

Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR



July 2023

Diaconate Ditties

Scott Horsfield

The Diaconate has been busy this past month. We hosted The Reverend Karen Ziel who provided an overview of the “Legacy” process to about 30 members and friends of First Church. Based on her presentation, we have some work to do in the very near future.

We welcomed The Reverend Linda Huff on Sunday, June 25, 2023. Reverend Huff will be with us the rest of the summer with a few Sundays off to satisfy some prior commitments. She will also be available for Pastoral Care and some limited office hours. If you haven’t already met her, please join us on Sunday mornings and introduce yourselves.

As the Chair of the Diaconate, I want to thank Rachel Anderson for all the work she did to search out and schedule our Pastoral Supply for the summer. This is a time-consuming job, and as always, Rachel found us some great people to cover for the Sundays that Reverend Huff is not available.

We have also come up with some options to show our Open and Affirming status. There will be a new banner on the Church building as well as a surprise addition to the sign.

The Diaconate will be meeting over the summer with the “Governing Board” to begin the Legacy Process and assist with the Search Process.

Church Committee

Jean Jackson, Church Clerk

Clerk's highlights from the Church Committee meeting held June 13, 2023 -

- Treasurer's report - Expenses for May were \$14,059.48. Income was \$19,110. Balance on hand is \$3,178.62. Surplus for the month is \$5,050.52; deficit year-to-date is -\$9,433.97.
- Investments - In May, the brokerage account decreased \$59,343. \$13,000 was withdrawn to cover expenses. Intel stock was sold to add to the core account; the stock was under-performing. Ending balance for April is \$1,856,076.
- The next Church Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 6:30 pm. It will be held in the Metzger Chapel and on Zoom. All are welcome to attend whether or not you serve on a committee.
- The July meeting will focus on the Second Hour program.



Missions News

Rachel Anderson, Nancy Stearns & Marilyn Senger

Thank you to all who donated to Tools of Hope, in memory or in honor of all of the fathers and father figures. We raised \$670 to send to Church World Service (CWS) which will be used to purchase concrete blocks, shovels and other tools used in rebuilding structures lost to floods, hurricanes, earthquakes and other disasters. Your generosity means that CWS can respond quickly, with compassion, when disaster strikes. Thanks for supporting our mission.



Lap Quilt Presentation

The lap quilt presentations have continued, honoring some very special local veterans. These quilts were made during the Sewin4Servicemen events, held here at the church and hosted and organized by our own Judy Borré. Judy, along with a few First Church members, including Jean Jackson, Rachel Anderson, and Bev Zaugg were on hand to thank them in person for their service and present the quilts.



Historian's Column

Mary Crittenden

A Church in Trouble

If you are man enough, this is The Call- - -
not a command - - -

It's a call for help from a Church that's in
trouble - - -
deep trouble.

Too much money - - -endowed money;
and too many problems of living in this day and age,
and,
not enough Christianity



These words were written 50 years ago about this church when the congregation was in the process of searching for a new minister. In fact, it was the opening paragraph written as The Call and sent to the candidate. The details in the following paragraphs describe our church at that time. However, it reads as if it were written today!

It was written by the chair of the call committee, Russell Trotman, with input from the rest of the committee. It was one of the low points in the history of this church. Yes, I wrote "one of" as this church has had other low points. But the church is still here as it has seen renewal at these times. The life cycle of an organization or a church helps explain the thirty-to-forty-year cycle. How / why do churches manage to transition; to renew the church? If they do not, the decline continues and the church organization dies. If the congregation awakens to where they are in this process, they can decide which way to proceed. They can decide that their church has completed its mission and prepare for disposal of the church properties and what will happen with those individuals that are left of the congregation. Or they can decide on a new vision and mission and thus renew the organization.

We as the members of this church need to explore together where we are in the life cycle and how we want to proceed. We are not alone! There are many churches on the downward slope of the curve. The UCC conference can help guide us as we work together to assess our gifts and talents and look at the needs of our community and how we can serve God with a mission to meet these needs -- to discern how to transition.

As I write this, I want to stress that if all of us work together we can discern the direction that this church will take.

Here are the last lines of The Call paper written as Arthur Dunham's Call:

A Church,
 No worse, perhaps,
 and certainly, no better,
 Than many others in the same predicament;
 Slowly,
 N the maelstrom of confused and doubting humanity,
 lost without Christ:
 going down _____
 Help!

News and updates from the Historian

*We wish to thank Scott Horsfield for the external drive for our archive computer.

*A thank you to our unknown donor for a copy of the blue vintage cookbook self-published by our church women.



*A thank you to Terry Belknap for donating her copy of our Apple Cookbook to the archives. I believe we now have a complete collection of church cookbooks.

*The church building drawing plans and blueprints from the 1957 church addition have been professionally scanned and are now on a USB drive. This gives us access to the plans on any computer we choose to install the files as well as protecting them.

Trustees News

Jean Trotman, Trustee Chair



We will be working on cleaning and repainting the ramp to the Wolcott Building. Along with CE, we determined that the plantings around the Wolcott are significantly overgrown. Since some will not respond to trimming, the joint decision was to remove all plantings and start fresh. There isn't a specific schedule for this work, but we expect it to start in the next month or so. We currently have a group teaching Turkish to children using one classroom in the Wolcott on a trial basis to see if it meets their needs. Continuing discussions are occurring regarding ways to improve the security for our church building.

Church Family News

Rick Whitin	07/04	Stuart Howard	07/20
Barbara Wright	07/07	Marlena Klein	07/20
Laura Klein	07/08	Catherine Mikkola	07/20
Alex Margiott	07/09	Sheila McIntosh	07/21
Ray Zaugg	07/12	Adrienne Andrews	07/30
Scott Horsfield	07/18		



Doris Burgdorf	Cliff McClellan
Joyce Coon	Della Mitchell
The Klein Family	Edie & Bob Starr
Merle & Leilani Dinse	Brad & Barb Wright
Lisa Horsfield	Patty & Billy Cox
The Peck Family	



First Congregational Church of South Windsor extends deepest sympathies to the family of Robert Peck, who passed on June 18, 2023.

First Congregational Church of South Windsor extends deepest sympathies to the Klein family for the recent passing of Jean Klein.

Music Committee

Jean Jackson and Lisa Horsfield

- With the sanctuary set for A/C, tuning of the organ and the two pianos will be scheduled.
- Jean Jackson will cover for Kamilla while she's on vacation in June and July.



Heritage Day Fair

Jean Trotman, Mary Crittenden, Judy Borré

Heritage Day is once again happening and is scheduled for Sept.30th. This is one way we can make our Church more visible to the community but it also means we need the congregation's support for set-up, take-down and manning our display during the event. Please mark your calendars. More information should be available later this summer.

Prayer Chain

Rachel Anderson

We have an active prayer chain here at First Church. It is a confidential list of people we pray for as requested. The people on the chain remain confidential. If you have names that you would like to add, please contact Rachel Anderson via phone or email. (860) 644-2157 or leeandrachela@gmail.com. Also, if anyone would like to join us on the chain, let me know, we would love to have you. It is not time consuming and is at your convenience.



Newsletter Deadline

The next newsletter issue will be published in **August 2023**. Please send your submissions **and photos** to the church office by **July 14th** for inclusion. Thank you.
firstchurchsw@gmail.com



Church Office Hours

Hours will be Tuesday – Friday 9 am – 2 pm, unless otherwise noted. The Church Office will be Closed July 4 in honor of Independence Day.

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TO: