

SENIOR PASTOR

“See, I am doing a new thing! Even now it is beginning; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” Isaiah 43:19

I am blessed and honored to serve as the new Senior Pastor here at the First Congregational Church of Vernon, UCC. My ministry among you began on January 1, 2013 and these first four months have been a busy and productive time for all of us!

I follow the Reverend David Minnick, who served this congregation well as the Interim Senior Pastor for 28 months. His ministry here concluded on December 31, 2012. The congregation also said goodbye to its long-time Associate Pastor, the Reverend Cynthia Carr, in December. Her absence after 21 years of ministry here at FCCV leaves a hole in the hearts of many.

Yet, we have come a long way in such a short time! The congregation voted to seek a full time, settled Associate Pastor during a special meeting on April 21. Our Associate Pastor Search Committee was commissioned for the task on that same day. The Reverend Joanne Myer was called to serve as our part-time, Interim Associate Pastor and she began her ministry in May. With God’s help, we may have our settled Associate Pastor in place by the end of the year.

During our first 120 days together we traveled through the season of Lent, gathering for special services on Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday, and celebrating Easter with a Sunrise Service in the Memorial Garden as well as a joyful service of worship in the Sanctuary at 10 am. A three-part educational series I offered on spiritual disciplines, “Bread and Broth,” filled up with more than 30 people at each class. Though I am certain the delicious, homemade soups and desserts were a big part of the draw, the Spirit of God moved among us none-the-less.

I had the honor of performing my first baptism at FCCV in April, baptizing Taylor Cariboni, daughter of Raul and Krysta Cariboni. April was also the month that my husband Dean and I joined the church, taking our membership vows along with six other new members: Dan and Karen Bradford, Adam and Jennifer Jensen, Deb Hampton and Gary Hart. In May, I officiated at my first wedding at FCCV, joining Michelle Glidden and Brian Carman in holy matrimony in the presence of their families and friends.

I am still getting to know all of you and am continually blessed by our conversations and our mutual ministry in the name of Christ. I am humbly thankful for the opportunity to serve alongside such good people and I look to God every day for the grace and guidance to be a good pastor, teacher and shepherd for this strong and faithful congregation. I look forward with great anticipation to seeing God’s plan for our church unfold in the days, weeks, months, and God willing, years ahead. It is an honor to be with you on the journey.

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Margaret Watson

DIRECTOR of CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School Superintendent: Cindy Madden (from June- December 2012)

Sunday School Superintendents: Cherish Hockenberry & Christa Hockenberry (Jan 2013)

Assistant Superintendent: Jen Condry

Summer Sunday School Superintendent: Victoria Madden

Youth Advisors: Beth Fowler, Halene Fujimoto, Dave Hockenberry, Debi Hockenberry, Sadie Burnett-Pollack

Youth Basketball Chaperone: Randy Ramsdell

Sunday School Music Director: Steve Westerberg

Sunday School Bells Director: Jena Maki
Child Care Coordinator: Christa Hockenberry
Child Care: GloryAnna Hockenberry, Jaclyn Leonard
3 yr/4 yr/5 yr Teachers: Jacquelyn Mead, Kelsey Wilson
3 yr/4 yr/5 yr Shepherds: GloryAnna Hockenberry, Aarika Mallory
1st/2nd Grade Teachers: Jennifer Jensen, Cheryl Turner,
1st /2nd Grade Shepherd: Julia Assard
3rd/4th/5th Grade Teachers: Debbie Bartos, Diane Mead
3rd/4th/5th Grade Shepherd: Nick Bartos
6th/7th/8th Grade Teachers: Valerie Ellis, Greg Mias
Substitute: Suzanne Maki

This past year, Sunday School has welcomed new families into our program. We said good-bye to Cindy and Victoria Madden as our long term Sunday School Superintendents. They did a wonderful job and we wish them happiness in their new Florida home. Our thanks to Cherish and Christa Hockenberry for stepping up and filling the Superintendents' position.

We are using the Cokesbury, "Grow, Proclaim, Serve" curriculum. This is a new curriculum for Cokesbury and us. Each lesson is dated and the packet comes with a DVD and music that corresponds with the curriculum. We have had positive feedback from our teachers and will continue with it for the 2013- 2014 year.

Last June, Vacation Bible School welcomed 125 students and 50 volunteers. Our theme was: "Operation Overboard, Dare to Go Deep with God." This June, our theme will be 'Everywhere Fun Fair, Where God's World Comes Together.'

Youth Fellowship, combining 6th-12th grades, met every month. We stayed busy throughout the year with mission projects, sleepovers, roller-skating, bowling, a trip to Lake Compounce, Laser Quest, and basketball. In the future, we will be meeting twice a month.

Youth Fellowship Mission Week: In July 2012 our advisors were Cherish Hockenberry, Debi Hockenberry and Greg Mias. Our summer mission work included Foodshare of Greater Hartford, Foodshare Warehouse in Wethersfield, Women's League Child Development Center, Hands on Hartford Manna Soup Kitchen, Hands on Salvation Army Shelter, Windsor Urban Development Center, Peter's Retreat, Hartford Rescue Mission, and Hockanum Valley Community Center.

This year's Confirmation Class studied many different topics from worship, religions, revelation, Lent, Easter, church polity, Communion, Baptism and faith with visits to a Jewish synagogue and the Bloomfield Cathedral. The class also worked at the Cornerstone Soup Kitchen from September- May and went to New York to participate in the Youth Services Opportunities Program (YSOP). Our chaperone for the YSOP mission was Debi Hockenberry.

Thank you to all who have volunteered their time for our Christian Education program. Without your help and support our programs would not be able to continue.

