



**First Congregational Church
of Lebanon**

United Church of Christ

MAY 2014

News and Events

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The Pastoral Perspective

The small bottle filled with sand occupied a place of prominence on the desk, its location inviting comment. Given that I was at Princeton Theological Seminary visiting an acquaintance who was an ordained Presbyterian minister, I asked if I was looking at a souvenir from the Holy Land. My question was met with a satisfied grin that told me I'd not only asked the right question but phrased it in just the right way. The sand was indeed from the Holy Land. From a bunker at St. Andrew's, to be precise.

I thought of that encounter from the late 1990s on Easter Sunday, when a member of our church brought in her own souvenir from the Holy Land. In this case, it came not from Scotland, the home of the auld game, but Israel, the ancient, ancestral home of our faith. Having a tangible connection on that morning with the place where the events described in the Gospel occurred was a gift, a blessed link between past and present, between the narratives of Scripture and the ongoing, unfolding story of salvation and resurrection in our own day and time. The abstract was made real—ever so fitting, as we were about to celebrate the victory over death of the Word made flesh.

Relics have a long and checkered history as part of the Christian faith. Sometimes, they have been venerated in ways that seem to be blatant violations of the Second Commandment. Historical significance has been attached to them. Outlandish claims have been made about them (their provenance, their powers). But there are also those times and places where they do what they should do: serve to deepen a bond between the faithful and the object of their faith. That's what that souvenir did for me on Easter morning. There was nothing in the least holy about the item itself—but there was in the smile of the one who shared this little treasure with us. And there was something blessed in the silent testimony the object offered: the Holy Land was, is, real. The places where Jesus walked

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SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday, May 4—Meet Epilogos Mission Leaders Mike and Susie Jenkins!

Plan to stay after worship on May 4 for a presentation by Mike and Susie Jenkins, the former Peace Corps volunteers who have dedicated their lives to working with Epilogos Charities in San Jose Villanueva, El Salvador. Joined by Dr. Peter Abel, they'll discuss their efforts in El Salvador, reflect on the role of mission work worldwide, and offer some details about our October mission trip.

See Page 7 for details about FCC's October mission trip to El Salvador!

Please join us after worship on

Mothers' Day, May 11

for an informal reception celebrating

Laura Place

After a lifetime of loving involvement in our congregation, Laura will be moving this month to be closer to her daughter, near Concord.

Close enough to come back to visit!

COMMUNITY DINNER

Sunday, May 25, at 5:00

Thanks to members of the MISSION AND SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE for organizing this month's dinner!

Please help out by donating ingredients or volunteering to help with set-up, serving, or clean-up. Our service is vital to those in our local community who look forward to this meal every month.

Never helped before but interested in trying? Make THIS your month!

New Members Welcome!

Have you worshiped with us regularly? Have you found a welcoming, spiritually nourishing church home here? Would you like to become more involved in some of our programs and events?

We warmly invite you to consider formally joining our community of faith as a covenant member.

If you are interested in learning more about this invitation, please contact Rev. Steve Silver or the church office (church@fceleb.org or 603-448-4281).

Queued for Coffee Hour

May—Women of the Church

June—Board of Governors

July—Church Council

August—Christian Education Committee

Mother's Day is Blanket Sunday

On Sunday, May 11, we are pleased once again to participate in **Church World Service's Blankets+ Program**, a special mission opportunity that provides blankets and other relief supplies to people around the world. Please consider making a contribution of any amount to this vital project, in honor or memory of beloved family and friends. *Dedications will appear in the bulletin on May 11.*

To contribute, please complete and return the bulletin insert on May 4 or contact the church office directly with your contribution and dedication information.

MAY 2014 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 10a Worship/ Church School 11:15a Special Congregational Meeting 5p Community Dinner	28 5:30p Wolf Cubs 6p Tiger Cubs	29 7p Boy Scouts	30 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto Annual Mtg	1 7p Choir	2 6p Bear Cubs 7p Cub Scouts Committee	3 8a Men's Breakfast 9a Bible Study 9a Spring Clean-Up Day
4 10a Worship/ Church School (Communion) 11:15a Epilogos Presentation	5 3p WCBH After-school 5:30p Wolf Cubs 6p Tiger Cubs	6 11a Senior Luncheon 7p Boy Scouts	7 6p UVPRN 7:30p Lee Webster Presentation	8 9:30a-4p Grafton- Orange Assn 7p Choir	9 6p Bear Cubs	10 9a Bible Study
11 MOTHERS' DAY 10a Worship/ Church School (Blanket Sunday)	12 5:30p Wolf Cubs 7p Diaconate	13 7p Boy Scouts	14 6p UVPRN	15 7p Choir	16 6p Bear Cubs	17 9a Bible Study
18 10a Worship/ Church School 11:15a M&SA / Stewardship 4p C. Hartman Student Recital	19 3p WCBH After-school 5:30p Wolf Cubs	20 7p Church Council 7p Boy Scouts	21 6p UVPRN 7p Christian Ed Committee	22 7p Choir	23 JUNE NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE 6p Bear Cubs 7:30p Classicopia: "An American Affair"	24 9a Bible Study
25 10a Worship/ Church School 11:15a Board of Governors 5p Community Dinner	26 MEMORIAL DAY 12p WCBH Girls' Group 5:30p Wolf Cubs 6p Tiger Cubs	27 7p Boy Scouts	28 6p UVPRN	29 7p Choir	30 6p Bear Cubs	31 9a Bible Study

If your event is missing or incorrect, please notify us at church@fccleeb.org or 603-448-4281.

