such fine pastors in our midst!

In the coming days, I will be sending out a brief synopsis about my experience through an all-church email (copies will be available in the office). In the coming weeks, I will be sharing my findings with the staff, the leadership team, the Strategic Planning Committee, and with all of you, so that we may choose how we might integrate my thoughts and hopes for First Church into our Shared Vision for this great church. Stay tuned to learn how you can be part of this exciting process as we move our church into its next level of ministry for our community and the world.

It is truly good to be home again!

In the Joy of Christ's Service,

Jonathan

The Strategic Planning Process – Headed for Home

At the annual meeting in May, Billye Auclair reviewed the work done over the winter and spring by the First Church Strategic Planning Committee. This group, initially chaired by Billye, but now very ably led by John Wright, has continued to stay busy over the summer.

Over the last few weeks, this group of committed volunteers has met with various organized parts of the church (e.g., all the past presidents, most of the Church Boards) and has also held a number of “cottage meetings” with congregation members, soliciting input and feedback on the key issues being addressed in the strategic plan. Based on this feedback and their continuing evaluative process, the Committee has refined and narrowed the alternatives in front of us as we grapple with how best to advance our vision of First Church.

In September, the Strategic Planning Committee will be reviewing their initial draft with your Executive Council to be followed by further refinement, and finalizing a process for presenting it to the Congregation later this fall. Much thought, discussion and prayer has gone into discerning how we should best define and organize ourselves in the future to fulfill our call, and we need your participation and engagement to bring it to closure and adoption.

As we head down the home stretch of this very important process, please take the time to participate and join us in the critical review and discussion of the draft strategic plan. It will be a unique opportunity to actively contribute to defining our future.

Blessings:



William J. Goss

From the Associate Minister for Parish Life and Outreach

Count yourself blessed...

My children have been talking all summer about the stories they will be expected to tell when they get back to school. Whenever we have a particularly good day, they say, “*This will be my sharing!*” First it was the week spent at Silver Lake Conference Center, where all four of us participated in summer camp (I and Craig as leaders; Tobey as a conferee; Ian as a ‘junior counselor’ for our teen group!). The campfire songs were goofy and fun; the food was fantastic; the high ropes and canoe trip offered the best kind of challenge; but most notably, the community was full of welcoming, open-hearted people hanging out together in “God’s back yard” and growing in faith.

Then, there were the caves we explored near Cooperstown, NY; the camping with friends; the geo-cache we found by mistake (a geo-cache is a box hidden in the wild, and designed to be found using a GPS system: a modern-day treasure hunt!). There was the time spent with two sets of grandparents; lobster on the Cape and baseball camp... the List goes on! Truly, we have had a summer rich with adventure. My sons will return to school with plenty to share!

...And so will I. As we launch the fall season, I am keenly aware of the ways I have been blessed in recent months...by family, friends and faith community. I wonder how to express gratitude for this life, and for the ways that God has touched and taught me, nurtured and inspired me along the way. Maybe you have wondered, too. It is a good thing to ask, as people of faith:

“How can I say ‘thank you’ to the Source of all Blessing? How can I give back to God?” Of course, it’s easiest to remember to say ‘thank you’ when things are going well. But what about those other times?

My summer included time away, but it also included very full and challenging weeks at First Church. Together we grieved the passing of several much-loved First Church members and friends, including our own sexton, Avdo Fatic. We also navigated three months during which two rather than three ministers had primary responsibility for the oversight of our ministries. These were not easy months, but even then I was thankful – for the support of this congregation; for the chance to collaborate with my colleague, Kevin; for the privilege of walking with families in time of sadness and joy; for all that I have learned...

So, how *do* we say “Thank you?” Here are a few possibilities: Volunteer time to rehab a house for a family in need; join a small group to explore faith and deepen your connection to God; make a financial pledge to First Church that reflects God’s own generosity. In the words of a colleague: “Give until it feels good!” Of course, we can’t ever ‘re-pay’ God for all that God has done; but we *can* strive to live generous lives, to give of ourselves, to declare an exuberant ‘thank you!’ with our words and our actions, our time and our resources. We can seek out ways to bless others, as God has first blessed us. I hope you’ll join me in doing just that this fall at First Church.