God Bless,
Linda Shivers, Minister of Christian Education

MODERATOR

What a wonderful year we have had at FCCV! We welcomed our new Pastor, Rev. Meg Watson and her family to our church. We are all excited about the future of FCCV and looking forward to being a leader in our community for all people of faith.

With the coming of Meg, we saw the departure of our Interim Pastor and friend, Rev. David Minnick. We were very blessed to have David's ministry and leadership.

We had a wonderful 250th celebration year and we are thankful to the committee for its hard and dedicated work. A great big thanks to all who shared in the work, donating your time, talent and treasure.

We are pleased to have Rev. Joanne Myer as our Interim Associate Pastor. She officially started with us in May. A Search Committee for a settled Associate Pastor was dedicated in April. They are now hard at work searching for a qualified candidate.

I want to thank all of you for your support this year. It was a great privilege for me to serve you, our family of faith. May God continue to bless us and watch over us.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony Muro

BOARD of DEACONS

During this 2012-2013 church year, the Board of Deacons continued to provide assistance to the Pastors in their ministry to our church, as well as direct service to the church membership.

It has been a very interesting and challenging year for us. We had to substitute for each other on many occasions as "life happened" to us and our loved ones that upset our well conceived plans. One of the reasons for the comparatively large number of members on this board is for just that eventuality.

Despite all the unexpected events, we successfully carried on the traditional church services, monthly Communion services, Baptisms when requested, Laity Sunday, Thanksgiving Breakfast and Service, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Ash Wednesday Service, Lenten Evening Series, Agape Dinner, Maundy Thursday Service, the second annual Easter Sunrise Service in the Memorial Garden and the homebound visitations each week to several church members, delivering a bulletin, church news, fellowship and communion once a month.

A big challenge this year was planning for the decommissioning of our Interim Senior Pastor of 2½ years, the Rev. David Minnick; the arrival in January of our new Senior Pastor, Rev. Meg Watson and the unanticipated leaving of our Associate Pastor of more than 20 years, Rev. Cindy Carr. The Deacons worked to make the transition period as seamless as possible for the congregation, as well as the outgoing and incoming pastors.

In addition to the above personnel changes, the congregation voted to call a full time Associate Pastor to assist Meg in her ministry to us and to help with the outreach initiatives going forward that will grow the church in both size and spirituality. Rev. Joanne Myer has graciously agreed to serve as our Interim Associate Pastor during the search process.

Two programs, sponsored by the Deacons, are the Bereavement Coordinator (Martha Fowler) and the Cradle Roll Coordinator (Joan Apel). The first program sends cards to the families of the

deceased throughout the year and the second program posts a list of all recently baptized babies on the bulletin board downstairs in Fellowship Hall. Many thanks to both of these ladies for continuing these valuable ministries.

The Care Network, coordinated by two Deacons, continues its valuable service to church members who need occasional short-term assistance. Many rides to doctors appointments and meals were provided through the generosity of the wider church body. We are always in need of additional people to help the Care Network.

This year we say good-bye to Deacons Marilyn Newton and Debbie Marshall who leave the Board at the end of June. A very special thank you to each of you for your service and commitment over the past years. Your personal touch and fellowship will be missed!

Many thanks to all the members of the Board of Deacons for your help and assistance during this past year and for all the years I have been a Deacon, especially when I was Chair. You can all look forward to the coming years with anticipation for new opportunities for spiritual growth and service, led by one of the most dynamic pastors with whom I have had the pleasure of worshiping.

Respectfully submitted in Christian faith,
Larry Bates, Chairperson

BOARD of FINANCE

Throughout the year we met to review performance against budget and to keep tabs on our investments. This past January, we presented, and the congregation approved, a budget that called for a deficit of about \$24,000. Results through April suggest that we are pretty much on track with indications that we could see reductions in the total deficit by the end of the year. As Steve Bright reported in January, our investment portfolio is performing up to expectation as individual investments are keeping up with, or in some instances exceeding, overall market performance.

Following the restructuring of our investment portfolio in 2011, we implemented an investment spending policy in 2012. In prior years we used dividends and interest from our investments to support the operations of the church and its boards and committees. In today's world the generally accepted practice is to reinvest all interest and dividends and to sell a predetermined amount of your investments each year. In 2012, we sold about \$36,000 of our various investments and have already distributed the planned \$48,000 for 2013.

We successfully renegotiated a three-year lease with the Hockanum Valley Child Day Care Center. The lease calls for a 5% increase in each year of the lease. A significant amount of time was also spent in support of the Search Committee's efforts to retain a new Senior Pastor.

Patty Noblet, Steve Bright and I will be leaving the board at the end of this church year. I know I speak for Patty and Steve when I say that it has been an honor and privilege to serve, each of us for over most of the past 20 plus years. Donna Symonds, who previously served on the board, and Adam Jensen, a recent new church member, and a professional in financial services, have joined the board. They bring a level of knowledge and background that will be invaluable as the board faces up to the challenges confronting the church.

Thanks to Michelle Bower, Dave Bower, Sue Shimer, Don Melander, Nancy Parker and Harmon Howe for helping with the count of Sunday's offering.

Respectfully submitted,
Milton N. Doremus, Chair

BOARD of TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the maintenance and use of all Church buildings, grounds, and furnishings. We have been very busy over the past year, and have several projects planned for the remainder of 2013.

