

The Spire

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN WINCHESTER, UCC
An Open and Affirming Congregation

SEPTEMBER 2015
VOLUME 62, NUMBER 8



A Warm Welcome to our New Lead Pastor, Rev. Will Burhans!

This Fall will usher in a new era for our church, as we welcome Rev. Will Burhans as our Lead Pastor. Will and his family moved to Winchester in August, and he will formally join the Ministry Team on September 1st. We are eager to begin working with Rev. Burhans and look forward to this exciting new phase of our ministry as a church!

As the Pastoral Nominating Committee shared in introducing him, we believe

we have found in Will a minister who can successfully lead our congregation in living more fully into our Purpose and becoming the church God is calling us to be. We have come to be especially impressed by several aspects of Will's ministry: his deep personal faith and the eloquence with which he speaks of it; his gifted preaching and creative worship leadership; his personal warmth and openness; his passion for social justice and service to the community; his ecumenical spirit with neighbors of all kinds; and his gifts as a listener and a caring pastor.

In case you were unable to join us for Will's "candidate weekend" in late June, when we had the great joy of introducing him to the congregation and hearing him preach, here is some information about his background, ministry and family:

Professional: Will served for the last fifteen years as the Senior Pastor of Charlotte Congregational Church, UCC, in Charlotte, Vermont. He previously served for two years as Associate Pastor at the Holladay United Church of Christ in Holladay, Utah. Prior to ministry, Will worked for two years



as a residential counselor at the Well-spring Psychiatric Clinic in Bethlehem, Connecticut.

Education: Masters of Divinity from Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA (2000); Bachelors Degree from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA (1991)

Personal: Will is married to Tracy Vartenigian Burhans, a painter and film art director. They have three daughters: Haliana will be a sophomore at Brandeis University; Naomi will be a junior at Winchester High School; and Augusta Claire will be a WHS freshman.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



Homecoming Sunday

Join us back in the sanctuary!
September 13 @ 10:00 AM

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH IN WINCHESTER, UCC**
An Open and Affirming Congregation

www.fcc-winchester.org
Church Phone Number: 781-729-9180

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Welcome Back!

It's hard to believe that the fall is upon us once again! Please join us in the sanctuary for Homecoming Sunday on September 13 at 10:00, where we will joyfully welcome our new pastor, Rev. Will Burhans, and kick off the start of the formal church year.

Do you have something to share? If you would like to contribute an article to *The Spire*, please send your submissions to **newsletter@fcc-winchester.org** by the 15th of each month. For example, to include an article in the October issue, please submit by September 15th. Please note that submissions may be gently edited for length and clarity.

Bulletin and email blast requests should be sent to Sarah Marino, our Office Manager, at first.congregational@verizon.net by **Thursday at 9:00 AM**.

Welcome back!

—NANCY KNEISS, EDITOR

Our purpose is to be a
Christ-centered, nurturing
community, growing in faith,
serving in love,
welcoming all with joy.



"I'm here to install the new church pastor."



A Special
THANK YOU



Dear Church,

Thank you so much for your presence, participation, and leadership in worship on my last Sunday (August 16th) and in the reception that followed in the lovely Reno Garden. Being with you in this service, I was struck again at how many gifted speakers, writers, pray-ers, organizers, singers, musicians, lyricists, crocheters—and bakers!!—you have in the congregation. How blessed you are—and how blessed is the town of Winchester to have God’s light shining through you in the center of town! AND, how blessed am I to have ministered with and among you for two years! I am grateful to God for that awesome privilege and opportunity.

I am also very grateful for your generosity in the “send off” you gave me. To those who spoke and prayed and sang—thank you for your words of affirmation of my ministry. I will carry your words in my heart as I go from here to wherever God calls me next. Thank you, also, for your humor. (You will notice that some of my email “habits” of which Sarah Gallop spoke have slipped into this article :).