COMMITTEE NOTES

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Lazarus Plumbing has completed work to improve water flow to the kitchen sink and dishwasher. Just prior to Holy Week, Elite Cleaners cleaned carpets in the Sanctuary, Narthex, balcony stairs, and Parlor.

Wendell Smith has agreed to join the Board of Governors, giving the board a full slate. The Board's next regular meeting will be May 25.

MUSIC COMMITTEE

The **search for our next organist and choir director** is concluding as this newsletter goes to press. The position listing has been widely advertised since late January, and we've been so fortunate since then to enjoy both interim organist Tim Hansen and George Butler, who played during Holy Week. Ruth Friend has admirably led the choir while advising the search, too.

During the process, committee chair Brian Clancy has reported to Council on the search, in order to inform the congregation in some way and keep the process open. He has, for example, discussed a need to align the position's salary with professional and local standards.

By early April the search had drawn four solid candidates. Having asked Council members for opinions on all four, the search committee is interviewing two finalists in the first week of May. We expect to announce a hire next month, so stay tuned!

Amendment to By-Laws Passes Unanimously

At a special congregational meeting on April 27, the following amended language was approved for Article V, Section 2 of the church's Constitution and By-Laws:

"The Diaconate shall consist of twelve deacons, all covenant members and, when possible, equally balanced between men and women. Four deacons shall be elected at each annual meeting for a term of three years. The Diaconate may also include as many as two youth deacons, preferably covenant members, who shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year."

Speaking on behalf of the Deacons, Jennifer Grant explained that the amendment addressed the challenge of maintaining equal numbers of men and women on the Diaconate, which isn't always possible given the available nominees. Similarly, as youth candidates aren't always available, the amendment eases the requirement to nominate two of them annually.

Although the amendment frees the Diaconate (and Nominating Committee) from these mandates, there remains a firm, broad consensus that both gender balance and youth representation are preferable whenever possible.

Back to the Future with Home Funerals

Wednesday, May 7, 7:30 pm—Parlor
Sponsored by the Diaconate

Lee Webster, Director of NH Funeral Resources, Education, & Advocacy, will tell us about the simplicity of how the dead were cared for in the past, and how we might return to a greener, less expensive option today. All are welcome to learn about this alternative approach to caring for dying loved ones.

Community Dinner Fund Available

The Mission & Social Action Committee and the Treasurer remind the congregation that a fund has been established to encourage serving more nutritional and (when possible) locally-sourced food for our monthly Community Dinners.

To request reimbursement, Team Leaders should submit receipts, with an explanatory note, to Todd Heatherton.

COMMITTEE NOTES

Let's Have a Party... A Work Party!

FCC Spring Clean-Up

Saturday, May 3, 9:00 (Weather Permitting)

Please help out the Board of Governors with this seasonal effort to clean up the church yard after a long winter! We'll rake the lawns, trim hedges, and generally pick up around the grounds; this work is particularly important in advance of our imminent project of exterior painting on the east side of the building.

Bring a rake and any other tools that might be useful; we'll serve donuts and coffee, and we'll finish up before noon. Please join us!

Special Invitation—Men's Fellowship Breakfast

All are welcome to share in the monthly Men's Fellowship Breakfast at 8:00 on May 3, prior to Spring Clean-Up. *RSVP to the church office.*

May Meetings

<i>Diaconate</i>	5/12, 7:00
<i>Mission & Social Action and Stewardship</i>	5/18, 11:15
<i>Church Council</i>	5/20, 7:00
<i>Christian Education</i>	5/21, 7:00
<i>Board of Governors</i>	5/25, 11:15

June Meetings

<i>Diaconate</i>	6/9, 7:00
<i>Mission & Social Action and Stewardship</i>	6/15, 11:15
<i>Church Council</i>	6/17, 7:00
<i>Christian Education</i>	6/18, 7:00
<i>Board of Governors</i>	6/22, 11:15

The Pastoral Perspective, *continued from Page 1*

and preached and healed weren't located in the realm of myth but in the land of the living, in a location that can be found on a map and assigned GPS coordinates. Jesus' world is our world. And our world is his. And though many things have changed over two millennia (highways, an airport near Tel Aviv, Tel Aviv itself), the hills, the valleys, the vistas remain the same.

And then there's the matter of people. After 2,000 years people, whether they're in Scotland, Israel, or right here in the Upper Valley, are still broken, still fallen. People in places near and far still seek salvation, hope, redemption, and reconciliation. People, wherever they may be, still need what God has to offer, what God so profligately chose and still chooses to share with us: love that knows no bounds.

The Holy Land is a specific place. Just where it is, though, differs based on one's perspective. Perhaps it's on a golf course. Perhaps it's found between the eastern shores of the Mediterranean and the River Jordan. Wherever it may be, we can count on this: the Risen Christ, the one whose resurrection we celebrate during these days of Eastertide, will be present, sustaining us, empowering us, renewing us.

Yours faithfully,

Steve

CONGREGATIONAL EVENTS

Women of the Church

invites

All SENIORS in the Church Family

to be our guests for

Luncheon

served in your honor

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Coffee, tea, and fellowship starting at 11:00 am

Performance by the Superlatives of Lebanon High School at 12:00 noon

Luncheon served at 12:30 pm



JUNE 8 IS...

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY!!



featuring

Presentations to ALL Children and Volunteers during Worship

Lunch—Hot Dogs, Mac-n-Cheese, Salad, Chips, and... Ice Cream!

Games on the Lawn—Bean Bags, Bubbles, Hula Hoops, Croquet, Badminton, and whatever else we can think of!

* * *

DO YOU HAVE children, grandchildren, nieces, or nephews who sing or play an instrument? Please encourage them to participate in worship on Children's Sunday!

The Music and Christian Education Committees would like our wonderful children and youth to lead worship on June 8 with their gifts of music. If you're interested or have questions, please contact Brian Clancy (603-448-0976/bclancy.nh@gmail.com).

We're Going to El Salvador!

Epilogos Mission Trip
San Jose Villanueva, El Salvador
October 18-25, 2014

Continuing our support of the community of San Jose Villanueva, FCC members will join an Epilogos mission trip to El Salvador in October.

And you're invited to participate!



Focusing on health and education, this church-wide mission will be led by Epilogos chair Dr. Ed Warren. Those who come will...

Meet our scholarship winner from last year

Help the local school with technology matters

Continue to develop the local clean water project

Assist new homeowners in building their "Dream Latrine"

Paint parts of the town's orphanage

Learn More on Sunday, May 4!

On May 4 following worship, we will be fortunate to hear more about Epilogos and our trip to San Jose Villanueva directly from Mike and Susie Jenkins, the couple behind the amazing vitality and spirit of social change in this most interesting town. They will be joined by Dr. Peter Abel, who is advising on the trip's healthcare component. Please plan to join us!

For more information about our October mission trip or to let us know you're interested in coming, please sign up in the Parish Hall or contact Wendell Smith (603-632-1117 or wms@polestarltd.com).

OUR CHURCH'S LOCAL MISSION

Quicksilver Comedy Dinner Benefits WISE

On April 5 an enthusiastic audience enjoyed comedy on the fly, as performed by Biff Simpson's Quicksilver Comedy Players (and a few willing audience members!). Well fed with a delicious dinner cooked by Jon Scott and served by FCC volunteers, our guests contributed a total of \$710 for a serious cause, WISE of the Upper Valley's work to combat domestic and sexual violence.

Thanks to all who made this event a great success!



THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION



Holy Week 2014
He is risen!



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

Weekly Worship and Church School: Sunday, 10:00 am • Office Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9-12
10 South Park St., P.O. Box 230, Lebanon, NH 03766 • 603-448-4281 • church@fccleb.org • www.fccleb.org
Rev. Stephen R. Silver – silver@fccleb.org • Newsletter Submissions – church@fccleb.org



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

Classicopia

For thirteen years Marcia Colligan, pianist Daniel Weiser, and Classicopia have offered an engaging combination of brilliant musicianship and informative discussion in a relaxed atmosphere.

This spring we are delighted to welcome them back for three programs:

Friday, May 23, at 7:30 pm—“An American Affair”

Pianist Dan Weiser and violinist Tim Schwarz present great American music by Amy Beach, William Grant Still, Charles Cadman, Aaron Copland, and Leonard Bernstein.

Saturday, June 14, at 7:30 pm—“The American Songbook”

Pianist Dan Weiser and mezzo-soprano Erma Mellinger share a selection of wonderful songs by George Gershwin, Harold Arlen, Jerome Kern, and many others

Sunday, July 20, at 4:00 pm—Piano Trios (Program TBA)

For more information, call 603-643-3337 or visit www.classicopia.org.

And coming next month...

Friday, June 13, Time TBA—Timothy Hansen, LHS Senior Voice Recital

Come support our Interim Organist as he wraps up his high school musical career with a flourish!