- Parsonage: Replaced garage door and basement door, conducted water and radon tests, reset siding, scraped and painted wood windows, and purchased new stove.
- Church: Steeple repair project, multiple door repairs/replacements, ceiling tiles replaced in Admin. Wing, closet reorganization and cleaning, and replacement of Church Secretary's Video/Audio Desk System. Vantage Point Cleaning Company continues to be responsible for Church and Daycare Wing cleaning services.
- Daycare Wing: Installed video/audio security system at entrance doors, completed two-year project to bring Daycare Wing up to State Fire Code specs, installed emergency exit windows in all classrooms, and updated fire alarms/pull stations.
- Grounds: Organized two work days with more than 45 volunteers to mulch, prune, plant, cut trees, and do overall cleanup. Simply Green was hired in late 2012 to do snowplowing and walkway cleaning during snowstorms. Myles McCurry continues to be responsible for all mowing at Church, Parsonage, and Memorial Garden area.
- Upcoming Projects and Areas of Focus: Replace Parsonage windows, conduct June 21 and 22 work days to enhance Parsonage and Church landscaping, replace Sanctuary windows, and Front Portico/Pillar Project.

We thank outgoing member Dave Bower for his six years of service and leadership.

Respectfully Submitted,
Holly Boutwell, Chairperson

BOARD of CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

BOARD of MUSIC

The 2012-2013 program year was busy and productive for the Board of Music. I volunteered to be Chairperson, with the assistance of Leanne Connolly in November 2012. Thank you to Gretchen Fisher-Orr and Halene Fujimoto for taking over as Co-Chairs after the untimely and sad death of our Chair, Joe Connolly. In addition, I remained Treasurer (as there has not been another volunteer), and attended Council meetings, regularly communicating pertinent and relevant information back to the Board. Leanne Connolly has volunteered to be our representative for the Nominating Committee as well as for the Associate Pastor Search Committee. Thank you, Leanne.

The Music @ First program has been running smoothly with the work of the sub-committee (Michelle Giordano, Steve Westerberg and others) selecting and arranging all the monthly concerts from a variety of musical genres, advertising, signage, refreshments, preparing programs, etc. with the assistance from Board members with refreshments, collecting money, handing out programs, etc. at the concerts. However, going forward, the Board voted that it is best not to continue with the Music @ First series due to the fact that we are losing money and attendance at the concerts has been low. This was brought to Council and there were no issues mentioned that would prevent the series from ending, so the program ended after the May 19 concert. However, the Board still looks forward to continuing to provide funds for the Les Childs' Scholarship.

The Sanctuary Choir directed by Mary Jo Simonds-Huneger; the Joyful Noise Bell Choir directed by James Burr and the Contemporary Choir and the Transformers directed by Leanne Connolly

provided the music ministry throughout the year. In addition, the Cherubs directed by Gaile Dembeck, and the Little Bells directed by Jena Maki also added to this wonderful ministry. We couldn't provide this ministry without all of our dedicated directors and our organist, so... a huge thank you to all of them!! Highlights this past year were the Christmas Concert, including all choirs, which was part of the Music @ First concert series and Easter Sunday music, again including all choirs, which was enjoyed by all. All of the choirs are now preparing for Music Appreciation Sunday in June, which ends our season until September. Mary Jo will schedule the summer music as always.

Members of the Board of Music participated with Greeter and Coffee Hour assignments. At the time of this report, the staff evaluation process was underway for this program year, as well as deciding and voting on an eligible candidate for the Les Childs' Scholarship.

The Board also updated the Sanctuary Choir Director's job description which was sent to Rev. Meg Watson and Karl Prewo for feedback. After making suggested changes by Karl, the job description was completed. The Organist's job description will, hopefully, be reviewed by the end of the year also.

Leanne Connolly has completed the inventory of music (both Sanctuary Choir's and Children Choir's music) – a job well done - which has been given to the Trustees to pass on to our insurance company. The inventory of Bell Choir music is currently being worked on by James Burr and will also be handed over to the Trustees when completed.

The Board had an offer of a piano donation from one of our long-time members. Unfortunately, it was decided by the Board of Music and Council not to accept the donation because we do not have a place to accommodate it. Gretchen Fisher Orr will speak with Rev. Meg Watson to help determine a church that may need a piano before talking with the donors.

Gretchen Fisher-Orr will be ending her term on the Board of Music at the end of this program year. Thank you, Gretchen, for all your help. Helen Dahling will stay on for another term, as well as Serena Volovski staying through 2016. The Board is also pleased to announce that we had three new members join in 2012 – Claudette Weingart, Jeanine Uthgenannt and Leanne Connolly. Candy Buswell will be joining us in June 2013.

I want to thank all the Board members for their commitment and invaluable assistance this year.

Respectfully submitted,
Serena A. Volovski, Chairperson

BOARD of MISSIONS and OUTREACH

Our board has the wonderful role of providing opportunities for our church family to give. Every year, we select a Mission Project that begins in February or March and runs for about 3-4 weeks. This project is selected based on a protocol of Local, State, National and Global outreach.

We recently completed Our Church's Wider Mission Project "Our Hearts Will Build New Hearths." This project ran for three weeks and we raised \$4800 to purchase 46 new cooking stoves for families in Guatemala. The congregation was given the option to purchase bricks in the amounts of \$5, \$10, \$15, \$25 or more or to purchase a whole stove. Unsafe cooking stoves are the leading cause of death for children under the age of 5 in Guatemala. Their traditional cooking stoves vent smoke directly into the family home; carbon monoxide levels are twice the level considered dangerous in the home. The people of Guatemala would often get burned due to children playing near open flame. House fires are relatively common and often cause death. We partnered with a

local orthodontist, Dr. Adam Daniels, who will be returning to Guatemala in October to personally install these new stoves.

