

First Church of Winsted

Come as you are...

Leave transformed!

BELLRINGER

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

Word from the Pastor

Mexico Mission – Part 2

Day 6

Thought I would share with you some thoughts from Natalie and Jess:

Not many people are fortunate enough to have all the things we do. The basic necessities that don't ever cross our minds such as food, water, and shelter.

It's an amazing thing to step outside your comfort zone and step into someone else's culture to truly realize the things you take for granted. The families of Oaxaca, Santa Maria, and all the others along the way don't have much, but what they do have they're proud of, and are willing to share in a heartbeat amongst family, friends and even strangers.

While in Mexico we've had the chance to really connect with the children and share the happiness they get from the simple things in life such as a trip to the park for the day with new friends and fresh air, or a movie night in the jungle in the pouring rain.

The memories made in this short period of time will carry on with us. Smiles on their faces when given a bag of popcorn and a cup of Gatorade during a movie, the joy and laughter of the children trying to teach us how to use the park exercise machines, or beating us at a game of soccer.

What we walk away from this experience with is that we made a difference in someone's life, a new outlook on people less fortunate than we are, and a determination to fulfill a promise of bettering their lives for years to come.

Activities for the day included mixing the concrete for the new kitchen floor, installing the posits for the palapa roof, pouring the floor, and painting the bunk beds. We also took a tour of a coffee plantation on the side of a mountain ride, visited the school we painted two years ago (along with trenching around the building to end flooding when it rained), bathing in a waterfall, and hosting movie night for the children. The women of the village came to start preparing the food for the community meal. Although traditionally the kitchen is off limits to males, they let us all dice onions, cut tomatoes, and peel garlic for tomorrow's meal.

For those at Casa Hogar, there was more painting, auto repair, and beginning the task of washing and waxing all the vehicles. Carol, the director, invited the team to dinner tonight to show her appreciation for all that they've done.

The mosquitos in the jungle seem worse this year...someone told me that my legs did community service for the local mosquito population!



SEPTEMBER 2012

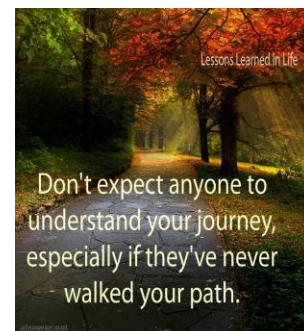
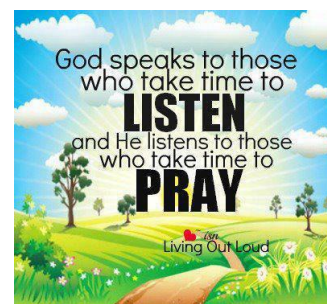
95 North Main Street
Winsted, CT 06098
860-379-1778

Article Submission:
info@firstchurchofwinsted.org

To request a copy
sent to your inbox
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dstorrs@snet.net

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Church News...



CDC News...- Karen Sovak Completed summer jobs:

1. Installation of new carpeting upstairs & vinyl flooring in foyer - job included repair work to subflooring in two areas.
2. Moving all furniture off old carpet and replacing on new carpet - Julie & Co., Steve Vaill, Tony Mongitore., Pam Allen, Karen Sovak & Manny Gonzalez
3. Julie painted easels & refreshed woodwork
4. Debby spackled wall and repainted area
5. Steve Vaill and Tony Mongitore built shelf for block unit downstairs, and added shelves in three areas
6. Shed floor was painted - Tim & Dawn
7. Sign and flower box repaired and painted Scot Grabowski.
8. Insulation was placed in the ceiling by Tony Mongitore and Co.
9. The play-yard work is in progress - thank you Debby Kane, Michael Wu and Danny Jones for getting it started.

~ All of the funding for the above has been provided by the Libby Holman Foundation!



Meeting the 4th 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

Women's Gathering – Spa Night!

We met at Allison Graboski's house, where we had facials and hand scrubs with home-made products, courtesy of Allison's kitchen and garden! Here is a recipe for a cleanser we used.

GENTLE HONEY CLEANSER courtesy of www.honey.com

This cleanser is simple and effective. The soap gently cleans, the glycerin prevents drying and the honey not only softens the skin, but its antimicrobial properties can help ward off breakouts. A touch of honey is all you need for healthy, glowing skin.

1/4 cup honey
1 tablespoon liquid soap*
1/2 cup glycerin

Combine all in a small bowl until fully blended. Pour into a clean plastic bottle. Pour onto clean face sponge or soft cloth and gently rub onto face, wash away with warm water and pat face dry. Enjoy fresh radiant skin.