Plus, I will always chuckle when I look at the picture from “Pajama Sunday” presented by Keith Russell. As Keith said to me later, we should have put that picture underneath the serious one that’s going up on the wall—to give historians something to wonder about a hundred years from now... And, for the AMAZING gift of the Adirondack chairs—all I can say is “Wow!” Paul and I will so much enjoy sitting in them on our Monday sabbaths. (We’ve already set them up in the backyard overlooking a bed of day lilies.) I’m looking forward to cooler weather so I can have my devotional time out in the backyard, sitting in one of the chairs, wrapped up in the beautiful prayer shawl, wearing the socks that Health Ministry gave me! Also, the purse was incredibly generous—many, many thanks! As for the notes you wrote me that Christine Tresselt presented in that gorgeous handmade box—I plan to read them slowly, a few each day, and savor the blessing in the words.

I too wish you “Godspeed” on your journey, as you move into the future, growing in faith, serving in love, and welcoming all with joy.

Rev. Marlayna

This Year's Reading Selections

The September meeting of the Ruth Group will be held on September 27th at 7pm at the home of Joyce Mills, 5 Vine Brook Way, Woburn. We will be discussing *Learning to Die in Miami, Confessions of a Refugee Boy* by Carlos Eire. This is also the “Winchester Reads” book. For further information or transportation contact Joyce Mills at 617-835-4692

or joycemills1966@hotmail.com. Ruth Group meets on the **fourth Sunday of the month, unless otherwise specified, from 7–9 PM**. Below is the roster of books we will be reading and discussing this year. All women of the church are welcome. Please join us!

Date	Book	Host	Notes
Sep 27	<i>Learning to Die in Miami, Confessions of a Refugee Boy</i> by Carlos Eire	Joyce Mills	Non-Fiction (Memoir)
Oct 25	<i>All the Light We Cannot See</i> by Anthony Doerr	Kaye Nash	Fiction
Nov 22*	<i>Being Mortal</i> by Atul Gawande	Laurie Roby and Mike Redding	Non-Fiction
Dec 13 (2nd Sunday)	Poetry of your choice	Lynne Rahmeier	
Jan 24	<i>Go Set a Watchman</i> by Harper Lee	Connie Rosenberger	Fiction
Feb 28	<i>The Nearest Exit May Be Behind You</i> by S. Bear Bergman	Anne Hoenicke	Non-Fiction
Mar 27	<i>God Help the Child</i> by Toni Morrison	Susan Sawyer	Fiction
Apr 24	<i>A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity</i> by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn	Karen Roberts	Non-Fiction
May 22**	<i>Bright Chords of Someplace Else</i> by Monica McFawn	MaryAnn McCall-Taylor	Fiction (Short Stories)
June 26 Planning Brunch	About 20-30 books are suggested each year—come hear about them all!	Potluck lunch in the Tucker Room	

* This is the 4th Sunday of November, which is *before* Thanksgiving.

** This is the 4th Sunday of May, which is *before* Memorial Day weekend.



A Warm Welcome to our New Lead Pastor, Rev. Will Burhans!

CONTINUED FROM COVER

Interests: Music, singer-songwriter, avid reader, snowboarding chaplain at Stowe Mountain Chapel, soccer coach, social justice, environmental issues.

Please join us in extending a heartfelt welcome to the Burhans family. There will be additional opportunities, both formal and social, to do so in the coming weeks including **Homecoming Sunday, September 13**, when we'll all be together again.



Top 5 reasons to receive The Spire via email

1. You will receive The Spire in your inbox a week earlier than snail mail.
2. Higher quality. The pictures will be in color and look better.
3. Saves on resources.
4. Saves the church money on paper, ink, collating, and postage.
5. Saves time!

Please email the church office at first.congregational@verizon.net if you would like to switch to an email subscription.



MINISTRY TEAM

Hello from Rev. Burhans

The Jewish theologian, Abraham Heschel, who wrote a series of definitive books on the Old Testament prophets and was active in the prophetic movement of the Civil Rights, wrote “Faith is not the clinging to a shrine but an endless pilgrimage of the heart.” And so it is that I am letting go of a 15-year pastorate in Charlotte, Vermont, saying goodbye to those who have accompanied me on this portion of my faith journey and stepping into God’s church in Winchester where I will pick up with you along your hearts’ pilgrimage. I look forward to worshiping with you, praying with you, working, serving and recreating with you and seeing how God will lead us to where we need to be. Thank you for the invitation to join what appears to me to be a wonderful community of faith. Although we do not know one another now, we are already connected through Christ’s Spirit and it will not be long before our lives together begin to take shape into a new day. I leave you with the rest of Heschel’s beautiful statement until our journeys converge on Tuesday, September 1st:

“Faith is not the clinging to a shrine but an endless pilgrimage of the heart. Audacious longings, burning songs, daring thoughts, an impulse overwhelming the heart, usurping the mind—these are all a drive towards serving the God who rings our hearts like a bell.”