Support through Missions and Outreach

Our Churches Wider Missions	\$12,000
Ct. Conference Per Capita	\$4,400
Tolland Association dues	\$345.60
Andover Newton Seminary	\$175
Total	\$16,976

Support through Local Outreach

Habitat for Humanity	\$175
RHS Project Graduation	\$200
Cornerstone Foundation	\$250
Visiting Nurses Association	\$250
Tri -Town Shelter	\$175
Vernon Ambulance	\$100
Tri -Town Fuel	\$800
Town of Vernon Social Services	\$75
Total	\$2,025

We also supported the following:

- UCC Neighbors in Need (\$399), One Great Hour of Sharing (\$563), the Christmas Fund (\$50)
- School Store - \$300 school supplies
- Thanksgiving Baskets - 68 baskets and \$390 in donations
- Christmas Giving Tree - 200 toys donated, 20 more than the previous year

Meals at the Cornerstone Soup Kitchen continue on a monthly basis on the first Saturday of every month. We continue to support The Tri-Town Food Pantry with food donations from the Mission Box in the church breezeway.

Special Collections included Sandy Hook \$50 and Hurricane Sandy \$347.

We are a very blessed board because we serve as a catalyst for the giving congregation of which we are a part. To be empowered to design ways for our congregation to give is much more than a function, it is a joy and a blessing.

The Board of Missions would like to thank the Congregation for its generous, ongoing support which makes all this possible. I, personally, would like to thank the Board members (Maria Assard, Jeri Bebrin, Monica Becker, Jennifer Condry, Deb Cutting, Deb Hockenberry, Kathleen McClure, Kenneth Morgan, Sandra O’Gara, Lynn Toolan and Ad Hoc: Bobbie Jan Montgomery) for their hard work and dedication.

Respectfully submitted,
Gilmay Markunas, Co-chair

STEWARDSHIP and EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

The Stewardship and Evangelism Committee is responsible for promoting and identifying personal commitment of time, talent and treasure among the members and friends of the Church. It is also responsible for stimulating interest and growth in the church through community outreach. The committee worked to achieve the following objectives for 2011-2012.

- Executed 2013 Pledge Drive where \$235,337 was pledged by 184 units for the 2013 budget

- Incorporated “Season of Giving” theme for 2013
- Celebrated the “Season of Giving” through collaboration with various boards and committees to present information and articles to represent: Changing Lives – Gallery of Life with a gallery displayed each Sunday including Gallery of Youth and Family; Gallery of the Church; Gallery of Music; Gallery of Life; completing with Stewardship Sunday
- Louise Theriault and Mary Wheeler graciously hand-wrote “Thank You” notes in appreciation for those who supported the 2013 Pledge Drive.
- Provided nametags to church members
- Maintained Friendship Register throughout 2012-2013. Mary Wheeler sent out letters and Welcome Cards to visitors who signed the register or those wishing to be contacted.
- Maintained guest book in Narthex giving opportunity for those visiting to sign and provided Welcome Gift Bags for those visiting to compliment guest book and further provide a welcoming atmosphere
- Maintained a Welcome Center in Fellowship Hall that contains information from various boards and committees
- Produced various articles for the Carillon and Sunday bulletins educating FCCV members on stewardship and opportunities within FCCV
- Kate Fowler participated with the Nominating Committee to assist in filling various positions on boards and committees for 2013-2014 year.
- Maintained Pay it Forward program throughout 2012-2013, as the congregation took ownership with their continued funding. What began as a two-week journey in October 2010 led to an established mission of FCCV, thanks to the generous contributions and commitment of the members and friends of the First Congregational Church of Vernon. We are so grateful to our donors who allow Pay it Forward to continue its ever-giving blessings to those in need. Pay it Forward moments are updated on the FCCV website by Gerry Dyar, member of FCCV, allowing visitors to the website to share in the PIF mission as well.
- Provided information to the Board of Finance in support of Electronic Giving
- Began informal “Ambassador Program” to promote the welcoming of members and guests to FCCV
- Researched new signage options for use at FCCV, including a new sign for outdoor communication, similar to the one at the Vernon Arts Center. Presented information to Council for approval

Our committee will continue to promote the church-wide message of “Connect Through Christ ~ Connect with Us” as it works to support the ministries of FCCV. Several items that our committee will address in the upcoming year:

- Develop and implement pledge drive campaign for 2014 to support FCCV and its ministry
- Continue to work with the Board of Finance on time line implementation
- Continue to work with the Board of Finance to support e-giving
- Further find ways and ideas to increase membership and encourage active participation from current membership
- Maintain information in the Church Welcome Centers and name tag board
- Expand the FCCV Ambassador program
- Seek and develop new ideas of outreach to current members and local community
- Continue to submit website updates concerning Stewardship and Evangelism
- Recruit new members for the Stewardship and Evangelism committee
- Continue to support and maintain the Pay it Forward program
- Support the Trustees in acquisition and installation of a new sign for outdoor communication at FCCV
- Support the 250th FCCV Anniversary campaign
- Solicit an ad hoc committee to work on a new church directory

The Stewardship & Evangelism Committee is committed to reaching its goals for the upcoming year. We will continue to support FCCV and cooperate with other boards and committees to further support the church and its growth, while embracing the church-wide message of "Connect Through Christ ~ Connect with Us."

2012-2013 Committee Members

Kate Fowler, Chairperson
Fred Kracke
Jim Montlick
Nancy Parker

Stephen Repetto
Louise Theriault
Robert Warner

Mary Wheeler
Rev. Meg Watson, Senior Pastor
Jim Wilson, Deacon Rep.

