

## Word from the Pastor

Updates from Mexico...Day 1

Saludos desde la Ciudad de Mexico (Greetings from Mexico City)

We are connecting to our second flight of the day. So far everything has gone as planned, a true blessing from God!

Everyone was in the Church parking lot at 4am this morning. I was the last to arrive, but I did show up exactly at 4am and everyone else was there waiting for me. (The speed at which I had to drive on Route 44 to get there on time will only be known by me and by God....). We packed up our three rental vehicles: a Chevrolet Impala, a 7 passenger Chevrolet Traverse, and a Chevrolet Tahoe. Avis did us a favor the night before when the car reserved for me was never to be found. Because of the 30+ minute delay in getting me a vehicle, the manager let me have the Tahoe, which made every other vehicle on the road look small. We just barely fit all the luggage into the three vehicles, in part due to the duffle bag full of auto and truck parts and a 270 piece toolkit in its own case.

Thanks to John Morris for driving all of us rental vehicle drivers to Bradley Airport on Friday night. And thanks to Glenell, Debby and Laura (our back up driver) for being willing to drive the group to JFK in the middle of the night.

The drive to JFK was uneventful. We arrived early enough to park the vehicles and check ourselves in for the flight. As the Aeromexico clerk was telling me that I was going to be charged \$150 for excess luggage, God intervened once again....and because of my Delta frequent flier status, I was upgraded to business class, which raised my luggage allowance to three bags and meant that we did not have too many bags.

The flight to Mexico City was uneventful. Most slept for at least a part of the trip. The ride was actually pretty smooth, until we began the descent into Mexico City. That's when you can notice the difference in training between US pilots and Mexican pilots. I liken the speed at which they descend into the mountain valley and the sharp banking turns, along with the unpredictable winds because of mountain peaks up to 12,000 feet above sea level, to a ride in a 60's vintage VW bug taxi through the streets of Mexico City....

We really like having Bailey McCaw with us. He's the only one of our group who hasn't been on a Mexico Mission Trip in the past. In addition to being the youngest and newest member off the group, it was the first time he flew on an aircraft. It was really neat watching his expressions as we took off and then landed in Mexico City.

Upon arrival in Mexico City, we went through immigrations and customs....all without a hitch. All our luggage arrived, and when we went through customs, no one got the infamous "red light" that requires your luggage to be inspected. We passed through security again for our connecting flight and met Perla and Francisco, two of the four Mexicans joining our group this year.

Everything is going like clockwork, and everyone is doing fine. Thanks to everyone back at home who helped make this Mission Trip possible!

Day 2 from Pastor Mike...

It's just before 7am in Oaxaca and I'm watching the sunrise at the Simply Silesia center of operations. Since I have to send messages from my iPad, I will be short and to the point!

*continued on page 3*



**AUGUST 2012**

**95 North Main Street  
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send an email to:  
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# Church News...



## CDC News...

Registrations for the fall are now being accepted!

Do you know of a wee person who would like to go? Call the school at 860-379-4838.

## SUMMER HOURS

Services will continue to be 10:00 am during the summer.

Come on down...and we put the air conditioning on for ya! Oops, we don't have air conditioning!

Time to slow down, sit still and listen...



Meeting the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday each month from 10 AM until Noon. Call Barb Mazzei for info: 860-379-2900



**Weekly Meetings**  
**Wednesday Evenings**  
**6:30 – 8:30 pm**  
**Meeting Locations will vary Weekly**

*Facilitated by*  
*Heather Richardson & Allison Graboski*

***PURPOSE:*** *Our dream is to have a women's fellowship group for the women of this congregation; one that promotes fun, joy, support and growth. This GATHERING is not meant to be another burden in our schedules, but a place of refreshment. We are all at different places in our journey, and as the seasons in each of our lives change, so do our needs and our schedules. Come when you can, come when you want, come when you don't need it, come when you feel wonderful and enjoy fellowship with others, come when you need fellowship with others...*

*...come.*



## Diaconate Board News...



**Nicole Martin** has been granted the Sharon Lewis Memorial Grant for a high school senior continuing education in a musical field. Nicole will be attending

Western Carolina University studying psychology and music therapy. She will also take part in the nationally competitive marching band called, "The Pride of the Mountains."