Grace and Peace,

Alison

Imagine What's Possible: General Synod 28—the United Church of Christ Conference

- ◆ Creative worship with music from many traditions, sacred dance and dramatic visuals – including an on-stage beach!
- ◆ Resolutions on topics as wide-ranging as the right of gay couples to adopt, support for youth ministries, a call for interfaith learning and an appeal to ratify the nuclear test ban treaty
- ◆ A vote that dramatically changes the structure of the United Church of Christ national setting

Fifty delegates from the Connecticut Conference joined over 3,000 other delegates and hundreds of ecumenical guests and presenters in Tampa, FL on July 1-5 for the **28th General Synod of the United Church of Christ**. Synod 28's theme, "***Imagine What's Possible***," was woven into everything from the dynamic, creative worship services to keynote speeches and an extensive range of seminars on church leadership and congregational vitality.

The largest piece of business at General Synod 28 involved proposed changes to the constitution and bylaws of the UCC in order to restructure the governance of the national setting of the church. After years of committee work and a debate that has, at times, been quite contentious, General Synod 28 voted in favor of the proposal, which calls for dissolving the current structure of five separate boards and the creation of a single unified governing board. The amendments must now be ratified by two-thirds of the Conferences over the next two years.

Over a dozen resolutions and other proposals were considered by committees at General Synod and brought to the floor for debate and action by the delegates as a whole. A highlight was the adoption of a Common Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Baptism that provides a framework for baptism to be recognized between the UCC, Presbyterian Church USA, the Reformed Church of America, the Christian Reformed Church, and the American Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church. New committee members, moderators, and other officials were also elected, including three new officers for the five-member Collegium – the leadership team that interprets and implements the work of the national setting of the United Church of Christ (the three new members include the Executive for Wider Church Ministries, the Executive for Local Church Ministries and the Associate General Minister).

During the closing worship service, The Rev. Elizabeth Mitchell Clement asked a series of open ended questions, provoking the church to consider just what is possible when we put aside our fear, blame, and scarcity – a resonant message in these challenging times. Full coverage of General Synod 28, including an extensive collection of videos, is available at <http://www.ucc.org/synod/>. General Synod 29 will be held in Long Beach, CA in 2013.

~ Craig D.B. Patton, *General Synod Delegate*

Church School News

K.I.D.S. @ First

Kids Investigating Divine Stories at First Church

Nursery (ages 3 & under)

The nursery (Rm. 20) is available during the service for children ages 3 and under. In September, the children will be learning about the Creation story.

Pre-K Class (ages 3-4)

The Pre-K class (Rm. 38) will be learning about the church with a unit entitled "Let's Go to Church" by doing crafts, playing games, and singing in the month of September. Students each week will have the opportunity to be chosen to bring the Jesus doll and journal home to spend the week with Jesus. Parents record what the "Jesus" and the family did together during the week and the journal entry is read in class on Sunday morning. Students will start in church and be dismissed to their class after the children's message.

Kindergarten Class—The Kindergarten class (Rm. 37) will be learning the Bible story about Creation through games, crafts, and activities. This story focus is on "God Made Us Special" and wants us to take care of our world. Students will start in church and be dismissed to the chapel after the children's message.

Rotation Program for Grades 1-6, Living as Caretakers:

Bible Story Reference: 1:1-2:2:4, 15

Bible Verse: Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air, for every living thing that moves on the earth. (Genesis 1:28b)

Main Idea: All that we are and all that we have comes to us as a gift from God. God calls us to care for all of creation by caring for ourselves, for others, and for the natural world. By learning how to use our money, time, and talents to serve God, we fulfill our call to care for creation.

Objectives: Children will hear the story of Creation from Genesis; hear that God gave people the responsibility of caring for creation in the story from Genesis; explore the concept of stewardship, and discover how to act as a steward or caretaker of God's creation; discover how to be better caretakers of God's creation by working together with others; discover ways to use their creativity, their talents, their money, and their time to serve God by caring for others, for the natural world, and for themselves.