Respectfully submitted,
The Stewardship and Evangelism Committee

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

This year has seen several changes in the Library. The curtains were replaced by the Furnishings and Memorials Committee. The Library Committee participated in the holiday fair and proceeds from the used book sale have been put to good use. The bulletin boards were changed and many new items were purchased. The most exciting improvement was the purchase of a flat screen TV/DVD player. It is on a cart for church use and cords are included for laptop hook-up. Several children's picture books were purchased that tie-in to popular hymns. Several new DVD's were obtained as we start to try to switch over from the out-dated VHS tapes.

The Library is open any time the church is and we work to provide helpful resources for the congregation. Copies of bulletins, Carillons and annual reports are available, as well as devotional books. We are eager to make the Library a helpful resource for the church. Please drop any suggestions for additional books/DVD's in the Library mailbox.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Bill and Elena Kerr resigned as Co-Chairs of this committee and as members of FCCV at the end of 2012 so quantitative details are missing in some areas, such as paid advertising, press releases and Patch activity.

Our overall goal is to make access to publicity for FCCV activities as simple as possible. With that in mind, we eliminated the form that was previously in use and instituted a special email address that goes directly to all Committee members as well as Nancy in the Church Office. Complete instructions can be downloaded from the website or picked up at the Church Office.

Video Activity

Our Sunday services, edited down to 58 minutes, appeared twice each week on the Comcast Community Voice channel for the past 12 months. That's a total of almost 104 hours of "visibility" for FCCV. There were additional uncut presentations during January of services centered on our 250th Anniversary activities. Steve Repetto recorded and edited the vast majority of these with occasional help from Al Newton. During the editing process, starting in January 2013, sermons were excerpted and made available on the website. Then, in April, representative music performances during the services were also excerpted so there is now an example of each FCCV musical group on the website.

Website Activity

Under the Kerr's guidance we now have a web privacy policy that is posted on the site.

Size of our site: Like Topsy it keeps growing. Currently there are 82 primary URL pages of information linked together, probably equal in content to 160 regular pages. These are backed up with 30+ multi-page PDF documents that tell more complete stories. The Archive section contains another 175 PDF documents, mainly past Carillons, Calendars, Bulletins and Pastor's Weekly Emails. The Video section contains 23 videos.

Links to us from other sites: 86 other websites have embedded (clickable) links to our website on them. Since some of these sites have more than one link there are 296 opportunities for people to click from another site to ours.

The statistics that follow are for the **past three months as of April 29, 2013**. I'd guesstimate they should be multiplied by three to represent the past year because of growth during that time.

Activity from Google searches: 51 differently worded search queries resulted in 6,500 references to pages on our website appearing in the search results - 500 of these appearances were clicked on to take the viewer to a page on our website.

Total traffic to the site: 1315 visits - 681 via a search from all search engines; 370 from people typing one of our URLs directly into their browser; 264 from people clicking on a link in another site, a document or an email.

Total visitors to the site: These 1,315 visits were made by 636 unique people; 534 were there for the first time and represented 40.6% of the visits; 102 were repeat visitors representing 781 visits or 59.4%. Collectively, they looked at 4,231 pages and were on the site for an average of 3 minutes and 8 seconds each.

Facebook Activity

Over the past year, Deborah Hockenberry has done an incredible job documenting FCCV activities, particularly our youth activities, on Facebook. As part of that effort, she has posted 35 photo albums containing 1,618 pictures on the site.

Since last year at this time, the number of Facebook "Likes" (faithful followers of our every activity) has increased from around 28 to 82. Facebook claims these 82 people are the roots of an extended tree of 23,225 "Friends."

On any given day in the past month, there have been from 7 to 28 people "Liking" something on our page - 48.5% of them are between 25 and 34 years of age; 68.6% are female and 30.1% are male. They in turn have had between 133 and 772 direct "Friends" who may also see one or more of our messages depending on the day.

Patch Activity

Bill Kerr handled this for the Committee so we don't have hard numbers available. Our sense, from talking to people in the Church, is that virtually all our activities that were open to the public were posted here during the past year. FCCV also has a permanent listing on Patch that shows up if you search for churches there. We hope to do more on Patch in the coming year.

Other Media Activity

Our "Field of Flags" got excellent press and TV coverage. The Channel 3 news story about it is available on our website. We advertised our Easter Services in the Journal Inquirer, although some of us on the Committee questioned the cost benefit of such advertising in today's changed media world. We'd very much appreciate your thoughts and suggestions on this issue since such ads may be the only way to reach potential new senior members who don't have Internet access.

Dean Watson's professional touch resulted in excellent press coverage announcing Rev. Meg Watson as our new Senior Pastor. With Dean's help, we hope to improve our visibility in the future.

Members: Steve Repetto, Deborah Hockenberry, Aarika Mallory, Tom Sweet, Dean Watson, Fred Kracke, Gerry Dyar

Gerry Dyar
Committee Coordinator

TEACHING PARISH COMMITTEE

Your T.P.C. had a year of rest—there were no students from Connecticut looking for a field placement this past year. We have applied for next year with our updated Church profile and are hopeful that other students will find their way to FCCV. This year, due to a move, Larry Bates resigned from our committee. We appreciate his years of work on the TPC. Steve Boucher has agreed to take his place.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Prewo, Betsy Gerakaris, Marilyn Newton, Mike Swan, Steve Boucher

FURNISHINGS and MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

The Furnishings and Memorials Committee has two main functions - recording, acknowledging and managing donations made in memory of loved ones and working with the Board of Trustees to approve additions or acquisitions to the church, such as furnishings, equipment, floor coverings, wall color/coverings, etc. We are also directed to approve any posters or wall hangings of any type before they are hung in the building in order to keep the decor and furnishings tasteful and in good condition. This year we purchased a table and four chairs for Rev. Meg Watson's office, replaced curtains in both restrooms and funded the purchase of an air conditioner for Meg's office and one for the Library. We also approved and funded the purchase of a rug for the Toddler Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Sullivan

FLOWER COMMITTEE

The Flower Committee thanks our church family for providing flowers in the Sanctuary on Sundays and holidays. Our sale of Christmas Poinsettias and Easter Lilies and Daffodils offers a great opportunity for anyone to share their celebrations or remember loved ones. There is a calendar in the Narthex where anyone interested in having flowers in the Sanctuary on a Sunday can sign up. We give thanks to all who are able to share.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Lyons

MEMORIAL GARDEN COMMITTEE

The Memorial Garden survived the winter in fine fashion. Daryl Gottier and Phyllis Chase continue to work effortlessly to keep the Garden beautiful. Al Newton worked very hard to repair the fountain and it was working for the Easter Sunrise Service. Kurt Dembeck does a great job spreading fertilizer, as well as crabgrass preventative.