*Any mild liquid soap will work, even Baby Shampoo, but do avoid dishwashing soaps. They are harsh and contain detergents. For more natural spa treatments check out: <http://www.spaindex.com>



Church in the Wildwood...Sept 2 at 7 PM
First Church night...! Come and join us for an old fashioned hymn sing. Start picking your favorites!



Mary Beckwith Memorial fund purchased 3 chord buddies for the RS4J (Rock Starz for Jesus) choir. It also purchased the tee shirts presented to the choir on Children's Sunday. Thanks Ma...and all who donated to her fund to help make this possible. ~Debbie Storrs



Property Maintenance News...

Scott Clark recently completed the masonry in the bell tower and the Bracey Memorial wall. Scott ground out all of the old mortar around the stone and re-cemented them, as well as re-align the two new letters in the wall that were recently installed incorrectly. Scott was paid \$2000 for his work.

Then he teamed up with his friend Jamie, who is a professional painter, and painted, the high areas over and around the new louvers. We supplied the paint. Jamie provided the lift that can reach the height required. Now that all this high work is finished, we should have less leakage through the stonework. The cost of this work \$3800 - and we supplied the paint.

Donations are needed to pay off the \$3,000 balance owed.

Kim Janak has volunteered to paint the letters on the wall.

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

We're all tired but thank God no one has gotten sick this year.

More tomorrow!

Mexico Mission Day 7

Sorry for the short report. We need to be up at 5am tomorrow morning to breakdown the Santa Maria base camp and be on our way to Candelaria, the town where the paved roads begin, at 6:30am.

Nearly 400 people from the community joined us for a meal prepared by the women of the village. We helped serve the black beans, eggs, and homemade corn tortillas. We served 60 gallons of Gatorade. I was in charge of making it, and to make enough for the crowd, I diluted the drink with two parts water for each part of regular strength Gatorade. The women started cooking the day before and returned at 4:00 am to continue cooking over open fires using dried bamboo out of the jungle. They cracked over 1000 eggs, which some claimed to have listened to each shell being broken because the smoke from the fires poured into our sleeping area awaking many.

Another high point of the day was taking children from the village to the waterfall to swim. Most never ride in a motor vehicle, so the van ride there brought smiles and laughter that you would not imagine!

My five year old friend, who deemed my skipping skills uncorrectable, decided that we needed our own hideaway from the others. Our clubhouse was the narrow space between the wall of the palapa and the fence of the adjacent government medical clinic. In one of our meetings she shared with me how the hurricane earlier this summer blew away part of her house and how they went to the nursery school building to wait out the storm. In a later meeting, she rubbed garlic on the mosquito bites on my legs to alleviate the itching and told me she wanted to become a nurse when she grew up. About 40 minutes ago her parents hiked up the hill we so despise in the dark to say good-bye and thank you for spending time with their daughter.

Although we did lots of work this past week, the relationships we all established, be it during the Simply Smiles experience or the Casa Hogar experience, that will remain with us forever.

I did get word that our Casa Hogar team left Oaxaca early this morning and is waiting for us in Huatulco. They completed a ton of painting, worked on 5 different vehicles, and waxed 3 of them.

Once again I thank God for this opportunity and also for the dedicated and hard working First Church team. For the 6th summer in a row, we've accomplished far more than we imagined possible, met new friends, and have been blessed by the Mexican people.

Day 8...on the way home!

A few words from Debby about the Casa Hogar team...

After a few days apart, the Casa Hogar group traveled from Oaxaca to Mexico City and then back down to Huatulco with a heavy heart as no one was ready to leave Casa Hogar. The younger members of the group stayed up until 2am the last night (after a wonderful dinner at the Zocalo with Carol, Francisco, Jess and Tino) listening to Nacho play his guitar and the older kids play spoons with our kids. It was a

Rally Day

Picnic & Swim!

Everyone is Invited!

Sunday September 9th

Opening Day Sunday School!

Registration for school year 2012-2013

Picnic immediately following

At the Janak's home in Colebrook!

(Rain: picnic will be at church)

Please bring a dish to share:

Dessert, Salad or Side

Bring a Lawn chair and swim stuff!

Burgers and Hot Dogs, drinks, supplies all provided!

Directions from the church:

Make a left out of church parking lot and a left onto N. Main Street and follow past the green until you reach Rt. 44

Take a left on Rt. 44 traveling through Winsted until you come to Rt. 183 (at the blinking light), the Jehovah Witness Hall will be on your right.

Take a right on to Rt.183 and follow this all the way into the center of Colebrook (see church, general store, post office, town hall).

Go about 1 to 2 miles past the center and then make a right onto Sandy brook Road.

Take your second left onto Beech Hill.

Take your first left onto Simons Pond. Follow to 4th house on left (not the white house on the hill). Go around the long corner and it is the next house.

