

SENIOR PASTOR

"Let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we will reap a harvest, if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9

It has been a busy and exciting year in the life of our church!

At our Congregational Meeting last June we set a goal for ourselves, to build connections with one another and with our neighbors. I am excited to share with you some of the many ways our congregation, lay leaders, pastors and staff rose to meet that goal throughout the year. The following are some of the brand new initiatives, significant events, and major improvements that have taken place during the past twelve months here at FCCV. It is by no means an exhaustive list, just a few bright examples of "What's new?" at FCCV:

- June/July A Leadership Orientation and Teambuilding Retreat for board members.
New windows were installed in the Parsonage.
- August A new sign and signboard on Route 30 gave FCCV a "voice."
A private office was built and equipped for the Director of Christian Education.
The Chapel was completely refurbished.
- September Three new computers with accessories were purchased and installed by an anonymous donor.
The telephone system in the office was updated and new telephones were installed.
The Reading Buddies program began at Maple Street Elementary School.
I was officially "Installed" as Senior Pastor of FCCV at a ceremony on September 15, 2013.
- October The Reverend Robin Bird began her ministry as our Associate Pastor on October 13, 2013.
FCCV's first annual "Trunk or Treat" event proved to be fun for all ages.
- November The Tuesday Morning Bible Study group began meeting at 11 AM each week.
I joined other area clergy in leading the Vernon/Rockville Interfaith Thanksgiving Service.
A Prayer Mailbox was installed and people from the community have started leaving requests.
- December Dean and I hosted Coffee Hour at the Parsonage.
New windows were installed in the Sanctuary.
A small group of Christmas Carolers brightened the holidays for some shut-ins.
The "Scrip-Your-All" gift card program was launched just before Christmas.
- January 'Theology on Tap' began to meet on Thursdays at 6 PM at the R House Restaurant.
The hallway redecoration project was completed (paint, ceiling tiles, floor, etc.).
- February Sunday School students and their teachers began to join us upstairs for Holy Communion.
New zones were added to the heating system to improve efficiency.
- March Existing signage was updated inside and out.
- April First Annual Easter Egg Hunt – open to the community.
A new Pictorial Directory of the congregation became available.
More than 35 volunteers from FCCV served at the CT Missions of Mercy Free Dental Clinic.

May Breakfast was served to staff of Center Road Elementary School for Teacher Appreciation Week.

I am so proud to be part of a church that serves God and others with such joy and faithfulness! It never ceases to amaze me how many different ways and places you share the love of God with one another and the world! It is a great privilege to serve among you in this exciting time of renewing the old and planting anew. As we continue to sow the good seed of a just and loving kingdom, may God bless the holy work we do together in Christ's name.

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Margaret Watson

DIRECTOR of CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School Superintendent: Deborah Hampton
Assistant Superintendent: Randy Ramsdell
Substitute Superintendent: Jen Condry
Sunday School Music Director: Steve Westerberg
Sunday School Bells Director: Hannah Ramsdell
Child Care Coordinator: Christa Hockenberry
Child Care: GloryAnna Hockenberry
Youth Basketball Chaperone: Randy Ramsdell
3 yr/4 yr/5 yr Teachers: Jacklyn Leonard, Jena Maki
3 yr/4 yr/5 yr Shepherds: Haley Hasty, Megan Hasty
1st/2nd Grade Teachers: Jennifer Jensen, Cheryl Turner
1st /2nd Grade Shepherds: Sophie Becker, Hannah Ramsdell
3rd/4th/5th Grade Teachers: Debbie Bartos, Diane Mead, Jacquelyn Mead
3rd/4th/5th Grade Shepherd: Nick Bartos
6th/7th/8th Grade Teachers: Valerie Ellis, Greg Mias
Substitute: Suzanne Maki

Sunday School continues to grow, bringing some new and some past families back to church. We will continue to use the Cokesbury "Grow, Proclaim, Serve" curriculum for 3 years-5th grade. Middle school classes (6th-8th) are using a curriculum that was developed "in house" years ago while adding different topics over the years.

Vacation Bible School welcomed 82 students and 43 volunteers for the week of June 24-June 28, 2013. This was our lowest attendance of any year due to the severe winter with many schools in neighboring towns still in session through June 28. Our theme for last summer was "Everywhere Fun Fair, Where God's World Comes Together."

Starting February, 2014, I voluntarily went from 29 to 20 work hours. I felt that two salaried persons working with Youth Fellowship was not a good usage of our congregations' pledges. I will be focusing my time on Sunday School programs, and staying involved with Vacation Bible School, teacher training, mission projects, family news letters, meetings, etc. I hope that we will be able to bring in even more families with new ideas for an exciting Sunday School.

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, CMCE, Director of Christian Education

MODERATOR

FCCV continues to progress in so many phases of our worship, individual service through boards and committees, and strengthening of our faith among our congregation and community.