A weekly weeding chart was created for the summer months. Everyone signed up for a week. This worked very well and the Garden looked wonderful. A work day was held in October and we had a great turnout that allowed us to accomplish lots of tasks. What has been a troublesome slope was raked, weeded and over-seeded. Straw was spread over the top to protect the area during the winter. Mulch was spread at the inner circle and around plantings. Jon Piela was so very helpful loading and lifting heavy loads.

We are extremely grateful to two "Garden Angels" who removed a dead tree.

The beautiful Memory Tree glowed again during the Advent season. We thank the congregation for their continued support.

The Easter Sunrise Service was again held in the Garden. Pastor Meg led a very moving and meaningful service - truly a special way to begin the day.

American flags were again placed at Veteran's sites for Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Phyllis takes care of the placements.

Six sites have been purchased.

Committee Members: Phyllis Chase, Marilyn Newton, Al Newton, Daryl Gottier, Eric Gottier, Jim Montlick, Paula Dascomb, Bob Warner, Larry Heebner, Millie Oliphant, John Piela, Sarah Piela, Ellie Swan, Dick Wurst, Betty Ann Wurst, Steve Morse, Jane Morse

The responsibilities of the Committee are shared as follows:

Treasurer - Steve Morse; Application Coordinator - Phyllis Chase; Interment Supervisor - Jim Montlick; Designee to Church Council - Phyllis Chase; Maintenance Supervisors - Al and Marilyn Newton; Recording Secretary - Daryl Gottier; Committee Chair - Jane Morse

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Morse, Chairperson

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Human Resources Committee met regularly. Its activities included the following:

- Assisted the Pastoral Search Committee in preparing the Call for our new Senior Pastor
- Assisted the Board of Deacons in the process of the resignation of the Associate Pastor, Reverend Cynthia Carr and the separation of the Interim Senior Pastor David Minnick
- Worked with the Board of Finance and the Boards of Deacons, Music and Christian Education and the Interim Senior Pastor in the preparation of the 2013 Annual Budget. This was accomplished with significant changes in staff compensation to align with regional norms. Regional employment data and guidance from the CT Conference of UCC were used in the process.
- Assisted the Boards of Deacons, Music and Christian Education and the Interim Senior Pastor in the completion of 2012-2013 program year staff evaluations.

- Assisted FCCV Boards of Christian Education and Music in background screening of volunteers who have been selected to work directly with children. The screenings were carried out using the online services of the company, Praesidium Inc, as recommended by the UCC Insurance Board. Approximately 30 volunteers were successfully screened. This included development of collaborative procedures with partner Churches participating in the summer 2012 Vacation Bible School.
- Board membership changed during the program year. Cindy Madden, representing the Board of Christian Education, moved out of state and was replaced by Jean Philbrick. We thank Cindy for her very meaningful service to FCCV.

Respectfully submitted,
 Karl M. Prewo, Chairperson
 Milt Doremus representing Board of Finance
 Gretchen Fisher Orr representing Board of Music
 Jean Philbrick representing Board of Christian Education
 Michael Swan representing Board of Deacons
 Rev. Meg Watson, Senior Pastor

WAYS and MEANS COMMITTEE

The Ways and Means Committee consists of 12 members, each serving two-year terms. Our charge, according to FCCV Bylaws, is to plan and implement activities for earning money to “help defray the operating expenses of the Church.”

Our 2012 FCCV Budget included a revenue line item for Ways and Means in the amount of \$4,000 and \$5,000 for 2013. We earned \$5,219 in 2012 and are on target to meet or exceed this amount in 2013.

During the past program year, we have carried out the following activities:

- Chili and Cornbread Sale
- Super Bowl Grinder Sale
- Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner
- Family Life Ministry Dinner
- Strawberry Shortcake Sale
- UCONN Concession Stand
- Mum Sale
- Mother’s Day Plant Sale
- Bake Sale
- Used Book Sale
- Shred-a-thon
- FCCV Church Bazaar Luncheon
- Knife Sale
- Homemade Jam Sale
- Lasagna Dinner

We are always on the lookout for new members and activities. Please let us know if you can assist with either.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Holly Boutwell

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our year started with a great story about the history of Women's Fellowship – pictures and narration by Lynn Sweet. This being our 250th Anniversary year, it seemed a good time to bring out our history. Thanks so much to Lynn for a great evening.

We then moved on to the Holiday Fair which always makes for a busy year. There were many craft group meetings that we tried to schedule for the convenience of all. We are grateful to all who helped with crafts, baking, set-up and working on Friday evening and Saturday during the day. We hope this was an opportunity for you to make new friends and enjoy great fellowship. This was our first year to open on Friday evening and it proved to be a success. The Ways and Means Committee provided a great meal that was enjoyed by our church and the community. We will do this again.