—PEACE, REV. WILLIAM BURHANS



Norman Fieleke

Norman Fieleke passed away in North Carolina on July 4, 2015 at the age of 83. Norman joined our Church in 1970 and moved to North Carolina shortly after his retirement in 1997. He served for several terms as a teacher in the Church School and was elected a deacon in 1979.

Norman was born in Kankakee, Illinois on August 22, 1932. Norman graduated *summa cum laude* from Amherst College in 1954 and served as a Lieutenant in the Air Force from 1955 to 1957. He received a PhD in Economics from Harvard University in 1959. He began his career as an economist with the US Office of Management and Budget and in 1964 served as an Industry Economist for the US Trade Representative during the Kennedy trade negotiations. In 1967 he joined the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston and became a vice president in charge of international research. He served as director of research to the International Trade Commission in 1980 and a consultant to the International Monetary Fund in 1993.

Norman taught international economics at Tufts, Boston University, Brandeis University and Duke. He had a deep appreciation for literature and nature. He was devoted to his three sons, Andrew, Eric and Mark, and was a man of deep faith, writing on his faith experiences as well as economics.

Baptisms

Wesley Bishop Hankin, son of Laura and Monty Hankin, was baptized on June 28.

Hannah Louise Hintlian, daughter of Elizabeth and Douglas Hintlian, was baptized on August 2.

Caroline Mason, daughter of Allison (Borges) and Christopher Mason, was baptized on August 13.

Weddings

Lauren Phillips and Michael Rotondi were married on August 22.

In Memoriam

BettyAnn Hosmer died on January 7.

Norman Fieleke, father of Eric Fieleke, died on July 4.

Dorris McPherson, mother of Tony McPherson, died on August 12.

BettyAnn Hosmer

BettyAnn Smyth Hosmer of Winchester, long involved with our church, passed away on January 7, 2015 at the age of 93 at the Winchester Rehabilitation and Nursing Home where she had resided for several years.

BettyAnn was born in Detroit, Michigan on December 4, 1921, and moved to Melrose, Massachusetts in 1935. She traveled as a representative for Western Union and graduated from Chamberlain School of Retailing. She then worked for several years in merchandise buying for Filenes. BettyAnn and her late husband, John H. Hosmer, Jr. lived in West Medford for several years before moving to Winchester. They maintained a 35-year summer residence at Wingersheek Beach in Gloucester.

As her children grew up she devoted herself to her family and taught church school. She served on several PTA boards and was as a girl scout leader. She was also a five-year member of the Visiting Nurses Association and a member of the Winton Club and the Garden Club. BettyAnn is survived by three daughters, Hilary Hosmer West of Canyon County, California, Darcy Hosmer Margiotta of Haverhill, Carrie Hosmer of St. Louis, Missouri, a son John Hosmer III of Tewksbury, and seven grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at our church on January 11.

Flower Committee

The Health Ministry welcomes Kellee Fiske and Sally Hawksworth as our 2015-16 Flower Committee Chairpersons. They will hold their fall committee meeting on **Sunday, September 20th at 11:30** in the Henry Room.

Shop for Organic Apples this Fall

The Environmental Working Group (www.ewg.org) publishes a Shopper's Guide to Pesticides in Produce. Organic foods are more expensive so knowing the two lists printed below can help you make the healthiest food selections.