We have been blessed this year in so many ways at FCCV. Our Church Council has actively and joyfully worked together to make FCCV a growing Christian congregation. We welcomed our new Associate Pastor, Reverend Robin Bird to our staff. She, along with our Senior Pastor, Reverend Meg Watson, have brought a positive, uplifting, and solid faith experience to us all. Our future at FCCV is very bright.

It has been a pleasure to work with everyone on the Church Council. We pray that God continues to bless our staff, congregation and community at FCCV.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Sweet, Moderator

BOARD of DEACONS

During the 2013-2014 church year, the Board of Deacons worked to support the church mission to “Build connections old and new in both our church and in the community.” The following tasks supported that mission.

- Millie Oliphant brought back and coordinated “Reading Buddies” where members of our congregation read books every week to after school kids at Maple Street School. Thank you to all the readers!
- With our pastors, Jan Muro and Jon Dunlap coordinate our “Care Network” where Deacons and other members of the congregation make visits, provide rides, make meals and send cards to those in need of some extra TLC. Thank you to those who share their time to support this important program!
- Jim Wilson creates and submits ads to the Journal Inquirer to highlight our special services like Christmas and Easter. Our “Deacons Donations” restricted fund supports these ads.
- Phyllis Chase facilitates the weekly Bereavement Group. This group provides strength and support for those who are grieving and is attended by many outside of our congregation.
- The Deacons are also in the process of personally reaching out to church members we have not seen in awhile. We want to show them what they are missing!

In addition, our vice-chairperson Delythe Kracke and Pam Lyons coordinate our acolytes every Sunday. The acolyte robes are now flame-resistant thanks to Karl Prewo’s research and testing.

Michelle Bower continues to coordinate the yearly Thanksgiving Day Breakfast and Service.

Jan Muro and her committee coordinated Laity Sunday.

Pat Lazeren is coordinating the final touches on the hymnal bookplates.

Jim Wilson and Bob Warner make sure we have readers for the “Call to Worship” and “Prayer of Invocation” every Sunday. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to read. If you are interested in reading, contact Jim or Bob. They are the handsome ones sitting in the last row of the middle left pew.

As always, all the Deacons, including Pat Lazeren, Sue Pilkons, Cheryl Purnell, Judy Ramsdell, Mike Swan and Bob Warner are honored to serve Communion to you and participate in Baptism and special services like Ash Wednesday, the Agape Dinner and Maundy Thursday.

This year we were excited to start the "Student Deacon" program. Brianna Markunas, a high school sophomore, has served the congregation Communion and participated in a Baptism ceremony. Her term is one year and she will "retire" as student Deacon on June 30. It was a joy having her on our Deacon team! We will be asking more young people to become student Deacons.

Don Peacock and Jon Dunlap will be leaving the Deacons' team after two terms of service. Don has served as our treasurer for the last six years. Jon has helped with the Care Network and ordered our candles for many years. These two fine gentlemen were always willing to serve the congregation and we will miss them immensely.

Behind all of these programs, tasks, and meetings is the inspiration we receive from our pastors, Rev. Meg Watson, Rev. Robin Bird and Rev. Joanne Myer. They are always supportive, provide new ideas, and keep us spiritually centered in our task of serving you.

Yours in Christ,
Greg Mias, Chairperson

BOARD of FINANCE

The year 2013 proved to be a remarkable year financially. The setup of FCCV's three endowment funds was finalized during 2012, along with an investment strategy. Overall the three fund families (operating funds, church restricted and endowments) appreciated between 19.7% and 22% market-wise this last year. Alongside those truly unusual gains, were the redemptions to meet the Church needs. We funded a very large capital project (Sanctuary windows of roughly \$93,000). Other redemptions were needed for investment spending, replacement of the Carillon and to cover the final 2013 year-end deficit. In total, we redeemed \$178,114 of the church's investments. But with the amazing market gains of 2013, we still exceeded redemptions, ending with a net gain of \$65,317. We ended the year with a market value of \$1,293,290 in the three fund groups, representing a gain of 5.32% from the beginning of 2013.

Our Board met throughout the year to track actuals against the 2013 budget, which stayed fairly much on target. During 2013, Rev. Meg Watson completed her first full year and in the fall, we had the addition of our new full time Associate Pastor Rev. Robin Bird. Working with input from boards and committees during the late fall, we carefully assembled the 2014 budget. In January, we presented, and the congregation approved, a budget that called for a deficit of \$46,350. The board continued to follow our investment strategy, determining an investment spending/redemption of 4% of church investments as needed during 2014. In March 2014, we made our first partial redemption - \$24,024 of the \$41,300, to meet cash flow needs. Our investment policy is to let all funds continue to grow, plowing back earnings, only redeeming funds when needed.

Also of note, we are in year two of the three-year lease with the Hockanum Valley Child Day Care Center. The lease calls for a 5% increase in each year of the lease. New in 2014, was our first year of electronic donations alternative for members, leveraging off the UCC arrangement. This should provide a more even flow of receipts to the church over each month. The Scrip-Your-All program, discovered from another UCC church, was launched, and looks to exceed the \$4,000 planned contribution to this year's budget.