	B.L.A.S.T Rm.35-Art	Mouse Pad Rm.32- Computers	Creation Station Rm.34-Cooking	Coliseum Rm.29- Games	Blockbuster Rm.27- Movie
Wk. 1 (9/11) PreK-6 Begin in Church	Gr. 1	Gr. 2 Gr. 4	Gr. 3	No class today	Gr. 5 Gr. 6
Wk. 2 (9/18) PreK-6 Begin in Church	Gr. 2 Gr. 4	Gr. 3	No class today	Gr. 5 Gr. 6	Gr.1
Wk. 3 (9/25) PreK- 6 Begin in Church	Gr. 3	No class today	Gr. 5 Gr. 6	Gr. 1	Gr. 2 Gr. 4
Wk. 4 (10/2) PreK-6 Begin in Church	No class today	Gr. 5 Gr. 6	Gr. 1	Gr. 2 Gr. 4	Gr. 3
Wk. 5 (10/19) PreK-6 Begin in Church	Gr. 5 Gr. 6	Gr. 1	Gr. 2 Gr. 4	Gr. 3	No class today

Fall Church School

Student Clip-on Name tags:

should be picked up in the welcoming area. Boxes are labeled by grade. Shepherds will collect the name tags at the end of class.

Sept 7: Teacher / Shepherd Orientation,

7:00 pm, Parlor

Sept 11: 1st day of Church School

Sept 18: CLASS PHOTO DAY! Pictures will be displayed in the children's information center on the 3rd floor.

Sept 24-25: "God Made Me Special" Lock-in

Oct 30, Feasts & Festivals Event, Palmer Hall, 10:15-12:00 Noon. Wear your Halloween costume & bring a friend



“God Made Me Special” Lock-In

**September 24 (Sat) 6:00 p.m. thru
September 25 (Sun), 10:00 a.m.
in Palmer Hall**



Who is invited?

Grades 1-3 are eligible, if accompanied by parent
Grades 4-6 can be signed in and dropped off

What is going on at the lock-in?

Games, crafts, VeggieTale movie (*Princess & the Pop star*), candlelight mini-worship in the Sanctuary, international bread baking for coffee hour on Sunday & World Communion Sunday

What are we eating?

Cost: \$5 donation towards food

Dinner: mac & cheese, spaghetti & marinara sauce, veggie platter, Italian bread

Breakfast: cereal, bagels, fruit, juice

Sign up required:

Email: cindy.cole@1stchurchsimsbury.org or sign up on the bulletin board on the 3rd floor.

Fall Teachers

Thank you for volunteering this Fall!

Nursery— *Kate Bruno, Cheryl Robucci*; Teen Aides: *Abby Gardner, Stephanie Mueller, Olivia Tawney*

Pre-K— *Meredith Dendinger, Jennifer Parmelee Witt*; Teen Aide: *Marrisa Hedman*

Kindergarten—*Pattie Scanlon*, 1 additional teacher needed;
Teen Aide: *Lydia Warters*

Rotation Program, Grades 1-6

Computer room – *Craig Patton, Debbie Ackels*

Cooking room – *Chris Morkan, Linda Peach*

Art room – *Ann Marie Prabulos, JoAnn Hogan*; Teen Aides:
Ashley Uliasz & Andrew Yanik

Game room – *Bryan Tawney, Beth Strapp*

Movie room – *Yolanda Wilde*; 1 additional teacher needed

Shepherds for Sept 13-Dec. 14

1st grade shepherd— *Erin Naspo*

2nd grade shepherd - *Jackie Brooke*

3rd grade shepherd – *Trica Laubscher*

4th grade shepherd – **NEED SHEPHERD**

5th & 6th grade shepherd – *Kim Tawney*

What to bring to the lock-in:

Sleeping bag
Sleeping bag pad
Pillow
Toothbrush & paste
Hairbrush
PJ's
Change of clothes for Sunday

What NOT to Bring:

No Cell phones,
ipods, electronic
handheld games



REV. KEVIN WEIKEL—YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY
PLAY, DISCUSS, WORSHIP, GROW, SERVE, LOVE...