**Dr. David Reid Brown** will be our guest pastor on August 5, and the word is out that he may be performing magic during the children's time...**bring the kids!**



## Board of Chris Ed...

Summer Sunday School is in full swing...there could be swings involved...? Or cool crafts...and stories!

Another Cash Raffle is being planned to raise money for scholarships...details will be announced.

A fundraiser dinner is being planned to help offset the rest of the cost of the Montreal Trip...stay tuned for details...



## CDC

New carpet has been installed and floors repaired. Playground needs new ground cover.



## Property Maintenance

The tower and the Earl Bracey Memorial Wall are being repointed and painted. There was an article in the Waterbury Republican!



Check us out online! [www.firstchurchofwinsted.org](http://www.firstchurchofwinsted.org)  
Like us on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Church-of-Winsted/189629511047827>

1. The center of ops has developed a lot in a few years. There is now electricity thanks to a \$16,000 power line from the nearest paved road. That also means we have refrigeration, running water (don't drink tap water if you want to work the rest of the week...), refrigeration, and many other things we take for granted. Instead of tents, we now sleep in bunk beds in two rooms.
2. Living conditions have changed, but a ton of rice still takes a long time to bag. After breakfast on Sunday we made bags of 800 grams of rice for each of the 3000 people who will receive food at a distribution in two weeks. We broke for lunch and continued bagging til 3pm and got ready to go to Casa Hogar to meet up with the other First Church team.
3. The "special dinner" we served at Casa Hogar to the residents was chicken tenders and French fries from Sam's Club. You should have seen the clerk's face when I stepped up to the register and asked for 40 orders of tenders and 40 large fries... The redeeming part of the meal was green salad prepared by our Casa Hogar team. I was surprised that almost all of the residents had salad. Expected them to not like veggies but they have fresh veggies so rarely that it all got eaten.
4. Ben, Jason and Bailey changed the oil, filter, glow plugs, fuel filter, wiper blades, air filter, etc. On the Mercedes mini-bus used to transport the kids in wheelchairs. On a test run later that evening to Walmart (Sam's Club already closed), it ran flawlessly. In the test run Jason figured out that one tire was severely under inflated causing steering wobble at high speeds.
5. Mary, Kendra, Ben and Bailey painted the wood playground furniture orange (we don't pick the colors...).
6. You can fit more in a Mexican closet than in one at home. Debby, Cindy, Laura, Judy and Glenell removed more school supplies from a tiny closet than you could fit in the basement of our church. After cleaning out the mouse nest and other unnecessary stuff, some scoop supplies were packed to go to the second, more remote Casa Hogar in the just tuned up Mercedes.
7. Javier, Enrique and Francisco, three of the Mexicans who joined our team, diagnosed the reason rain has been leaking into two of the three classrooms at Casa Hogar. They had to prop a rickety ladder against a tree to reach the corrugated metal roof which is so thin that it cannot support the weight of a person. They used a series of broomsticks duct taped together to remove debris from the room and somehow managed to get silicone Caulk we brought from Connecticut.
8. Jaron was playing soccer with one of the Casa Hogar teens as soon as the rest of our team finished painting the outside walls of the classrooms.
9. Today we paint the insides of the classrooms, do work on 4 other vehicles (we brought a thousand dollars of auto parts with us) and possibly conduct a tag sale (everyone's Spanish will be practiced!).
10. A puppy is smarter than your pastor. A bit after midnight I was in the kitchen doing some things when the puppy at the center of operations suddenly appeared. She stood by the door and I just went on with my activities. After a minute she gave up on me and just went on the floor! Never knew puppies could be housebroken at such a young age...

We've already accomplished a lot and I give thanks for the wonderful people representing our church here in Oaxaca.  
Mexico Mission Day 3

It really hasn't rained since we arrived, so we have not had to deal with the mud of prior years and we've been incredibly productive.

Yesterday we painted the three classrooms at the School at Casa Hogar both inside and out. It may not sound like much but it involved a lot of cleaning and prep before and setting up afterwards. But the work went fast with Cindy, Julie, Laura, Glenell and Debby leading the charge with Jes, Mary, Kendra, Natalie Perla, and Rebecca. The leaks in the classroom roof of the second classroom got fixed, and the roof repaired the day before was water tested to ensure it no longer leaked. That involved finding a hose, which was not readily available and climbing on the ladder while someone else held it. We were hoping for rain so we would not need to use the water (they ran out of water the day before at Casa Hogar), so now you know why it hasn't rained!).