Gaile Dembeck will be leaving the board at the end of this church year. She has been a valuable member of the board over the last three years. Patty Noblet will be returning to the board, along with me taking on a second term. At the beginning of last year, Ron Burr filled out a three-year vacancy on our board. Other members Kate Fowler, Al Newton and Donna Symonds round out our board.

Finally, our thanks to Dave Bower, Harmon Howe, Michelle Bower, Don Melander, Sue Shimer and Adam Jensen who assist us with counting the offering each Sunday. They are a great group of volunteers, reliable and fun to work alongside.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Grigg, 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 2014:

- Parsonage - replaced all windows that were more than eight years old, conducted June Work Day to enhance landscaping, installed backyard fencing, replaced garage door opener
- Church - replaced all Sanctuary windows, replaced ceiling tiles in the Admin Wing, revamped the Associate Pastor's Office and closet reorganization
- Daycare Wing - toilet and window repair
- Vantage Point Cleaning Company continues to provide our Church and Daycare wing cleaning services
- Grounds - Myles McCurry continues to provide all mowing of Church, Parsonage and Memorial Garden areas.
- A-1 provided plowing services at the Church, Parsonage and Daycare this past winter season.
- Upcoming Projects and Areas of Focus - front portico/pillar project; evaluation of our parking lots; completion of short and long-term project plans; and creation of a procedure/vendor handbook and review and revise our Church Use Form.

We are always grateful for the assistance and support provided by non-Trustees on occasional projects. Please be on the lookout for an opportunity to contribute and assist!

Respectfully Submitted,
Holly Boutwell, Chairperson

BOARD of MUSIC

The Board of Music's main focus for 2013-2014 has been to hire a new Sanctuary Choir Director since Mary Jo Simonds-Huneger retired in the fall. We were fortunate that Leanne Connolly was more than able and willing to serve as our Interim Sanctuary Choir Director and we began a search to fill this position permanently after Christmas. We hope to have this position filled by the annual meeting in June.

James Burr, our outstanding Organist, has been most supportive during this time of transition. He goes above and beyond what is required of him, always collaborating, without hesitation, with staff and other members of the congregation. Often the congregation recognizes his outstanding contributions to our worship with applause.

Under the very capable leadership of Leanne and James, the congregation has enjoyed Sunday music from the Sanctuary Choir, Contemporary Choir, Youth Music Group and Transformers. The Cherubs under the direction of Gaile Dembeck, the Little Bells led by Steve Westerberg with Hannah Ramsdell assisting and the Bells directed by James Burr have also enhanced FCCV worship services.

This year the Board of Music decided to move our annual Celebration of Music Sunday from June to May since June is such a busy time of year. On this Sunday, the Les Childs Scholarship will be presented during the worship service.

With the resignation of Serena Volovski, our Chairperson and Treasurer, we were pleased that Carol Jensen volunteered to be our Treasurer; Halene Fujimoto volunteered to be our Secretary (replacing Michelle Giordano); and Helen Dahling and Michelle Giordano volunteered to serve as Chairs. Other valuable members of our Board include Candy Buswell, Ann Garrison and Betsy Gerakaris.

Since all our Board members plan to return next year, we look forward to another great year.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen Dahling and Michelle Giordano, Chairs

BOARD of CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The 2013-2014 program year was transitional for the Board of Christian Education (BCE). Starting in June with Children's Sunday, and a self-evaluation, the year was filled with a combination of traditional and new experiences. Over the summer, the office for the Director of Christian Education (DCE) was relocated next to the Chapel. At the end of the summer, teacher training was held for Sunday School teachers. Rally Sunday was a great success and soon thereafter sponsors for youth mission trips were invited to a celebratory dinner. A BCE Table was established and set up in Fellowship Hall to keep congregants informed of programs and events. The teacher's breakfast was presented as a "Family Breakfast," inviting all families to attend, meet and spend time with the teachers. The first annual Trunk-or-Treat in October was a sweet success. Our collection of little bells grew to ensure we don't "run out" with our growing Sunday School attendance. Children's Sunday was moved to January this program year and the kids did a great job! We offered thanks to two Sunday School Superintendents as they stepped down, and thanks to two new Superintendents who stepped forward. Our new Associate Pastor was a welcome addition as well this year. By-law recommendations were sent to the By-law Review Committee. We discussed space options in anticipation of continued growth, and moved one of the Sunday School classes back into the Library. At the suggestion of the DCE, we recommended a reduction of DCE hours from 29 to 20 per week to help with the church budget. We coordinated with other groups to support fun activities during the Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper and the Agape Dinner. Our first annual Easter Egg Hunt was a hopping good time. We reviewed safe practices in connection with volunteer coverage for Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. Restricted fund use was reviewed and we adopted a 3-month calendar "look ahead" practice. The Youth Group got its own space and name (JWALKRZ). They earned over \$1,000 at a Tag Sale fund raiser that will be allocated to mission trips. The Sunday School children have created curriculum-related art projects throughout the year to enhance the classrooms as well as several bulletin boards in the church. In April, the children planted flowers to help beautify the church grounds in celebration of Earth Day. We are looking forward to the 4th graders receiving their Bibles, Sunday School attendance awards and an end of the Sunday School program year celebration for the kids that includes fun and games and ice cream! It's been a busy year and we aren't done yet! ☺

The Board of Christian Education is a tremendously dedicated group, proud and passionate about the Christian Education programs of our church. We will spend the next couple of months doing staff evaluations and reviewing our own self-assessment. It has been a privilege to serve with such a dedicated, passionate group, and we look forward to another year of “building connections both old and new, in our church and in our community.”