JUNIOR FELLOWSHIP (for 7th and 8th graders)

Friday, Sept. 9th 2:10-4:00 p.m. We'll play get to know you icebreakers and team-building games, have conversation on Luke 14:15-24 (how The Great Banquet relates to JF), and close with a candle prayer.

Friday, Sept. 23rd 2:10-4:00 p.m. We'll stop at J. Fosters (bring \$5 for your ice cream) before heading to the church for icebreakers, games, and the second part of our conversation on how "The Great Banquet" in Luke 14 relates to JF. We'll close with a candle prayer.

CONFIRMATION (for 8th graders)

Schedule coming soon.

PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP YOUTH GROUP (for 9th-12th graders)

Sunday, Sept. 4th No PF—Labor Day Weekend

Sunday, Sept. 11th 7:00-9:00 p.m.—Join us for the first night of PF! We'll have icebreakers, games, an opening devotion and candle prayer.

Sunday, Sept. 18th 7:00-9:00 p.m.—We'll walk to J. Fosters (bring \$5 for your ice cream) and then go back to the church for icebreakers, team-building activities, a devotion and prayer.

Sunday, Sept. 25th 7:00-9:00 p.m.—TBD.

Music Notes

September is upon us, and things are switching into high gear for music here at First.

Our choirs will begin rehearsing after Labor Day – Women’s Praise will rehearse on Wednesday at 4:00 p.m., September 7th; Choral Bells on Thursday, September 8th at 6:00 p.m.; Occasional Choir reconvenes on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m., and Chancel Choir sings immediately after at 7:30 p.m. The Junior Choir will commence on Monday, September 12 at 4:15 p.m. Please don’t forget to bring your 2nd through 6th graders to this – we have some great songs planned— from folk to reggae to rock, complete with accompanying band - Not to mention the snacks!

I want to say that we are in great need of singers and players who would like to be part of the music program here. We have suffered some significant losses: we lost singer Tom Yoczik, who passed away this summer, Aurelia Michaels who moved away last year, and we need people to not only replace their very missed voices, but to add to the numbers that we already have. I urge you to come and take part, and not let any of our musical groups be placed on the endangered list. There are some very interesting and challenging things that I would like to attempt this year, and we need voices to be able to make them happen. These musical groups are not only a reflection of, but really belong to, those who take part. I would like you to please come and join us and make them your own.

We are very excited about the concerts for this year. We are planning a choral concert featuring the Silk City Singers in late October; the Farmington Valley Choral will be performing their Winter Program in our sanctuary on December 3rd, we have what has become our annual Jazz Cabaret (last year was a sell-out) in Palmer Hall sometime in February. We are also looking into a Traditional Zulu African touring ensemble from South Africa, some bluegrass, and some classical to round out the season.

We are finalizing the Thanksgiving and Christmas season, (Women’s Praise once again at *Simsbury Celebrates*); looking at the short list for a Music Sunday, talking with Yves and the Methodist Choir about a joint effort - either for a concert or on a Sunday morning, We are planning Easter, a Bell Festival, and we have the dates already for the Junior Choir exchange with the Methodist Church. The success of all this depends on your presence and input. Very simply, we need you. You will not regret taking part – the rewards are countless. So please come and donate some of your time, talent, and spirit to the glory of God. It’s why we’re all here.

Thanks- see you in the fall-

Mark



“I Love to Tell the Story...”

“I Love To Tell the Story...” is a monthly column featuring personal stories by First Church members and friends about the ways this church has Made a difference in their life and faith.”

Gifts at First Church are a two-way street -- we devote our time and our energy, and we contribute money to help fund the many missions of the church -- and the church gives right back to us.

We witness, as parents or teachers, the budding faith of our children in church school.

We close our eyes and enjoy moving music in each of our worship services -- whether the full choir with organ, or a saxophone solo in the 8:30 chapel service.

We feel the camaraderie and good physical effort of pulling weeds at the Apple Barn home, swinging hammers in Biloxi, joining old and new friends on the Walk against Hunger.

We prayerfully consider and contribute a share of our financial resources to support every part of First Church.

