

“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.”

Dear Friends: This is the story shared by Jane Hadley at our Sept. 18th Worship Service

Eight years ago I moved to Simsbury to be with my growing tribe of relatives. I considered my first plan of action was to find a church home. Walking down Hopmeadow on my first Sunday morning, I looked in at the Methodist Church -- so Gothic and impressive -- thought about stopping later -- then on down the street to that big white church on the hill. I huffed and puffed my way up to the front door -- stepped inside, and sat in the last pew. It was love at first sight -- the bright sunlit white walls, yellow seats and green floors were perfect for me. It must have been one of Jonathan's first Sundays -- and I listened, and loved him, too. This was my home church -- so familiar, so peaceful and cheerful -- much like the church in which I grew up and found God -- right in my neighborhood!

So I jumped into the choir first -- loved it then and still do! Cooked some meals on Sunday night in Palmer Hall, joined the church, went to Biloxi (so happy to be there and help). Went to Rebuilding Together, joined Covenant to Care -- and decided to join First Church Friends when it was offered two years ago.

My friends, I was looking for a way to serve, to comfort, to be involved. My personal situation became a house of cards -- my business closed, close family members had serious illness and death...and I was able to put the things that I had learned at those First Church Friends meetings into action. I began to see that by using certain principles of "comforting behavior," that I could serve in so many ways to my family, to my friends and to myself.

For example, helping my friends who were now in transition -- downsizing, moving, tearing up the whole house, giving things away, selling some of it, and packing up a lot of it. What a shake-up for those who had lived so long in one place! Well, we did it! Although this has become a business for me, I feel it has become a ministry as well.

The church has guided me to discover so many ways to serve. I have loved it all -- and I will continue to follow where Jesus leads us -- to a more peaceful life, to deeper meaning, and into true grace.

Jane Hadley