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Turner and Steve Westerberg, Board of Christian Education Chairs

BOARD of MISSIONS and OUTREACH

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.

We recently completed Our Church’s State-Wide Mission project, a two-day dental clinic with Missions of Mercy at the XI Center in Hartford Ct. The clinic provides free dental care to the under served and uninsured in Connecticut – those who would otherwise go without dental care. The project ran the month of March and April, giving the congregation the opportunity to volunteer, donate or both. We raised \$2918 and had 35 volunteers.

Missions supported the following...

Neighbors in Need - \$400
One Great Hour of Sharing - \$471
Veterans of the Cross Christmas Fund - \$479
School Store - \$217
Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets - \$6,000
Christmas Giving Tree - 145 toys provided
Tri-Town Shelter (donation of scarves, mittens, hats, socks) - \$500

Support through Missions and Outreach

Our Churches Wider Mission - \$12,000
CT Per Capita - \$4,360
Tolland Association Dues - \$346
Andover Newton Seminary - \$175
Total \$16,881

Support through Local Outreach

Habitat for Humanity - \$175
RHS Project Graduation - \$200
Tri-Town Fuel - \$800
Tri-Town Shelter - \$200
Vernon Ambulance - \$100
Visiting Nurse Association - \$250
Cornerstone Foundation - \$200
Youth Missions - \$100
Total \$2025

Special Collection for Disaster Relief

Missionary Society of CT (Oklahoma) - \$429
American Red Cross (Colorado) - \$383
Missionary Society of CT (Philippines) - \$1007
Total \$ 1819

We continue to serve meals at the Cornerstone Soup Kitchen on the first Saturday of every month. We also support the Tri-Town Food Pantry with ongoing food donations collected from the Mission Boxes in the Breezeway.

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

Respectfully,
Gilmay Markunas and Kathleen McClure, Chairs

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 2013-2014.

- Executed Pledge Drive for 2014 where 177 units returned giving cards totaling \$235,240 towards the 2014 budget year
- Incorporated “God Loves a Cheerful Giver” theme for 2014
- The entire committee and one cheerful volunteer wrote “Thank You” notes in appreciation of those who supported the 2014 Giving Campaign Drive.
- New Name Tags were researched and made available to church members. Promotion of church Boards and Committees is included as hand tags off the Name Tags.
- Maintained Friendship Register throughout 2013-2014. Mary Wheeler and Martha Fowler (an ad hoc committee volunteer) sent out notes and Welcome Cards to visitors who signed the register or those expressing a wish to be contacted.
- Maintained the Guest Book (where visitors have the opportunity to sign) in the Narthex, and provided Welcome Gift Bags for those visiting to further provide a welcoming atmosphere
- Maintained a “Welcome Center” in Fellowship Hall containing information from various Boards and Committees
- Produced various articles for the Carillon and Sunday bulletins educating FCCV members on stewardship and opportunities within the church
- Maintained the “Pay It Forward” (PIF) program throughout 2013-2014. Thanks to the generous contributions and commitment of the members and friends of FCCV, “Pay It Forward” which started out as a two-week mission in 2010 has grown to become a permanent ministry of our church. We continue to celebrate PIF every 4th Sunday of the month, where a “Pay It Forward” story is shared and a new name drawn. We are so grateful to our donors who allow PIF to continue its blessings to those in need. PIF moments are updated on the FCCV website by Gerry Dyar, one of our members, allowing visitors to the website to share in the PIF mission as well.
- Supported the Board of Finance in the promotion of Electronic Giving during the Cheerful Giving campaign
- Managed the installation of a new sign for outdoor communication, similar to the one at the Vernon Arts Center. Many thanks to the Church Council for approval and support as well as to many church members for their support.
- Solicited the support of the Pictorial Directory Committee. Many thanks to Alex Fowler, Martha Fowler, Sara Koziol, Patty Noblet and Elly Swan for volunteering to become members of this ad hoc committee and for seeing this project through to a successful completion!

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 the Pledge Drive Campaign for 2015 to support FCCV and its ministry. Continue to work with the Board of Finance on timeline 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 our current membership
- Maintain information in the Church Welcome Centers
- Offer Name Tags to members
- Enact an FCCV Ambassador program
- Seek and develop new ideas of outreach to current members and the 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 the acquisition and installation of a new sign for outdoor communication at FCCV

The Stewardship and 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.