In every way, every time, we give of ourselves to First Church, our own faith and our devotion to this community of faith is deepened.

As we head into the season of Stewardship, may we all count ourselves blessed. Consider how you contribute to the life of First Church -- we all do in our own ways -- and then consider sharing that story with all of us, either in print or spoken, to inspire others to see with new eyes all the many gifts we bring to -- and take from -- our church.

Susan Stover
for the Stewardship Committee



FALL FESTIVAL AT FIRST CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 11th

**Annual Kick-off to An Exciting
New Year at First Church!**

Place: Upper Parking Lot
When: following the 10:00 Worship

RAIN OR SHINE!!

*Enjoy A Music-Filled Fair,
with Fun & Games For All Ages,
Hot Dogs & Hamburgers
and other delicious
food, including smoothies!!*

**Help is needed to SET UP Fall Festival:
Please contact Suzie Sabia at:
suzysabia@sbcglobal.net 651-1724**



A New Exhibit – Saving Our Church Records

September begins a new exhibit on the second floor in the History Corner. It is the story of how some of our most irreplaceable church records have been saved for posterity. To date, we have had two volumes each of the Church and Ecclesiastical Society records digitally photographed, conserved if needed, and copied to produce new bound volumes. Previously, there were no copies of any of the four volumes containing the history of the church functioning or the Society that conducted business for the church. The Bridgeport National Bindery in Agawam, MA did this work for us. In addition to making copies of these records in book form, they also created CD's that can be looked at on a computer. We had six copies of each record made so we could share them with other institutions who wanted them. This work was funded by the proceeds from the sale of Lyman Potter's history of First Church, entitled: *To Sette Ourselves in Gospel Order...*, published in 2002, and from donations following the death of Boyd Hopkins in 2006.

In 2004, the first two record books were preserved. They were *First Church Records Simsbury CT 1682 – 1929* and *The First Ecclesiastical Society Records of Simsbury CT, 1832 – 1907*. The Church Records deal only with the happenings of the church and its religious functions including worship, annual meetings minutes and votes, records of new and lost members, special meetings to deal with special happenings such as the resignation of and the search for a pastor, a change in the church covenant, or plans for the celebration of a special event. The Ecclesiastical Society Records preserve the business dealings of the church and contain detailed records of annual meetings including reports on investments; expenses such as replacement of the roof, new pews, redecorating the church, or the telephone bill for the office; plans and expense of the 200th Anniversary celebration in 1897; the resignation of a pastor and the negotiations for salaries and vacation for a replacement, etc.

In 2009, the second set of books were preserved. By then the technology was better for doing the job of digitally photographing the books. They did not require the books to be taken apart page by page and the cost of duplicating them had dropped significantly. The *First Church Records Simsbury, CT 1930 – 1956* and the *First Ecclesiastical Society – Second Book Simsbury, CT 1907 - 1956* were preserved and duplicated. They both ended in 1956 because in that year the two entities, the Church and the Society merged to become *The First Church and Ecclesiastical Society of Simsbury, CT, Inc*. Now there is only one set of books kept.

Stop by the second floor and take a look at the new exhibit in the display cases. See the books as they were and as they look as duplicates. Read the story of this process. You could even see how you could have your own family history duplicated, including photos, and be able to share them with others.

If you wish to use these books or the CDs for research, you must call me to set up an appointment either at church at 651-3593 or at home at 404-8814.

Donna M. Hopkins, Historian



Board of Mission and Outreach *South Park Inn*

WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME ALONG WITH US OR WORK "BEHIND THE SCENES" PREPARING THE DELICIOUS FOOD?

The people of South Park Inn absolutely love it when we come work with them to help meet the many needs of the people there who are homeless and in transition. And, I must say, the blessings are always ours.

Each of the opportunities below represents a great experience to bring a family together, to reconnect with friends, to extend your Women's Circle experience, to share with your Bible Study friends, to add a new dimension to your Men's group involvement, or to develop relationships with board members.

Look for sign ups outside Palmer Hall or Email Denise Bell at sopherbell@aol.com if you would like to help with any of the following.