The **Dirty Dozen**, or produce with the *most* pesticide content, are:

1. Apples
2. Peaches
3. Nectarines
4. Strawberries
5. Grapes
6. Celery
7. Spinach
8. Sweet Bell Peppers
9. Cucumbers
10. Cherry Tomatoes
11. Snap peas (imported)
12. Potatoes

The **Clean Fifteen** or produce with the *least* amount of pesticide content, are:

1. Avocados
2. Sweet Corn
3. Pineapples
4. Cabbage
5. Sweet Peas (frozen)
6. Onions
7. Asparagus
8. Mangos
9. Papayas
10. Kiwi
11. Eggplant
12. Grapefruit
13. Cantaloupe
14. Cauliflower
15. Sweet Potatoes



Stroller Walk

Sunday September 20th at 11:30 AM

Parents with babies and/or toddlers, join us for fellowship, fitness and family fun! We'll "stroller up" on the front church patio after worship.

Contact Jenn at 781 850-4065 or Kathy at kathmort2@yahoo.com with questions.

FACILITIES

Check Out the Floor!

When we return to holding regular Sunday services in the Sanctuary this September, take a look at the refinished floor up front and the new carpet elsewhere. These updated finishes were funded by the filming of a movie in our Sanctuary last Spring. The next update planned for the Sanctuary is the addition of handrails on the steps up to the Chancel. Design details are still under discussion as we want these to be both attractive and sturdy.

The Facilities Ministry is very glad to welcome three new members to the existing group this Fall: Bruce Alexander, John Crabtree, and Steve Cole. We have a large, old facility and welcome all the support and suggestions we can get. Step right up if you are interested, especially if you have a particular project in mind!

—JOHN FISKE, CHAIR.

Children and Youth Events

Welcome back to another year! I am super excited to be the Minister of Christian Faith Formation. This year I get the wonderful opportunity to work with all of the children and youth of our church. Please feel free to stop in my office when you are at the church. If you have a child or youth at our church, please look for my weekly emails that are sent on Tuesday nights. I have not set up my office hours yet for this year, but once I do that I will let everyone know.

Here are some things that are happening in September:

- September 12** Back to School Event (9th-12th)
- September 13** Forum begins (9th-12th)
- September 19** CPR Training for teachers and shepherds
- September 20** Stepping Stones (preK-6th grade), Rite 13 (7th and 8th) and J2A (9th and 10th) begin

Stay tuned for more information. If you do not have a child in our programs but would still like to be included on my weekly emails let me know at ben@fcc-winchester.org.

Keep Shining!

—BEN PULASKI



*Benjamin Pulaski and
Kerri Trachster Wedding*

Kerri and Ben would like to extend an invitation out to everyone at FCC Winchester to come celebrate with them at their wedding ceremony on **September 26th at 2:30PM**. Rev. Judy will be performing the service. Directly after the ceremony there will be coffee and tea and light refreshments in the Palmer/Tucker Hall.
Please join us for this very special day!

DIACONATE

Christian Toolkit

The Deacons are sponsoring a new themed meditation/prayer series titled, “**Our Christian Toolkit: Learning Christian Spiritual Practices We Can Use Throughout Our Lives.**” The sessions will be designed and led by the Rev. Ken Orth, who has led our congregation in deep spiritual work for many years. There will be a guidebook for each session, consisting of prayers, structured meditations, poems, and suggested practices, so that participants may practice at home or form ongoing small groups. The sessions are:

1) **Gratitude and Forgiveness:** Sunday, September 20 from 11:30 to 1 PM (healthy snacks and childcare provided)

- 2) **Mourning and Loss:**
Fall; date to be determined
 - 3) **Illness and Healing:**
Winter; date to be determined
- You do not need to attend all of the sessions to participate—come when you can!

Please contact Teresa Cader at teresacader@verizon.net or 781-863-0166 with any questions.



SAVE THE DATE
Christian Toolkit

September 20
11:30-1:00 PM

An Invitation to Join us in Music!

“Joy, sorrow, tears, lamentation, laughter—to all these music gives voice, but in such a way that we are transported from the world of unrest to a world of peace, and see reality in a new way, as if we were sitting by a mountain lake and contemplating hills and woods and clouds in the tranquil and fathomless water.”

—ALBERT SCHWEITZER (1875-1965)

Life's a twinkling that's for certain,
But it's such a fine thing
There's a gathering of spirits
There's a festival of friends
And we'll take up where we left off
When we all meet again.