Respectfully submitted,

The Stewardship and Evangelism Committee - Kate Fowler, Chair, Meg Watson, Senior Pastor, Robin Bird, Associate Pastor, Jim Montlick, Tony Muro, Stephen Repetto, Louise Theriault, Robert Warner, Jim Wilson

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

This year many new books were accessioned into the Library. Several were purchased new while others were generously donated. The titles ranged from children's books, devotionals, the origins of popular hymns and ways to deal with the stresses in our lives. DVDs of past Sunday services and special events are also available to borrow.

The Library is accessible any time the church is open. We work to provide helpful resources for the congregation. Copies of Sunday bulletins, monthly 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/DVDs in the Library mailbox.

TEACHING PARISH COMMITTEE

We did not receive an applicant from Andover Newton Theological Seminary this past year. In October your TPC had the privilege of attending the ordination of our most recent student, the now Rev. Joseph Tobin. We are looking forward to 2014-15 which will be the 18th year that FCCV will serve as a Teaching Parish and we will have our 9th student.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Prewo, Chair, Steven Boucher, Betsy Gerakaris, Marilyn Newton, Mike Swan

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Communications Committee is responsible for how the Church appears to its members and to the broader community it is part of, in other words, FCCV public relations via any media.

Video Activity

Over the past 12 months our Sunday services, edited down to 58 minutes, appeared at least twice each week on the Comcast Community Voice Channel along with special services like Christmas that appeared more often. Steve Repetto recorded and edited the vast majority of these, with occasional help from Al Newton. We estimate a total of almost 120 hours of “visibility” for FCCV from this.

During the editing process, sermons and selected musical offerings are excerpted and made available on our website. The website now has 16 current videos of both types along with a video archive of 23 historically significant sermons and 21 representative musical offerings, almost three times as many as last year. In the near future, equipment upgrades at Comcast should allow us to link to current complete services from our website.

Website Activity

Size of our site: It’s almost doubled. Currently there are 121, up from 82, primary URL pages of information linked together, probably equal in content to 320 regular pages. These are backed up with 51, up from 30, multipage PDF documents that tell more complete stories. The Archive section contains another 317, up from 175, PDF documents, mainly past Carillons, Calendars, Bulletins and Pastor’s Weekly Emails. The Video section contains 60, up from 23, items.

How new people found us: We get about 400 visits per month, about the same as last year. 55 % of these visitors have never been here before. Of these new visitors, 51% used a search engine to find us, 18% clicked on a link embedded in another web site to get to us and 27% typed our address directly into their browser. We have no idea where they got the URL from.

Total visitors to the site: In the past three months 1,213 visits, down from 1,315 last year, were made by 687, up from 636, unique people. Collectively they looked at 3,441 pages, down from 4,231 pages and were on the site for an average of 2 minutes and 50 seconds, down from 3 minutes and 8 seconds.

We don’t think this apparent reduction in interest is significant since other feedback we get tells us the site is providing the Church with excellent outreach. An additional Committee member who likes data mining would be a great help to us and the Church as a whole in interpreting this.

Facebook Activity

Deborah Hockenberry continues to do an incredible job documenting FCCV activities, particularly of our youth, on Facebook. Since last year, 49 more albums have been added, mostly by her, containing 2,104 pictures, for a total of 84 albums with 3,692 pictures. Since last year at this time, the number of Facebook “likes” (faithful followers of our every activity) has increased from 82 to 166 - 73% are female, 25% are male. 53% are female between 35 and 64 years of age. 19% are male between 45 and 65+ (10 %!) years of age. The median age of both groups has increased by 10 over the past year. Over the past month there have been 57 people “liking” something on our page, up from 28 last year. Overall, we reached 1,253 people, up from 772 last year at this time.

Patch Activity

FCCV continues to have a permanent listing on Patch that shows up if you search for churches there. Jim Wilson started and maintains an FCCV Blog on Patch that brings the Pastor’s Weekly Email and other FCCV public notices to the web. Michelle Giordano posts notices of FCCV worship services on Patch.

Office Computer Support Activity

Last fall Andy Meyer researched, purchased and configured new computers for the Church Office and the two Pastors along with backup drives for each and a Wi-Fi network to connect them. He then instructed everyone in their use. He refurbished the newest of the older computers for the Director of Christian Education. He also supervised the installation of the new telephone system.

Email Server Activity

In January, Andy Myer and Gerry Dyar, based on recommendations from the UCC, set up a dedicated email handler for FCCV. The Church Office is now completely converted to the new system but the rest of the conversion is still in process.

Other Activity

With the help of the Board of Deacons, Jim Wilson placed an ad about our Christmas Services in the Journal Inquirer.

We are an integral part of the Committee working on the upgrade to the Sanctuary sound system, which is critical to the quality of our video recordings.

We have been working closely with our church Historian to determine which of our digital material should be archived, and how. Again, an additional Committee member with an interest in this area would be welcomed.