Still catching our breath from the Fair, we took orders for Thanksgiving pies. In December, we had our always successful Cookies-in-a-Box Sale. A "Clothes Exchange" where everyone brought gently-used clothing, jewelry and handbags for swapping was held in January. After the "exchange," assorted soups were enjoyed by all.

If you are a woman in our church, you are automatically a member of Women's Fellowship. We urge you to find something that interests you and join us in Evening Circle, Basket Circle, Prayer Shawl Group and Prayer Quilt Group or the Crafts Groups that meet throughout the year. If you have any questions, please ask any of us. We welcome your interest. We all need to take time in our busy schedules to listen for God and find new friendships within our church family.

Respectfully submitted,
Phyllis Chase and Daryl Gottier, Co-Chairs

USHERING COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Ushering Committee, I report that the total attendance recorded for the 42 services from May 6, 2012 to April 28, 2013 is 6,961 compared to 6,705 for 42 services in the previous year. This year the reporting procedure again conforms to the standard UCC reporting practice of the best 10 months and Sundays only. The average attendance (UCC) was 165.7 for the 12/13 period versus 159.6 for the 11/12 period or a increase of 3.8%. The two Christmas Eve services had an attendance of 415. The Easter services had an attendance of 339. Following is a detailed report of the attendance for the church year.

Those who served on the Ushering Committee as scheduled Head Ushers for the 2012-2013 term were: the Chairperson, Harmon Howe, Judy Ramsdell, Pat Aldrich, Amy Shannon, Barry Beckwith and Harry Mead. I wish to thank the aforementioned people plus all members of the congregation who assisted before, during and after the worship services.

Respectfully submitted,
Harmon Howe, Chairperson

USHERING COMMITTEE - ATTENDANCE REPORT 2012/2013

Date	Attendance	Notes	Date	Attendance	Notes
	2012			2013	
05-06	139		01-06	198	
05-13	144		01-13	177	
05-20	117		01-20	160	
05-27	181	Confirmation	01-27	175	
06-03	133		02-03	132	
06-10	183		02-10	0*	
06-17	118		02-17	174	
06-24	124		02-24	148	
07-01	86*		03-03	181	
07-08	89*		03-10	126	
07-15	110		03-17	167	
07-22	104*		03-24	225	
07-29	98*		03-31	339	Easter
08-05	76*		04-07	156	
08-12	75*		04-14	134	
08-19	81*		04-21	185	
08-26	146		04-28	161	
09-02	98*		05-05		
09-09	181	Rally Sunday	05-12		
09-16	194		05-19		
09-23	167		05-26		
09-30	162		06-02		
10-07	132		06-09		
10-14	169		06-16		
10-21	154		06-23		
10-28	195		06-30		
11-04	176				
11-11	145				
11-18	207				
11-25	121				
12-02	219				
12-09	169				
12-16	173				
12-23	164				
12-30	108*				

*These weeks are excluded based on the standard UCC reporting procedure of Sundays only for the best 10 months attendance.

Total attendance for the best 10 months (42 wks.) is 6,961.

Average attendance for the best 10 months is 165.7/wk.

CLERK'S REPORT

MEMBERSHIP – JUNE 1, 2012 **577**

Additions

Letter of Transfer	0
Confession of Faith	0
Reaffirmation of Faith	10
Youth Membership	6
Reactivated to Membership	0
Associate Membership	<u>0</u>

Total **16**

Deductions

Transfers	4
Moved to Inactive	0
Withdrawn	2
Deaths	3

Elsie Beckwith (1951) 6/29/12
Charles Griffiths, Jr. (1963) 11/2/12
Elizabeth Fowler (2004) 5/27/13

Total **+7**

MEMBERSHIP - MAY 31, 2013 **584**

Rev. David Minnick

Funerals 2

Rev. Cynthia Carr

Marriages 2

Funerals 2

Rev. Joanne Myer

Funerals 1

Rev. Meg Watson

Marriages 2

Baptisms 1

Respectfully submitted,
Catharine Foote, Clerk

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Officers, Boards and Committees

July 2013 – June 2014

MODERATOR:	Tom Sweet '14-1
VICE MODERATOR:	Sue Mias '14-1
CLERK:	Louise Theriault '14-1
ASSISTANT CLERK:	Pat Lazaren '14-12
TREASURER:	Bill Boutwell '14-6
ASSISTANT TREASURER:	Steve Morse '14-5
CHURCH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS:	Christa Hockenberry '14-2 Cherish Hockenberry '14-2
CHURCH SCHOOL ASST. SUPERINTENDENT:	Jennifer Condry '14-3
HISTORIAN:	Lynn Sweet '14-1
ASSISTANT HISTORIAN:	Geraldine Strong '14
LIBRARIAN:	Daryl Gottier '14

BOARD of DEACONS

Don Peacock '14-2	Pam Lyons '14"1	Karl Prewo '16-1
Cheryl Purnell '16-1	Jon Dunlap '14-2	Michelle Bower '15-2
Pat Lazaren '15-2	Jan Muro '16-2	Delythe Kracke '16-2
Mary Wheeler '16-2	Bob Warner '16-2	Millie Oliphant '16-1
Jim Wilson '16-2	Greg Mias '16-1	Mike Swan '14-1
Judy Ramsdell '15- 1	Susan Pilkons '15-1	

Deacon Emerita: Phyllis Chase (06/12/05)

BOARD of TRUSTEES

John Koziol '15-2	Dave Symonds '16-2	Holly Boutwell '14-1
John MacDougall '14-1	Barbara Melander '14-1	Jim Tomko '14-1
Sue Mias '14-1	Brad Leonard '15-2	

Trustee Emeritus: Richard Saich (06/09/96)

