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To: fccv@snet.net;
Date: Thu, July 19, 2012 11:47:59 AM
Cc:
Subject: Pastor's Weekly Email

"Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in." Robert Frost

As some of you know, last weekend, I was invited back by the good people of St. Mark's UCC in Lebanon PA , to preach at the Sunday service and assist them in celebrating their 125th anniversary. St. Mark's was my first call out of seminary and I think often of the risk they took in calling me as a new pastor, full of new ideas and raw skills, and hope that I have lived the days of my ministry in ways that make them glad of the risk they took in calling me.

It has been 30 years since I left that church. Maggie and I left on a snowy morning in January 1983 to move to North Carolina where she had been called to serve in an Episcopal church. During my time in Lebanon this past weekend, visiting with and re-connecting with old friends and members of the church, I was surprised how many people welcomed me "home."

There is something special about the pastor-parish connection that a church, once served, always feels like home to some degree. I hope this isn't a quality limited to those in ordained ministry, but that everyone has the experience of "returning home" when they visit churches in which they have been an active part of the fellowship and community. Working with others in the ministries and missions of any local church is a wonderful investment of one's self in the wider community. There are both immediate and long lasting benefits, not the least of which is that, whenever you find yourself going there, it feels like coming home.

It was good to get away and it is good to get back. Hope to see you on Sunday.
Pastor David

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This coming Sunday, July 22nd, we welcome "home" Joseph Tobin, who has served our church as our TPC student over the past year. Our prior plans to "decommission" Joseph and celebrate his time here with us, needed to be postponed at the last minute in May.

Joseph will be preaching on Matthew 14: 22-33 and his sermon title is "It Takes Faith to Get Out of the Boat."

During the service, we will formally decommission Joseph in a liturgy led by the members of the TPC Committee. During Coffee Hour, there will be a reception held in Joseph's honor.

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