Another group, including Andrew, Javier, Enrique and Francisco corrected the wiring and replaced a bunch of plugs and switches throughout the facility. The majority of plug in the kitchen did not work, and when you flipped the light switch in the kitchen and other rooms you were oftentimes jolted with 120 volts. Although we would have liked to have re-wired most of the facility, the staff was grateful to have working plugs and light switches that don't shock you.

After replacing the spark plugs, plug wires, oil and filters on the truck of the remote Casa Hogar facility, the pastor was so pleased that the truck could drive uphills without bucking that he told us not to replace the points rotor and distributor cap. For those who know cars, it's been about 20 years since cars in the US had those parts...that's how old this truck was. According to the pastor, it had not been tuned up for as long as he could remember. We tried to adjust the parking brake but the rear brake shoes were too worn to be effective. Changing the brakes will be a project for us on another



trip...

The pit crew consisting of Ben, Bailey, Jaron and Jason also did maintenance on two other vehicles. Jaron replaced the inside door handles on the truck so that for the first time in recent memory you can open the doors from the inside of the truck. It had been very common to get locked inside the truck because the windows would not roll down (power window motors are shot) and it wouldn't start...they would just wait for a nice person to walk by and open the door from the outside!

The day was not all work. There was a spirited multiple-national soccer game on the cement court with both females and males participating. And in the late afternoon we accomplished so much that most went to the village of San Bartolo for a visit.

We are getting ready for breakfast and another day of work. Hasta mañana!

#### Mexico Mission Day 4

We are midway through our week in Mexico and time has flown by. As Glenell said when I asked the group to sum up our experiences in a sentence or two, words cannot fully describe our first four days in Mexico. We are all exhausted from each day's tasks, but we are gratified by the opportunity to work as a team and to interact with many local residents.

Yesterday the Simply Smiles team sifted sand for the base underneath the pavers being laid onto the parking area of the center of operations, used hammers to final finish hundreds of pavers that got laid down yesterday, and broke down kilo bags of salt into half pound bags for about 2500 people. In the afternoon we went to the city dump and picked up a dozen of the children of the residents who make a living by shift

ing through the garbage heaps to collect plastic bottles for recycling. We spent three hours at a park next to the airport playing everything from Mexican children's games led by Francisco, one of the Mexicans on our team, to throwing frisbees and footballs, to making friendship bracelets and squirting each other with water pistols.

Our Casa Hogar team visited us (the Simply Smiles team) in the morning to deliver us some supplies. While Ben and Bailey worked on the second Nissan truck, Kendra, Mary, Laura, Perla and Debby continued painting.

Today the Simply Smiles team takes an 8 hour ride to the village in the jungle. And the Casa Hogar team is being forced to take a "mandatory rest day" and will visit the Monte Alban archeological site, the Tule tree, and then have dinner with Carol, the director of Casa Hogar.

We have no idea how well we can communicate from the jungle. There is now a cell tower in the town where the paved road ends (about a 45 minute drive away) and when you stand on a hill and face that town at night you can sometimes pick up a signal. But if you don't hear from us until Saturday, just assume all is well!

As the moon sets and the sun rises, people are beginning to rise for a 6:30 breakfast. Time to get to work!

#### Mexico Mission Day 5

We arrived to Santa Maria Tepexipana in the late afternoon. We were greeted with the typical afternoon downpour and a ton of Mosquitos and sand flies.

The trip from Oaxaca was exactly as planned with many stops along the way. We shared some incredible quesadillas and cafe de olla at a stop at a friend of the Simply Smiles staff. Many purchased colorfully painted animals made from balsa wood scraps. We had lunch at the highest altitude along the way...about 12000 feet above sea level.

People in the village now recognize us. A gentleman took a few of us to a spring where crystal clear water emerges from a rock. Three six year old girls taught me how to skip and wore me out skipping the length of the village. A fifth grade boy led me through the darkness to a small store in a home to buy clorox to add to the dishwashing water. We talked about all the animals in the area and he scared me as he suddenly picked up a bunch of stones. I asked what he was doing and he said he would use the stones to protect me from some unfriendly dogs in the area. He was dead serious...

