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The Pastoral Perspective

How would you complete this sentence?

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a..."

If we canvassed the congregation, I suspect that there might be as many endings as there are people in our church family. But as faithful, creative, whimsical, or provocative as the possibilities would be, I'm going to go out on a limb and suggest that "bathroom" would not be on any list that we might compile. Yet I would argue that the Kingdom of Heaven is indeed like a bathroom, specifically like one of our FCC Lebanon bathrooms after the recent installation of new toilets.

Our old toilets worked. All one had to do was press a button on the top to flush. But therein lay a problem: for some members of and visitors to our church, pressing that button wasn't easy. Indeed, it could be a challenge, requiring the application of pressure that for some wasn't easy and could even cause physical discomfort or pain. Something as fundamental as using a restroom posed a problem—and not just practically, but for our community, spiritually.

We all know that the church, here in Lebanon and around the world, is called to offer hospitality. Making one and all feel welcome is part of the charge Jesus has given his followers. And so, in response, we consider and discuss ways to achieve this: we wear nametags, we introduce ourselves to newcomers, and we invite people to coffee hour and concerts. As of this spring, we can add to our roster of hospitality in the name of God replacing hard-to-flush toilets, recognizing that a church cannot truly claim to be welcoming when some among the body of Christ are presented with facilities that make it difficult to discharge a basic bodily function.

All of this talk of toilets in church may seem mundane, perhaps even profane. But in reality, it's holy. God created us as physical beings, after all, made to inhabit a world of flesh and blood and things. As part of Creation, we are not meant to remove ourselves to some supposedly

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SUNDAY SERVICE

UVIP Aging Roundtable Sunday, July 13, 11:30 am, Parish Hall

For the past year in local congregations, the Upper Valley Interfaith Project (UVIP) has conducted roundtable discussions on aging with dignity, in an effort to hear directly from seniors what their desires and needs are for aging at home and in a community. All are invited to participate in this conversation about a range of issues that are of vital importance to many in our congregation.

COMMUNITY DINNER Sunday, July 27, at 5:00 pm

Thanks to JOHN BOURGON for organizing this month's dinner!

Please support John 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!

Queued for Coffee Hour

July
Church Council

August
Christian Education Committee

September
Diaconate

October
Mission & Social Action Committee

Praise in the Park!

Sunday, July 27, 10:00 am, Colburn Park

Plan to join us on the Lebanon Green at the end of the month for this annual ecumenical service. First Baptist Church will also be worshipping with us this year, and the United Methodist Church's new pastor will be preaching.

A collection of non-perishable foods will benefit the Raven Food Pantry at First Baptist Church.

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 our programs and events?

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

If you would like to learn more about this invitation, please contact Rev. Steve Silver or the church office.

Participate in Worship!

Serve as a Liturgist or Greeter/Usher

Ever wonder how your friends ended up handing out bulletins on Sunday morning? Or delivering the call to worship and reading scripture from the lectern? Or walking gracefully from pew to pew collecting the offering?

It's easy—we asked, and they said yes.

No experience or training is required for any of these important roles in worship!

If you'd like to serve either as a liturgist or as a greeter/usher, please contact the church office.

Your congregation will thank you!

JULY 2014 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 10a Worship/ Church School	30 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Dept Concert Series	1 10a (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth 7p Boy Scouts	2 6p UVPRN	3 12p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Dept Thurs in Park 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Dept Front Porch	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY <i>(FCC office closed)</i>	5 No Men's Breakfast No Bible Study <i>(until 9/6)</i>
6 10a Worship/ Church School (Communion)	7 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Dept Concert Series	8 10a (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth 7p Boy Scouts	9 6p UVPRN	10 10a (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth 12p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Dept Thurs in Park 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Dept Front Porch	11	12
13 10a Worship/ Church School 11:30a UVIP Aging Roundtable No M&SA / Stewardship	14 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Dept Concert Series 7p Diaconate	15 10a (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth 7p Boy Scouts No Church Council	16 6p UVPRN No Christian Ed Committee	17 10a (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth 12p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Dept Thurs in Park 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Dept Front Porch	18 7:30p Peter Griggs: The Guitar in America	19
20 10a Worship/ Church School 4p Classicopia: Russian Elegy	21 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Dept Concert Series	22 10a (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth 7p Boy Scouts	23 AUGUST NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE 6p UVPRN	24 10a (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth 12p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Dept Thurs in Park 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Dept Front Porch	25	26
27 10a Praise in the Park! No Board of Governors 5p Community Dinner	28 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Dept Concert Series	29 10a (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth 7p Boy Scouts	30 6p UVPRN	31 10a (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth 12p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Dept Thurs in Park 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Dept Front Porch	1	2 No Men's Breakfast

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

COMMITTEE NOTES

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors reports that Don Collins' crew is engaged in lead-paint removal and **repainting along the entire east side** of the church building. The front steps will also be included in this project at no extra cost. This will complete the exterior painting of the church.

The cost of heating the church has been much discussed, and changes in the coming year will hopefully save considerable money. We are now contracting with **Dead River** oil company for our heating oil, propane, and service. After careful inquiries, it was determined that Dead River could offer significant savings compared to Cota & Cota. The Board has also looked into conducting an **energy audit** of the church building next winter.

The Board will not meet in July or August unless a critical issue arises.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The committee and the Church School children owe our church family a huge "Thank You" for your support and love this past year. You were very generous with your donations for our Lenten collection—we were able to give \$400 toward El Salvador student scholarships and just over \$300 to benefit David's House.

We are also grateful for your interest in their "Life in Biblical

Times" display on Children's Sunday, June 8. The children were thrilled with your questions and comments about their projects!

Thank you for caring so much about our church's children!

CHURCH COUNCIL

At Council on June 24 Todd Heatherton reported no specific issues in **this month's budget figures**. Amy Driscoll asked if we could determine and report how much we saved by worshiping in the Parish Hall during the winter.

For the **Nominating Committee**, Amy distributed an updated committee membership list, asking Council members to confirm with their committees where each member is in his/her term of service. She will be strategizing how to approach the nominating process for the fall. It's also been noticed that three of the five members of the Pastoral Relations Committee are Deacons. While she doesn't think that poses any problem—and no one on Council expressed concern—Amy wanted everyone to be aware of the issue.

Reporting for **Women of the Church**, Amy added that the Carmen Blandin Tarleton event was very well received. Based on the spirit generated by this talk and speaker, the group is interested in doing an annual speaker event.

Amy asked Council to consider ways in which the church could

better promote these and other events, to attract larger audiences. She suggested budgeting more for advertising; Jon Scott wondered whether a conversation with the *Valley News* might help. Others speculated that social media would be more effective. The "product" is good, but promoting it could be better. Council generally felt that an ad-hoc group, rather than a standing committee, would best suit this task.

Corrine Erskine expressed concern that the frequency of special events, receptions, and particularly dinners has perhaps **overtaxed some of our volunteers**, requiring more time, resources, and energy from them than is sustainable. There was general agreement that we need to be mindful of this when the fall schedule resumes.

Jon Scott distributed a proposal for **tracking and reporting volunteer involvement** at church, whether for worship, community dinners, or other events. The **Stewardship Committee** could use this kind of information to communicate more effectively with the congregation about their involvement and church needs.

For the **Diaconate**, Jennifer Grant reported that the Boston Lot hike was again successful, with slightly fewer participants than last year's event. This effort to "grow deeper" is also meant to help us "grow younger," suggesting our interest in serving younger families and

COMMITTEE NOTES

connecting to both young children and older youth. The Diaconate has also continued conversations around dealing with death and aging with dignity. And the latest discussion of “Experiencing the Divine” focused on how music inspires the life of faith.

Warren Belding reported that the **Pastoral Relations Committee** would be meeting in July.

For the Music Committee, Brian Clancy happily announced that the church has hired its **new Organist and Choir Director, Henry Danaher**. The search committee is

very enthusiastic about Henry, his qualifications and talents, and his desire to integrate himself into the life of the congregation. (He lives locally, which will serve both him and us well.) Henry will start on July 6. Many expressed gratitude that the search had concluded with such success.

Council has also appreciated **Tim Hansen’s** fine service during the interim period, and ensured that he would be properly recognized on his last Sunday, June 29.

Brian also asked for Council input about managing the requests he

receives as Administrator for **using church space**. While we do have a fee structure for using the building, we don’t have consistent criteria for what constitutes an appropriate use, and evaluating applications can be difficult. Council agreed that it would be helpful to have a summary of current users for discussion at its next meeting.

Steve Silver welcomed Henry Danaher to the ministry team, noting his dynamic personality and enthusiasm for participating in the church community. He also congratulated **Marcia Corkins** on

July Meetings

<i>Diaconate</i>	7/14, 7:00
<i>Church Council</i>	(no mtg)
<i>Christian Education</i>	(no mtg)
<i>Mission & Social Action and Stewardship</i>	(no mtg)
<i>Board of Governors</i>	(no mtg)

August Meetings

<i>Diaconate</i>	8/11, 7:00
<i>Church Council</i>	8/19, 7:00
<i>Christian Education</i>	(8/20, 7:00 ?)
<i>Mission & Social Action and Stewardship</i>	(no mtg)
<i>Board of Governors</i>	(no mtg)

Save the Date!

ALL-CHURCH RETREAT

**Friday to Sunday, September 26-28, 2014
UCC Horton Center, White Mountains**

Look for more information next month about this weekend experience of building community and faith. The retreat schedule will be flexible to allow participation in particular activities as you’re able; attending the whole weekend is not required.

Children’s activities and supervision will be provided.

***Last year’s retreat was wonderful...
Don’t miss your chance to join us this year!***

Community Dinner Fund Available

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

To request reimbursement, Team Leaders should submit receipts, to Treasurer Todd Heatherton.

COMMITTEE NOTES

the superb job she's done all year with Church School, recognizing that Children's Sunday was an impressive success. Council joined in praising Marcia's efforts, and those of her volunteers and the children themselves, in putting together such a wonderful display of their learning.

Steve further reported on his work with UVIP's upcoming **roundtable on aging**, a potential event with the gun-safety group **Moms Demand Action**, and his ongoing coordination of local **ecumenical**

events. Finally, he has arranged for **vacation and study leave in August**, and he's working with the Deacons to cover worship and pastoral care during that time.

Barry Schuster asked members to be prepared to address some items by email before the next Council meeting on August 19.

MISSION & SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

The Mission and Social Action Committee has been organizing

our trip to El Salvador with the Epilogos group in October. Headed by Wendell Smith, we have around ten people going from our church. Stay tuned for ways to help raise funds for the group.

We were also involved with the Bike & Build visit. This group of 34 young men and women descended upon our church on June 17-18, and we provided them with snacks, dinner, breakfast, and dinner again before they left. They also presented a slide show and shared a talk about their program.

How Much Did We Save by Worshiping in the Parish Hall?

We chose to worship in the Parish Hall several times during this brutal past winter. There surely were some liturgical reasons for doing so, but primarily this was a choice to conserve resources.

It's fair to ask, then, how much money we actually saved. Well, a specific amount is difficult to report, of course. But reasonable estimates are that heating the Sanctuary for a single event can cost as much as \$200-300. Thus, over the seven Sundays that we worshiped in the Parish Hall, **we probably saved somewhere between \$1500 and \$2000.**

It's hard to consider in July, but bitter cold will return next winter, and oil prices aren't likely to fall. Be prepared, then, to worship even more regularly in our "winter Sanctuary."

Now...Who's got some ideas for how to cool the Sanctuary during the summer?

The Pastoral Perspective, *continued from Page 1*

spiritual place. Instead, we are blessed to interact with the world around us. That may involve experiencing with others Evensong in a great cathedral, watching with loved ones the sunrise over the ocean on a quiet summer's morn, or yes, updating balky toilets in a New England church bathroom.

Regardless of setting, we are blessed to engage with God's world. We are afforded the opportunity to spread the good news of God's new creation, to share God's realm of peace, grace, love, and hospitality, where all are made to feel truly welcome, wherever they may be.

Yours faithfully,

Steve

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION

Children's Sunday!

Our congregation received a special gift on June 8, when the Church School children filled the Parish Hall with wonderful exhibits of what they've learned this year about "Life in Biblical Times"—complete with costumes and ancient snacks (freshly prepared). Many, many thanks to Marcia Corkins and all her volunteers for their loving, generous guidance of and attention to our children through the year!



THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION

Dear Friends,

Many thanks for the warm “send-off” you shared with me as I made my move to Havenwood-Heritage Heights in Concord recently. The help so freely given by many over the past three years is also greatly appreciated. Please drop by to see me when you are in the Concord area.

Blessings and love to all,

Laura

Laura Place
149 East Side Drive #194
Concord, NH 03301-5475

Thank You, Tim Hansen!



For the past five months, Tim Hansen has enriched our worship life with his talents on both piano and organ. He has contributed greatly to our congregation, even while finishing his senior year at Lebanon High, which culminated in a wonderful vocal recital here in the Sanctuary last month.

As Tim concludes his service as our Interim Organist, he prepares to attend Middlebury College this fall. He plans to study Arabic, but he'll keep singing and playing as well.

We wish him the very best of success, and we look forward to welcoming him back to play, sing, or even act here in the future!



As summer's weather becomes hotter and more humid, we gratefully thank all those who care for our church grounds—particularly **Nora Miller**, whose perennial hard work for the Memorial Gardens Committee produces such a lovely array of flowers each spring!

Con-GRAD—
oops!!



In his haste to finish last month's newsletter, your humble editor neglected to congratulate **JOSH GOODRICH** on his graduation from UNH. Also, **ALEX KINGSTON** will graduate from Mascoma High School next year—when we'll be happy to congratulate him again!

Meet Our New Organist and Choir Director!

Henry Danaher

After a search of just over four months, we are quite pleased to introduce Henry Danaher, who takes up his post this month as Organist and Choir Director at First Congregational Church. Originally from Kansas City, Henry holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Dartmouth and has undertaken graduate work there in Computer Science (M.S.) and Engineering (Ph.D.). He has been a musician since childhood, playing piano from the age of 8 and organ for the past seven years.

Henry has continued to develop as a musician in the midst of his degree work, studying and performing with Dartmouth Department of Music faculty and, in 2008, winning the Mark Lebowitz 1977 Memorial Prize in the Performing Arts. He studied organ with Ernie Drown at the Church of Christ at Dartmouth (UCC), and he has assisted Robert Waters of WaterSmith Pipe Organs in tuning and maintaining organs across New England.

Having served several churches on a substitute and short-term basis, Henry was interim organist for a year and a half at Lyme Congregational Church. He has also worked in musical theater at the New London Barn Playhouse. An occasional accompanist with the Handel Society and other choral groups, he welcomes this new opportunity to take a much more active role in choral programming and direction.

Henry has taught piano privately for a few years and plans to continue that here. He also recently acquired a Lowery Citation theatre organ for his home on nearby Elm Street, where he dreams of showing silent films with live organ accompaniment.

With his five-year-old son Finn excited to come along for Church School, Henry is very much looking forward to becoming a part of our church community. In fact, he is already a familiar visitor, having stopped by regularly in the past few weeks to practice on both of our Sanctuary instruments. Living just a few doors

down from the Parsonage, Henry is delighted to be able to serve our church, right here in his own neighborhood. **And we're delighted to have him!**

Henry Danaher's first Sunday at FCC will be July 6. Please introduce yourself and welcome him!



Henry at the organ console with his son, Finn.

Bike & Build Visits FCC for Sixth Year

On Tuesday afternoon, June 17, 34 young-adult bikers arrived at church, concluding their fourth day of travel along the Northern U. S. Route of Bike & Build. Since 2002, this program has annually sponsored cross-country biking trips to raise money and awareness for affordable housing issues.

Joining construction projects on the way, the riders experience first-hand the considerable need for affordable housing across the nation. They also meet with community leaders to discuss housing and related issues. Each biker raises at least \$4,500 to help fund the organization's grant programs, in addition to trip costs. (For additional information, visit www.bikeandbuild.org.)

After settling in both upstairs and downstairs at church, the group enjoyed snacks and Jon Scott's build-your-own pizza dinner—a smash hit for both the activity and the delicious pizzas it produced. Steve Teeter served pancakes the next morning, fortifying the group for its build day. One group worked at the ReCover

Store in White River, while another managed to paint an entire house at a UV Habitat for Humanity site on Meriden Road.

On Wednesday evening the group sat down to another home-cooked meal organized by Corrine Erskine (with plenty of volunteer help!). As dessert was served, a few of the bikers offered their individual stories and experiences, with images and video. After the presentation, most of the group moved to the Sanctuary for a vocal recital by students of Jennifer Hansen, a coincidence of church scheduling that was serendipitous for all involved. Still later that evening, Biff Simpson shared some of his improv comedy games and skits with some very enthusiastic bikers.

Throughout the weekend, these young adults modeled service and generosity that was truly inspiring—whether working on their build sites or washing dishes and cleaning the Parish Hall. We wish them well as they continue westward, and we look forward to seeing another group next June. **Many, many thanks to all those who so generously offered their time, labor, food, and support during their stay!**



OUR CHURCH'S GLOBAL MISSION

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 a "Dream Latrine"

Paint parts of the town's orphanage

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).

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

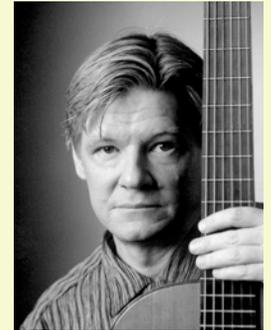


Music *at the* Meetinghouse

July Concerts

Friday, July 18, 7:30 pm—Peter Griggs, “The Guitar in America”

Our friend Peter Griggs returns with a new program tracing the history of the guitar in this country, from colonial Spanish and English roots to country dances, early classical works, and the creative innovations of blues, ragtime, and jazz in the last century. Performing on both classical and electric guitar, Peter will discuss the instrument’s journey from folk culture to the concert hall and recording studio. There will be something for everyone, so please join us! *A free-will offering will be collected.*



Sunday, July 20, 4:00 pm—Classicopia, “Russian Elegy”

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 month Dan joins violinist Yumi Okada and cellist Patrick Owen to conclude Classicopia’s summer season, with gorgeous, technically challenging piano trios by Peter Tchaikovsky and Sergei Rachmaninov. *Suggested donation \$20, FCC members \$10, children free. For more, call 603-643-3337 or visit www.classicopia.org.*