NOTE: For more information on our Committee go to www.firstchurchofvernon.org, then SITE MAP, then COMMITTEES and then COMMUNICATIONS.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gerry Dyar, Chair

Members: Steve Repetto, Deborah Hockenberry, Dean Watson, Don Melander, Gerry Dyar

Ad-Hoc Members: Al Newton, Andy Meyer, Michelle Giordano, Nancy Young

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Human Resources Committee consists of seven members: Paul Shimer, Chair; Mike Swan, Board of Deacons; Jean Philbrick, Board of Christian Education; Anne Garrison, Board of Music; Meg Watson, Senior Pastor; Robin Bird, Associate Pastor. The Committee meets periodically to act on requests from the Boards with staff responsibility for assistance with issues affecting the employees of First Congregational Church of Vernon. The Committee is also responsible for vetting employees and volunteers by conducting background checks in compliance with UCC guidelines and FCCV insurance protocols.

The Committee has proposed amendments to FCCV Personnel Policies to clarify conditions for time off by staff including paid time off. The amendments are being considered by Church Council.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Shimer

FURNISHINGS and MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

The Furnishings and Memorials Committee has two major functions. The first is to record donations made to the church, usually in memory of a loved one, send written notification to the family of donations received and a "thank you" note to donors confirming receipt of their donations. Donors are recorded in the Memory Book along with photos documenting items donated or acquired.

Secondly, we review all proposed gifts and purchases having to do with the furnishings of the Church. Our committee works along with the Board of Trustees to accept or reject any gift or purchase. We are also charged with reviewing and making recommendations on proposals involving furnishings which may be submitted to the Committee by boards, committees or individuals within the church.

During this past year, at Reverend Meg's suggestion, we acquired 3 pub tables and 12 stools, which were placed in Fellowship Hall for use by youth during their gatherings and by the congregation during Coffee Hour. Cost was \$999.

Along with the Trustees, we approved and funded the purchase of two window air conditioners, one in the Library, the other in Reverend Meg's office for \$592. We purchased an architect-style adjustable chair for Linda's new office for \$119 and a desk chair for Associate Pastor Robin, \$67. We also made a \$500 contribution towards the new sign installed in front of the church.

We have established a schedule for maintaining cleanliness in the Bride's Room and Crib Room and to see that essential supplies are replenished as needed.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Sullivan, Chairman

PARISH NURSES

The Parish Nurses continue to serve as a resource for the congregation in regards to general health and medical issues. Blood pressures are usually taken once a month, and the members of the congregation are encouraged to monitor their health and learn about a healthy lifestyle. The Parish Nurses sponsor the basic life support class and maintain the AED.

Respectfully submitted,
Delythe Kracke, Doe Simmonds, Chairs

FLOWER COMMITTEE

The Flower Committee is responsible for coordinating the flower arrangements displayed on Sundays. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex on the bulletin board on the right near the stairs to Fellowship Hall. Anyone interested in donating flowers for a Sunday service, signs up for a date and orders flowers or brings their own in for display. We've had many fine displays from folks in memory of loved ones or in honor of special occasions - some very creative. Thank you to all who order flowers for our Christmas and Easter displays. We are thankful for all contributions.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Lyons

MEMORIAL GARDEN COMMITTEE

Six sites have been purchased.

The Garden slept well last winter and awoke in fine fashion. Al Newton worked very hard to repair the fountain and it was bubbling away at the Sunrise Service. Kurt Dembeck does a great job spreading fertilizer, as well as crabgrass prevention.

A weekly weeding chart was created for the summer months. Everyone signed up for a week. This worked very well. The Garden looked wonderful.

A work day was held in October. We had a great turnout to accomplish lots of work. The new grass came in very nicely.

We also had a work day in April. So many wonderful volunteers arrived to help. We thank them very much.

A beautiful Coral Bark Maple was planted. It has a red trunk and looks so wonderful, especially against the white snow.

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

The Sunrise Service was again held in the Garden. Pastor Meg and Pastor Robin led a very moving and meaningful service. It truly is a special way to begin the day. The birds were singing and the sun arose at the perfect time in the service.

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

The responsibilities of the Committee are shared as follows:

1. Treasurer: Steve Morse
2. Application Coordinator: Phyllis Chase
3. Interment Supervisor: Jim Montlick
4. Designee to Church Council: Phyllis Chase
5. Maintenance Supervisors: Al and Marilyn Newton
6. Recording Secretary: Daryl Gottier
7. Committee Chair: Jane Morse

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, Elly Swan, Dick Wurst, Betty Ann Wurst, Steve Morse, Jane Morse, Stacy Melanson

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Morse, Chairperson

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 FCCV Budget included a revenue line item for Ways and Means in the amount of \$5,000 for 2013 and 2014. We earned \$5,436 in 2013, and are on target to meet or exceed this amount in 2014.