Andrew, Jason, Jaron, Francisco, Gina and Pete valiantly tried to defend our dignity in a spirited soccer game on the cement basketball court of the local elementary school. Most of the locals played barefoot!

While we can do without the Mosquitos and mud, the warmth of the people makes it all worth it.


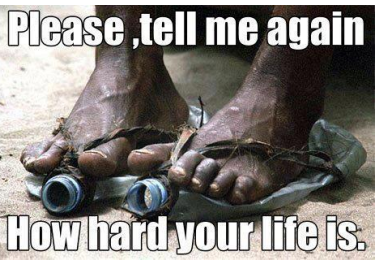
A corrugated metal dorm building replaced the tents we previously used. Tomorrow we will mix cement and pour the floor for the new kitchen.

The Casa Hogar team is still in Oaxaca City and should have enjoyed their mandatory day off. Hopefully I will be able to get a cell phone signal and get an update for tomorrow's report.

PS - updates from the village are being sent at night because the 3G signal is so weak that it is nonexistent during the day and at night I have to stand on the edge of a hill and face the closest town with a cell tower to send messages!

*Part 2 will be continued in the September Bellringer! Stay tuned...*

## Upcoming Events

<i>Celebrate With Us...</i>		<i>Looking Forward</i>	
Sunday - 10 am	Worship	July 28-Aug 5	Mexico Mission Trip
Tuesday - 5:30 pm 8/21 & 8/28	Rehearsal~Worship Choir	Aug 16 at 7 PM	Summer Community Choir Concert
No Rehearsal in the summer	Rehearsal~Rock Starz 4 Jesus	Aug 19	Baby Shower
Wednesday - 6:30 pm	Women's Gathering	Sept 2 at 7:00 PM	Church in the Wildwood-1 <sup>st</sup> Church
Wednesday - 7:30 pm	AA / Alanon Meetings	Sept 9	Rally Day & Picnic
Thursday - 7:00 - 8:30 pm	Summer Community Choir	Sept 15-16	Church Board Retreat
	Rehearsal beginning July 10		
	<i>Board Meetings</i>		
	Aug 7 Aug 14 Aug 21 Aug 28	PM Board Board of Christian Ed. Deacons Cabinet Meeting	

## ★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

02 - Zachary Sibbach  
07 - Pauline Fancher  
09 - Brandi Gilbert-Corey  
12 - Robert Bensle  
12 - Charles McCaw II  
14 - Brett McAllister  
14 - Nadya Roys  
20 - Jaron Morris  
23 - Brigitte Smyth  
25 - Kyle Jones  
29 - Ashley Jones  
30 - Ben McCaw  
30 - Christine Steele

### AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

♥ 09 - David & Rhonda LeKang  
♥ 17 - Warren & Virginia Hughes  
♥ 27 - Gary & Debbie Storrs  
♥ 31 - Richard & Barbara Mazzei

## Friends of Main Street 2012 Summer Concert Series

East End Park, Winsted  
Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.  
Rain Location - Founders Hall, Auditorium

SPONSORED BY  
NORTHWEST COMMUNITY BANK

August 2	Potters Field
August 9	Kerry Boys
August 16	Toucan Loose
August 23	Grants Tomb

## Coe Park Summer Concert Series

All concerts are 7 to 9 p.m. at Coe Memorial Park Civic Center.  
All concerts are free. Bring a blanket or a lawn chair and enjoy.

Friday August 3 - Torrington Civic Symphony  
Tuesday August 7 - [Jus Us Band](#) - Motown  
Friday August 10 - Rod Henry Band - Polka  
Tuesday August 14 - No Concert  
Friday August 17 - [Nashville Drive](#) - Country

Friday August 31 - Mayor's Polka Night - [Eddie Forman Band](#)  
Concert is final of Summer Series takes place at  
Torrington City Hall and starts at 6 p.m.

## Summer Community Choir Concert...at First Church

The Summer Community Choir under the direction of Nhung T Truong, will present its concert on Thursday August 16th at 7 PM.  
Free and open to the public!  
For more information, please contact Nhung.  
(ntruong@friars.providence.edu)

### THE HAIRCUT...

A father made a deal with his son: 'You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible, and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car.'