**The Janak Residence
63 Simons Pond Road, Colebrook, CT
(860) 379-4234**



Mexico continued...

great week there with lots accomplished as far as painting and auto tune ups and wash and waxes. We were able to renew old friendships and makes some new ones too. In a way it felt like home when we were there and we were sad to leave. Meeting up with the other group was really nice and hearing their adventures in the jungle made us wish we could have been there, too.

We are on our way home, and you can see on everyone's face that the adrenaline is no longer flowing. It was a great week, and let me close with words of thanksgiving: we thank God for the opportunity to go again to Mexico, we thank all of you for your help and support to make it possible, we thank the people of Oaxaca for opening their hearts and homes to us, and I give special thanks to the members of the two teams. It was an amazing week!

Till next year...



Laurel City Singers

GOING TRIBAL

Rehearsals begin Thursday, September 13 at 7 at First Church. Joseph Firecrow and John Marshal will be joining us again for another evening of Musical Mayhem!

November 18th tentative concert date.

If you are interested in joining? Please call Denise at 379-2655 or see Debbie Storrs.



Board of Deacons News...

The Board has completed our annual for the 2012-13 school year.

Church Calendar to Date:

Sept. 4 – Opening Day CDC.

Sept. 9 – Rally Day.

Sept. 11 – Sunday School Teacher Training.

Oct.- Jan. – Ticket preparation and sales for Scholarship Raffle.

Nov. 18 – Youth Group prepares and serves Thanksgiving Dinner for the Congregation

Dec. 1 – Christmas Fair/ Scholarship Raffle date.

Dec.23 – Christmas Pageant.

Feb. 16 – Swim Party.

Mar. 31 – Easter Egg Hunt.

May 4 – Tag Sale (tentative date)

May 12 – Confirmation & Mother's Day.

May 18 – Ziti Supper.

??? – CDC Graduation.

June 9 – Children's Day/Picnic/Scholarships Awarded.

September 11, 2012 6:30- Sunday School Training and information for Teachers.

Grades 5 & 6.....Kathy Riiska- Lovejoy

Youth Group.....Ashley & Dan Jones

Nursery.....Bonnie Geddes, Debby Kane, Emma Hennig, Julie Davy

Substitutes.....Deb Storrs, Allison Graboski, Kim Janak.

More teachers are needed...! Please contact Barbara Mazzei if interested!



There is a saying, "He who sings once, prays twice." How correct this is, if one truly thinks and feels what one is singing! This is what the members of the church choirs experience as they prepare to sing during the Worship Services. The anthem you hear on Sunday morning is the culmination of much practice, dedication, and commitment from each choir member. Choir members show their dedication to Christ, Church, and fellow members through their attendance on Sundays and at the weekly practices.

Choir participation is more than just singing and practicing. It is also a fellowship group where members share in life together. Please consider joining in this experience, no matter what your age is, what part you sing, or how well you read music—or don't read music. (It's not a requirement!) The Worship Choir, intended for Youths and Adults (grades 6 and up) rehearses on Tuesday evenings at 5:30 pm. The Cherub Choir, aka Rock Starz for Jesus, is for younger children, and rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 until 6:45.

If singing is not your "thing", perhaps you could support the choirs through other methods, such as providing transportation for children in the Cherub Choir or babysitting for their younger siblings while a parent drives to choir, or by letting the choir members know when you enjoy a particular piece, or find some special meaning in one.

If you have questions about joining one of the choirs, please don't hesitate to contact their leaders: Tricia Wu, Worship Choir; and Deborah Storrs, Cherub Choir.



Music in the soul can be heard by the universe. ~Lao Tzu



Upcoming Events

<i>Celebrate With Us...</i>		<i>Looking Forward</i>	
Sunday - 10 am	Worship	Sept 2 or 23	New Member Class after church
Tuesday - 5:30 pm 8/21 & 8/28	Rehearsal~Worship Choir	Sept 2 at 7:00 pm	Church in the Wildwood-1 st Church
Wednesday - 6:00 pm	Rehearsal~Rock Starz 4 Jesus	Sept 8	Steam Vent Coffee House
Wednesday - 6:30 pm	Women's Gathering	Sept 9	Rally Day & Picnic
Wednesday - 7:30 pm	AA / Alanon Meetings	Sept 15-16	Church Board Retreat
Thursday - 7:00 - 9:00 pm	Rehearsal-Laurel City Singers	Sept 30	Baptisms
		Oct 6	Church Fall Tag-sale
<i>Board Meetings</i>			
		Sept 4	PM Board
		Sept 11	Board of Christian Ed.
		Sept 18	Deacons
		Sept 25	Cabinet Meeting
			