The following activities were planned for the 2013-2014 program year:

- Chili and Cornbread Sale
- Super Bowl Grinder Sale
- Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner
- Mum Sale
- Mother’s Day Plant Sale
- Bake Sales
- Used Book Sale
- Shred-a-thon
- FCCV Church Bazaar Dinner
- Community Dinners

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

USHERING COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Ushering Committee, I report that the total attendance recorded for the 42 services from May 5, 2013 to April 27, 2014 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 13/14 period versus 159.6 for the 12/13 period or a change of 0%. The two Christmas Eve services had an attendance of 400. The Easter service had an attendance of 320. 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 2013-2014 term were: the Chairperson, Harmon Howe, Judy Ramsdell, Pat Aldrich, 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 2013/2014

Date	Attendance	Notes	Date	Attendance	Notes
2013			2014		
05-05	162		01-05	145	
05-12	161		01-12	189	
05-19	145	Confirmation	01-19	155	
05-26	102*		01-26	215	
06-02	158		02-02	198	
06-09	116		02-09	152	
06-16	98*		02-16	122	
06-23	81*		02-23	177	
06-30	110*		03-02	189	
07-07	82*		03-09	200	
07-14	110		03-16	146	
07-21	121		03-23	164	
07-28	106*		03-30	145	
08-04	103*		04-06	182	
08-11	105*		04-13	172	
08-18	130		04-20	320	Easter
08-25	142		04-27	168	
09-01	75*		05-04		
09-08	186	Rally Sunday	05-11		
09-15	159		05-18		
09-22	205		05-25		
09-29	136		06-01		
10-06	152		06-08		
10-13	151		06-15		
10-20	191		06-22		
10-27	182		06-29		
11-03	163				
11-10	153				
11-17	202				
11-24	170				
12-01	129				
12-08	169				
12-15	0*				
12-22	202				
12-29	127				

*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.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

It is always an exciting start to our fellowship year when we begin with the Retreat. Thirty women joined together for a day and a half of fellowship, devotions, discussion, communion, relaxation and good food. Our Retreat is held every other year in September and we encourage more of you to join us. The Fall brought our Apple Festival with crafts, books and a bake sale. In November we took orders for pies and had them ready for Thanksgiving. The weather did not co-operate for our Cookies-in-a-Box sale in December. The New Year began with an evening making and enjoying appetizers, followed by a short program. Kandi Carle, the Victorian Lady, returned in March and was enjoyed by many from the church and community. She makes for a fun afternoon and we always learn new things about the ladies from past generations. A Line Dancing program was presented by our own Millie Oliphant. This was enjoyed by many who were able to join in and learn or just watch. In between all this, we have started projects for the Holiday Fair in November – planning, making baskets and crafts. Lots of help is always needed, so please share your time and talents and join in the fellowship.

Basket Circle, Prayer Shawl Group, Evening Circle and Crafts Group are all looking for interested people. All ladies are welcome, so come, meet new people, make new friends while taking time in our busy schedules to listen for God.

Respectfully submitted,
Phyllis Chase and Daryl Gottier, Chairs

CLERK'S REPORT

MEMBERSHIP – JUNE 1, 2013	584
Additions	
Letter of Transfer	2
Confession of Faith	1
Reaffirmation of Faith	11
Youth Membership	0
Reactivated to Membership	6
Associate Membership	<u>0</u>
Total	20
Deductions	
Transfers	4
Moved to Inactive	0
Withdrawn	5
Deaths	4
Muriel Schiebel (1958) 7/31/13	
Richard Saich (1959) 9/27/13	
John Mayhew (1977) 11/2/13	
Donald Chase (1962) 11/21/13	
Total	<u>+7</u>
MEMBERSHIP - MAY 31, 2014	591

Rev. Meg Watson

Marriages 5
Funerals 5
Baptisms 7

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Theriault, Clerk

HISTORIAN

While it has not been common in years past, I have decided to include information from the Historian in this Annual Report.

The Historians who immediately preceded me, including most recently Joan Apel and Geraldine Strong, did exceptional work in keeping the records of our church intact! As one might imagine, there are *many* items that have been collected in the 250 plus years of our history. If not for their efforts, much of our history could have been lost to the ages.

That being said, there is plenty of work to be done. Our storage space is small, so thought must be given to careful editing and efficient organization. Many records need to be preserved and protected in archival boxes...which need to be purchased. Electronic record keeping has begun and needs to be continued. Our church website should have interesting information regarding our history. Progress on these kinds of things will, hopefully, be reported next year.

For now, the main thing I have concentrated on is getting the word out to our church family that we do **HAVE** an **INTERESTING** history...and that we are the great church that stands at the corner of Route 30 and Center Road because of the dedicated Christians who have gone before us. To that end, I have changed our Historical Display Case three times, placed "Historical Notes" in the Carillon seven times, and developed and presented a talk to this year's Confirmation class on the history of FCCV.