- Cooking a meal (approximately 1:30—4:30)
- Serving a meal (4:30 to about 6:30)
- Training to be a lead cook (Jeff is a great trainer)
- Sharing your nursing knowledge with young mothers once a month
- Doing a Bingo Night at South Park Inn or Plimpton House
- Sharing your nutritional knowledge with folks at Plimpton House
- Helping young men in transition learn personal budgeting skills

Meal Dates for 2011:

September 18th

October 22nd

November 12th

December 10th

OPEN and AFFIRMING PROGRAM BEGINS in OCTOBER

Our church's Open and Affirming program will begin on Oct. 9 in Palmer Hall, with a presentation, question and answer period immediately following the 10:00 AM service.

This opening session, with *Guest Speakers*, will address:

- ⇒ What does it mean to be an Open & Affirming Church?
- ⇒ How did we get here?
- ⇒ Why are we considering OnA?
- ⇒ What is being planned?

All are cordially invited to attend, actively question the speakers, and embark on informal round table discussions, stimulated by finger food.

In the meantime, we encourage any and all questions be directed to members of the Open and Affirming Study Team, or dropped in our OnA Mailbox in the Church Office.

Susan Babcock, Sara Batchelder, Paul Bryant, Mia Capobianco,
Betty Keirstead, Steve Osborn, Shelley Pilsbury, Steve Towles

RETIRED MEN'S LUNCHEON 2011-2012 SCHEDULE

Second Tuesday each month, as follows:

2011: Sept. 13th, Oct. 11th, Nov. 8th, Dec. 13th

2012: Jan. 10th, Feb. 14th, Mar. 13th, Apr. 10th, May 8th

Join us!



HAYSTACK CIRCLE

Haystack Circle will hold its first meeting on Wed., September 7th at 9:30 a.m. in Room 28.

We have blankets to sew, decorating the care bags, and knitting hats & mittens for the care bags.

Anyone interested in joining us, please come to our first meeting or call Em Eisenhauer at 860-693-2403.





Missionary to Columbia to Visit First Church:

Tuesday, September 27th, 6-8 pm

Palmer Hall

A Light Supper will be served

Join us as we welcome UCC/Disciples missionary Michael Joseph and learn from his experiences serving in the Restoration, Life and Peace Commission of the Council of Evangelical Churches (CEDECOL) in Columbia. Michael provides a pastoral, critical presence to church leaders and lay people who are living in life-threatening situations in that country.

All are welcome! Please RSVP to the main office.

Hosted by the Board for Mission and Outreach



Mission: 1

11.1.11 - 11.11.11
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

That they may all be 1

Coming November 1-11, 2011... ONE UNITED CHURCH on a shared mission for 11 powerful days to feed the hungry and confront food-related injustice. This is MISSION: 1

- **In 11 days**, the United Church of Christ will collect more than 1 MILLION ITEMS OF HEALTHY FOOD and other household items for local food banks and outreach services.
- **In 11 days**, the United Church of Christ will offer more than 11,111 LETTERS to Congress asking our government to reform U.S. foreign assistance in a way that more effectively benefits hungry and poor people worldwide, helping to provide a major final push to Bread for the World's 2011 "Offering of Letters" campaign.
- **Most importantly**, our UCC motto and Jesus' prayer "that they may all be 1" will become a focused mission emphasis across the whole United Church of Christ
 - to educate ourselves and one another about food-related policy issues;
 - to advocate on behalf of hungry people at home and around the world;
 - to raise money for hunger-action purposes;
 - and to share bread - and tuna, and peanut butter, and vegetables, and cereal - with our neighbors in need.

<http://www.ucc.org/mission1/>

Watch for details coming soon!

ROUTINES AND CHANGE—The Opportunities in Life

I've always had a sense of anticipation in late August. Maybe it's because I've spent so many years getting myself and others ready to go "back to school," but the academic calendar has always felt like the natural rhythm of life.