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed on it.

After about six weeks his father said, 'Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut.'

The boy said, 'You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair ~ ~ ~ and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair.'

To which the dad calmly replied...

"Did you also notice that they all walked everywhere they had to go?"

*When you are down to  
nothing ...  
God is up to something!*



*Let  
the  
summer  
fun  
begin!*





# First Church of Winsted Upcoming Youth Activities

**Mexico Mission Trip - July 28 - Aug 5**



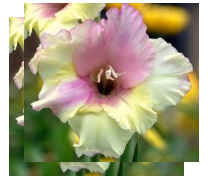
The Winsted & Friends group hosted a bunch of wonderful kids at the local park. These kids happen to live in at the dump. Lots of smiles!







# August 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>Artist: Karen Delton</p>	<p><b>July Birthstone:</b> <i>Peridot</i></p> 	<p><b>July Flower:</b> <i>Gladiola</i></p> 	<p><b>Astrological Signs</b></p> <p><i>Leo</i> July 23 – Aug 23 <i>Virgo</i> Aug 24 - Sept 23</p>		<p><b>Ahh..Summer!</b> Photo by Katherine Griswold Check her art at the Art Show in Norfolk August 10-12 at the Bottell Stoeckel Gallery!</p>	
 <p>NORFOLK ARTISTS AND FRIENDS AUGUST ARTS WEEKEND <b>ART SHOW</b> At the Bottell Stoeckel Gallery <b>AUGUST 10, 11 &amp; 12</b> <u>ART OPENING FRI. 10<sup>TH</sup> 5 PM ~ 7:30 PM</u> SAT. 11<sup>TH</sup> 12 PM ~ 5 PM SUN. 12<sup>TH</sup> 12 AM ~ 4 PM</p>			<p><b>1</b></p> <p>AA/Alanon 7:30 pm</p> <p>Women's Gathering 6:30</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>
<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Worship Service 10:00 am</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Property Maint 7:00</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>AA/Alanon 7:30 pm</p> <p>Women's Gathering 6:30</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p>
<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Worship Service 10:00 am</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Christian Ed 7:00 pm</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>AA/Alanon 7:30 pm</p> <p>Women's Gathering 6:30</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p>
<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Worship Service 10:00 am</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Worship Choir 5:30 Deacons 7:00 pm</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>AA/Alanon 7:30 pm</p> <p>Women's Gathering 6:30</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>
<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Worship Choir 5:30 Cabinet 7:00 pm</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>Women's Gathering 6:30</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	

**Come...be uplifted  
by the Spirit and  
strive to follow  
God's path for you!**



Artist: Karen Delton

**Pastor - Rev. Michael Wu**

Moderator - Dan Jones

Vice-Moderator – Richard Mazzei

Clerk - Debbie Storrs

Board of Deacons - Co-chairs

Laura McCaw & Lisa Nanni

Treasurer – Debby Kane

Christian Education Chair - Allison Graboski

Sunday School Director - Barbara Mazzei

Organist/Worship Choir Director - Tricia Wu

Cherub Choir Director - Debbie Storrs



**FIRST CHURCH OF WINSTED**



95 North Main Street, Winsted, CT

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**Sunday Worship - 10:00 AM**

Communion - 1st Sunday of Every Month

Sunday School - Nursery Care - During Worship

Coffee Hour - Following Worship

**E-Mail / Office – [info@firstchurchofwinsted.org](mailto:info@firstchurchofwinsted.org)**

**Telephone (860) 379-1778**

**Church Web-Site [www.firstchurchofwinsted.org](http://www.firstchurchofwinsted.org)**

The CT Conference of the UCC

Telephone (866) 367-2822 Toll Free

Still Speaking Site [www.stillspeaking.com](http://www.stillspeaking.com)

UCC Web-Site [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org) or [ctuucc.org](http://ctuucc.org)

American Baptist Churches of Connecticut - ABCCONN

Executive Minister: The Rev. Dr. Judy G. Allbee

Telephone (860) 521-5421

ABCCONN Web-Site [www.abcconn.org](http://www.abcconn.org)

First Church of Winsted  
95 North Main Street  
Winsted, CT 06098

**BELLRINGER**



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