I've also answered one genealogical question from a woman researching her family, met with Gerry Dyar our webmaster, gratefully accepted the help of Milt Doremus who put together a complete record of the history of our endowment funds and other financial information, consulted with Geraldine Strong and Joan Apel numerous times, received very complete records regarding the rebuilding of our church after the 1965 fire (from the Richard Saich family) and researched the legal incorporation papers for FCCV because they were needed by David Grigg of the Board of Finance.

I know that these are exciting times for FCCV, and it is easy to be all about the here and now, but my hope is that we can take time now and again to reflect on what has gone before, as we move forward...remembering that we are continuing a long-standing tradition of shining the light of Christ on our corner...and way beyond!

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Sweet, Historian

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Officers, Boards and Committees

July 2014 – June 2015

MODERATOR:	Tom Sweet '15-2
VICE MODERATOR:	Sue Mias '15-2
CLERK:	Louise Theriault '15-2
ASSISTANT CLERK:	Pat Lazaren '15-13
TREASURER:	Bill Boutwell '15-7
ASSISTANT TREASURER:	Steve Morse '15-6
CHURCH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS:	Deb Hampton '16-1 Randy Ramsdell '16-1
CHURCH SCHOOL ASST. SUPERINTENDENT:	Jennifer Condry '15-4
HISTORIAN:	Lynn Sweet '15-2
ASSISTANT HISTORIAN:	Geraldine Strong '15-2
LIBRARIAN:	Daryl Gottier '15-2

BOARD of DEACONS

Peg Leary '16-1	Pam Lyons '15-2	Karl Prewo '16-1
Cheryl Purnell '16-1	Michelle Bower '15-2	Delythe Kracke '16-2
Pat Lazaren '15-2	Jan Muro '16-2	Mike Swan '16-2
Marilyn Newton '16-1	Bob Warner '16-2	
Jim Wilson '16-2	Greg Mias '16-1	
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 '15-2
John MacDougall '15-2	Barbara Melander '16-2	Jim Tomko '15-2
Sue Mias '15-3	Brad Leonard '15-2	Dave Bower '16-1

BOARD of FINANCE

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

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

BOARD of CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Suzanne Maki '16-2	Deb Bartos '15-2	Michelle Harlow '15-1
Millie Oliphant '16-1	Valerie Sexton '16-1	
Deb Hockenberry '16-1	Steve Westerberg '16-1	
<u>Deacon Rep.</u>	<u>Director of Christian Ed.</u>	<u>Church School Superintendents</u>
Pat Lazaren	Linda Shivers	Deb Hampton, Randy Ramsdell

Childcare Coordinator: Christa Hockenberry

BOARD of MISSIONS and OUTREACH

Emily Westerberg '16-1 Susan Moreau '16-1 Deb Hockenberry '15-1
Monica Becker '16-2 Kathaleen Bainbridge '16-1
Taunya Cruz '16-1 Kathleen McClure '15-1
Catharine Foote '16-1 Valerie Ellis '16-1
Ad hoc: Bobbie Montgomery

BOARD of MUSIC

Leanne Connolly '15-1 Helen Dahling '16-2
Candy Buswell '16-1 Michelle Giordano '16-2
Halene Fujimoto '15-1 Claudette Weingart '15-1

FURNISHINGS and MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

Bev Duncan '15-4 Joyce Sepulveda '15-4 Sally Sullivan '15-5
Pat Lazeren '15-4 Jane Burr '16-3 Chris Kunz '16-3
Furnishings and Memorials Committee Emerita: Charlotte Driggs

WAYS and MEANS COMMITTEE

Michelle Bower '15-6 Janice Peacock '15-5 Phyllis Chase '15-2
Ann Harford '15-4 Carol Slicer '15-2 Helen Dyar '15-1
Nancy Shoemaker '15-3 April Gothberg '15-1
Halene Fujimoto '15-1 Susan Pilkons '15-1

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Robin Youngdahl '15-7 Phyllis Chase '15-10 Betty Ann Wurst '15-3
Paula Dascomb '15-1 Gaile Dembeck '15-1 Marlene Bennett '15-2
Librarian: Daryl Gottier

STEWARDSHIP and EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Stephen Repetto '15-6 Jim Wilson '15-1 Fred Kracke '15-1
Louise Theriault '15-3 Tony Muro '15-1 James Montlick '15-1
Kate Fowler '15-2 Robert Warner '15-2

AUDIT COMMITTEE (3 Elected in January)

Tony Muro '15-1 Bert Dahling '15-1 John Koziol '15-2

FLOWER COMMITTEE

Pam Lyons '15-11 Betty Ann Wurst '15-7 Jane Saich '15-10
Elly Swan '15-8 Lois Montlick '15-4
Martha Fowler '15-2

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Steve Repetto '15-5 Dean Watson '15-2 Fred Kracke '15-2
Aarika Mallory '15-3 T. Gerry Dyar '15-4 Deb Hockenberry '15-2
Andy Myer '15-1

USHERING COMMITTEE

Pat Aldrich '15-6 Harmon Howe '15-9
Judy Ramsdell '15-4 Harry Mead '15-3

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