This fall, for the first time in decades, I'm neither going to school myself nor getting someone else geared up to go. It feels strange, and I'm not sure yet how I feel about that. Change – real change that shakes us out of our routine – is never easy. We talk about embracing new beginnings, going with the flow, letting whatever happens happen, but most of us, if we're at all honest with ourselves, simply prefer not to have our routines disturbed. Even if part of the routine involves taking mind-numbing classes on the taxation of insurance transactions (and yes, I did that as part of my beloved academic routine!).

But change also brings excitement and opportunity, a chance to learn something new, develop new relationships, discover gifts – our own and those of others - that were previously unknown and untapped. Most of all, it brings an opportunity (and a need) to trust God more.

There is much to anticipate at First Church this fall. As the new program year begins, we can look forward to regrouping and getting back into the regular schedule of worship, Sunday School, music, mission and outreach and so much more that is part of our church routine. And there will also be change. We hope to see new members, new students in our Sunday School classes and youth groups, new volunteers on committees, new voices in our choirs. We also look forward this fall to hearing from our Strategic Planning team, which has been busy all summer developing a strategy for First Church that will help us transform for the future. It will be an exciting time for our congregation as we collectively figure this out.

As we head into this time of comfort with known routines and openness to the unknown, we should remember that we are doing all of this as a community of faith and as people of God. In both the routines and the changes, we're not alone.

Melinda Westbrook

WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP STUDIES
Sunday, Sept. 18th @ 11:30 a.m.
Parsons' Study

All women interested in small groups, please join us on **Sunday, Sept. 18th** after worship in the **Parsons' Study at 11:30 a.m.**

Women's Small Groups (6-8 women) are an opportunity to deepen your faith and your friendships as we study the lectionary from which the ministers will be taking their sermons.

Please call Nancy Crouch at 860-658-1894 or Sara Burrows at 860-408-1459 if you would like to join us or have any questions.

SUPPER CLUB

Tired of Supper and T.V.?
Join us for a great dinner cooked by:

Harvest Café in October
Bob Kane in December
Suzie Sabia in April



followed by wonderful speakers and discussions!

Now how is that for a **CHANGE?!!**

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

STAFF

Rev. Jonathan Morgan
Senior Minister
jonathan.morgan@
1stchurchsimsbury.org

Rev. Kevin Weikel
Associate Minister for
Youth and Young Adults
kevin.weikel@
1stchurchsimsbury.org

Rev. Alison Buttrick
Patton
Associate Minister of
Parish Life and Outreach
alison.patton @
1stchurchsimsbury.org

Mr. Mark Mercier
Dir. of Music Ministries
mark.mercier@
1stchurchsimsbury.org

Ms. Cindy Cole
Director of Christian Ed.
cindy.cole@
1stchurchsimsbury.org

Ms. Anne Nelson
Church Administrator
anne.nelson@
1stchurchsimsbury.org

Mr. Jim Kew
Assistant Treasurer
jim.kew@
1stchurchsimsbury.org

Ms. Catherine Behrens
Assistant Church Admin.
cathie.behrens@
1stchurchsimsbury.org

Ms Ann Gallion
Church Secretary
Ann.gallion@
1stchurchsimsbury.org

Ms. Darlene Davis
Church Secretary
Darlene.davis@
1stchurchsimsbury.org

**SUNDAY FLOWERS—
IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY**

It is not too early to reserve a Sunday during this church year to commemorate, honor or memorialize with flowers for the Communion table in the sanctuary.

If there is a Sunday that you would like to reserve, please contact *Bill Lawry* at 860-651-0281 or wlawry@aol.com.



The **4th Wednesday Study Group** begins a new season **September 28th at 12:00 Noon in Room 28.**

This year we will be using Philip Yancey's "What Good Is God? In search of a faith that matters," as a basis for our wide-ranging discussions. We welcome new travelers to join us on our spiritual journey! Call Pat Ketchpel at 860-658-9357 and she will order a book for you.

**FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE
FOR SEPTEMBER, 2011**

9/4/11— Families—Diane Jones & Joann Hogan

9/11/11—Fall Festival

**9/18/11— Families—Patty Howland, Ginny Lawry,
Karen Yanik**

**9/25/11— Board of Christian Education—Patti
Scanlon, Cindy Cole**