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

10 - Beth McCusker
 11 - Kelly McAllister
 20 - Liam McAllister
 20 - Danny McAllister
 20 - John Eggering
 21 - Ann Jones
 23 - Melissa McCusker
 26 - Pastor Michael Wu
 27 - Chelsea Jarboe
 27 - Wade Roberts
 27 - Chelsea Jarboe
 29 - Mel Lee
 30 - Pam Allen
 30 - Shirley Calkin

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

♥ 08 - Bob & Carol Miles
 ♥ 20 - Ed & Kathy Weaving
 ♥ 26 - Brett & Susan McAllister



Goshen Fair... 100th Anniversary! New mural on the barn on RT 63 painted by Candace Breakell.

ALWAYS TELL THE TRUTH
 PRACTICE KINDNESS
 LAUGH & DANCE OFTEN
 KEEP YOUR PROMISES
 CLEAN UP AFTER YOURSELF
 HONOR EACH OTHER
 TAKE ONLY WHAT YOU NEED
 GIVE THANKS FOR EVERYTHING
 FORGIVE WITHOUT EXCEPTION
 HUG OVER AND OVER
 SAY I LOVE YOU EVERYDAY

**Sunday School
Teacher Interest**

**Sunday School Teacher
Interest & Training Session**

**Tuesday, September 11th
6:30-7:30 at Church**

Come for a look at the new curriculum, share ideas and find out how easy and fun it is to teach Sunday school!

Questions: Allison Graboski
 (860)-238-7484, athall37@yahoo.com

STEAM VENT Performers SEPT 8th

Performers

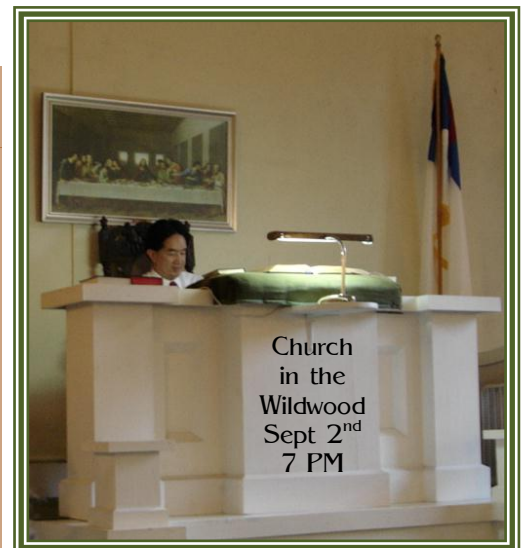
6:00 Open Mic
 6:30 Eric Paradine
 7:00 Twice Around
 7:30 Gale Gardiner
 8:00 Bill Benson **NW CT IDOL 2nd place!**
 8:30 Chronic Rhythm
 9:00 Red Thunder Wolf
 9:30 Open Mic

Free Will Offering to Benefit Missions

STEAM VENT CAFÉ MEXICAN NIGHT!

MENU:

Build your own Burrito
 Choice of Fillings \$7.00
 Child Portion \$3.50
 Served with Salad &
 Fruit Salad
 Deserts \$1 - \$2





September 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Artist: Karen Delton	Sept Birthstone: Sapphire 	Sept Flower: Aster 	Astrological Signs Virgo: Aug 23 – Sept 22 Libra: Sept 23 – Oct 22			1
2 Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir Church in the Wildwood 7:00	3 Labor Day	4 Worship Choir 5:30 Property Maint 7:00	5 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm Women's Gathering 6:30	6	7	8  STEAM VENT Coffee House 6-10 PM Mexican Night!
9 Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir RALLY DAY Picnic to Follow!	10	11 Worship Choir 5:30 Sunday School Teachers 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 pm Patriot Day	12 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm Women's Gathering 6:30	13 Laurel City Singers 7:00 pm Rehearsals begin for Going Tribal!	14	15 Leadership Retreat
16 Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir Leadership Retreat	17	18 Worship Choir 5:30 Deacons 7:00 pm	19 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm Women's Gathering 6:30	20 Laurel City Singers 7:00 pm	21	22 First Day of Fall 
23 Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir	24	25 Worship Choir 5:30 Cabinet 7:00 pm	26 Women's Gathering 6:30	27 Laurel City Singers 7:00 pm	28	29
30 Worship Service 10:00 am Cherub Choir Sings						

**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

Telephone (860) 379-1778

Church Web-Site www.firstchurchofwinsted.org

The CT Conference of the UCC

Telephone (866) 367-2822 Toll Free

Still Speaking Site www.stillspeaking.com

UCC Web-Site www.ucc.org or 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

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

BELLRINGER



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