BOARD of FINANCE

Al Newton '16-2	Gaile Dembeck '14-1	Dave Grigg '14-1
Kate Fowler '15-1	Donna Symonds '16-1	Adam Jensen '16-1
Chair, Board of Trustees	Assistant Treasurer	

Counters: Don Melander, Dave Bower, Michelle Bower, Harmon Howe, Nancy Parker, Susan Shimer, Patty Noblet

BOARD of CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Diane Mead '14-2	Jean Philbrick '14-2	Donald Montgomery '16-2
Suzanne Maki '16-2	Deb Bartos '15-2	Michelle Harlow '15-1
Annie Longo '14-1	Cheryl Turner '14-1	Erin Prewo '14-1
Deb Hockenberry '16-1	Steve Westerberg '16-1	Valerie Sexton '16-1
<u>Deacon Rep.</u>	<u>Director of Christian Ed.</u>	<u>Church School Superintendents</u>
Pat Lazaren	Linda Shivers	Christa and Cherish Hockenberry

Childcare Coordinator: Christa Hockenberry

Ad Hoc: Nick Bartos

BOARD of MISSIONS and OUTREACH

Emily Westerberg '16-1	Maria Assard '15-2	Sandra O'Gara '15-2
Monica Becker '16-2	Deb Cutting '14-1	Gilmay Markunas '16- 2
Lynn Toolan '14-1	Kathleen McClure '15-1	Jennifer Condry '15-1
Catharine Foote '16-1		
Ad hoc: Bobbie Montgomery, Deb Hockenberry		

BOARD of MUSIC

Leanne Connolly '15-1	Ann Garrison '15-1	Helen Dahling '16-2
Serena Volovski '16-2	Candy Buswell '16-1	Michelle Giordano '14-1
Halene Fujimoto '15-1	Claudette Weingart '15-1	Jeanine Uthgenannt '15-1

FURNISHINGS and MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

Bev Duncan '15-4	Joyce Sepulveda '15-4	Sally Sullivan '15-5
Pat Lazeren '15-4	Jane Burr '14-2	Chris Kunz '14-2
Furnishings and Memorials Committee Emerita: Charlotte Driggs, Muriel Schiebel		

WAYS and MEANS COMMITTEE

Michelle Bower '14-5	Janice Peacock '14-4	Phyllis Chase '14-1
Ann Harford '14-3	Carol Slicer '15-2	Paula Dascomb '14-1
Holly Boutwell '14-2	Nancy Shoemaker '14-2	April Gothberg '15-1
Halene Fujimoto '15-1	Emily Westerberg '15-1	Susan Pilkons '15-1

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Robin Youngdahl '14-6	Phyllis Chase '14-9	Betty Ann Wurst '14-2
Paula Dascomb '15-1	Nancy Parker '14-1	Marlene Bennett '14-1
Librarian: Daryl Gottier		

STEWARDSHIP and EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Stephen Repetto '14-5	Jim Wilson '15-1	Fred Kracke '15-1
Louise Theriault '14-2	Mary Wheeler '14-1	James Montlick '15-1
Kate Fowler '15-2	Nancy Parker '14-1	Robert Warner '14-1

AUDIT COMMITTEE (3 Elected in January)

Carol Slicer '14-2	Dick Parker '15'1	John Koziol '14-2
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FLOWER COMMITTEE

Pam Lyons '14-10	Betty Ann Wurst '14-7	Jane Saich '14-9
Elly Swan '14-7	Lois Montlick '14-3	Renee Burrus '14-3
Martha Fowler '14-1		

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Steve Repetto '14-4	Dean Watson '14-1	Fred Kracke '14-1
Aarika Mallory '14-2	T. Gerry Dyar '14-3	Deb Hockenberry '14-1

USHERING COMMITTEE

Pat Aldrich '14-5	Harmon Howe '14-8	Barry Beckwith '14-3
Judy Ramsdell '14-3	Harry Mead '14-2	

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

At Large: Paul Shimer '14-1	Board of Music Rep.	Board of Christian Education Rep.
Board of Deacons Rep.	Board of Finance Rep.	Senior Pastor, Ex-Officio

TEACHING PARISH COMMITTEE

Betsy Gerakaris Karen Prewo Marilyn Newton
Mike Swan Steven Boucher
Board of Deacons Reps.: ??

MEMORIAL GARDEN COMMITTEE

Phyllis Chase '14-6 Betty Ann Wurst '14-6 Marilyn Newton '14-6
Al Newton '15-6 Jim Montlick '14-6 Jane Morse '14-6
Eric Gottier '14-6 Dick Wurst '15-6 Daryl Gottier '14-6
Steve Morse '14-3 Kurt Dembeck '14-3 Millie Oliphant '14-2
Elly Swan '14-2 Larry Heebner '14-2 Sarah Wojteczko '14-2
Jonathan Piela '14-2

SAFE CHURCH COMMITTEE

Nancy Shoemaker Hal Cummings Patty Noblet

PASTORIAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Deacon: Mary Wheeler '14-2
Nominating Committee (1 yr term): Dee Kidd '14-2
Nominating Committee (2 yr term): Susan Mias '15-1
Pastor (1 yr term): Karen Prewo '14-1
(2 yr term): Phyllis Chase '14-2

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE (volunteers)

Consists of representatives from all Boards and Committees

STATE CONFERENCE DELEGATES

Delegates

Susan Mias '14-1 Gregory Mias '14-1

Alternate

Valerie Ellis '14-1

TOLLAND ASSOCIATION DELEGATES

Delegates

Helen and Bert Dahling

Alternate

Kate Fowler

DAYCARE CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Patty Noblet '14-2 Board of Trustees Rep.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Steve Repetto Don Melander