—FROM “THE GATHERING OF SPIRITS” BY CARRIE NEWCOMER

It is hard to believe that the summer is drawing to a close. Fall brings a kind of chaotic drive toward organization, but at the same time—a wonderful energy for the new year ahead. I am very excited to begin my thirteenth year at the church (it is hard to believe!), especially with the addition of Reverend Will Burhans and his family. I look forward to another year of collaboration with the choir, Carilloneers, children, ministerial team and congregation of this thriving community.

We have had a rich summer of music at the church, and I want to thank all of the volunteers who have collaborated with Todd Gordon, our summer staff musician. So many of you generously share your time and talents, and it is a true gift. Thank you.

I would like to invite ANYONE who is interested in joining the Senior Choir (middle schoolers and up) to give us a try! The choir is a diverse group of people, characterized by commitment, joy, faith, caring for one another and, of course, a love of music (plus the choir is really funny). There is a place for everyone. If you have never sung in a choir before (or don't believe that it is possible!), please



MUSIC REHEARSALS

Senior Choir

Thursdays
beginning Sept. 10
@ 7:30 PM
Music Room

Carilloneers

Mondays
(start date TBD)
@ 7:30 PM
Music Room

feel free to contact me. The choir is a very welcoming group, and we would love for you to join us.

We have many opportunities for children and adults alike: Children's Choir, opportunities for youth, handbells, and more! We have a great deal of new music, standard repertoire, gospel, jazz and old favorites ready to go.

The Carilloneers continue to ring with joy and abandon and I am pleased to work with the group again this coming year. If you are interested in ringing the gleaming handbells, feel free to contact me. We meet on **Monday evenings**, and our schedule is fluid and accommodating!

Senior Choir Rehearsals begin on **Thursday evening, September 10, 2015, 7:30 PM** in the Music Room. Please join us. If you have any suggestions, questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me either by e-mail: jringfrank@comcast.net or by telephone at (857) 919-0983. You can also leave a message for me at the church.

I can't wait to see you all and wish you blessings as we re-gather in God's name for another exciting church year.

—JANE RING FRANK, MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP ARTS

Beginning Again

One of the greatest gifts of the spiritual life is the release from our mistakes, our shortcomings, our inability to have lived up to the great expectations of others and ourselves. “The good I would do, I find myself not doing,” is Paul’s way of expressing in Romans 7 what is often the lived reality of our human condition.

But the great promise of God is to forgive and willingly “release us from a past we cannot change. And open us to a future in which we can be changed” (one of my favorite prayers from our UCC Book of Worship). God tells us that each day can be a new beginning. Our life in God allows us to see the future of possibilities before us with each morning that has broken, into which we rise.

As we begin a new chapter of ministerial leadership here at First Congregational Church of Winchester, that hope is very great indeed. We welcome with open arms and spirits Will Burhans as our new lead pastor. As we welcome him and his family, our hopes and visions for a life lived in God’s spirit and love are great indeed!

A recent “UCC daily devotional” (which you can sign up to be delivered to your daily e-mail box through our UCC national web site: ucc.org) brought another aspect of beginnings to mind. Kenneth Samuel quoted this passage from Leviticus: “And thou shalt not glean thy vineyard, neither shall thou gather every grape of your vineyard; thou shalt leave them for the poor and stranger: I am the Lord God.”

In our world the temptation is to plan every minute of our over-achieving and demanding schedules. It may be important to notice that we also need to leave some time fallow, to not “use every grape of our vineyard of time.” Instead some generosity of time should be allowed for the unexpected need of a neighbor, friend or stranger. It can



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along my path.

be these “unexpected visitors” which are the ones to enrich our lives in ways that only God has the wisdom to provide

for us. My best laid plans may need to be set aside at times to allow for the hospitality to another whom God has sent along my path. But if I have “picked clean” every minute of my day, I may ultimately be the loser, for “what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and lose his soul in the process?” Our souls need time for quiet, for openness to the unexpected, for listening for God in the cacophony and clamor of our days.



As we “begin again” this fall, may we not structure our time and lives so highly that we forget to allow for the reality that “God is doing a new thing.” If I am too highly structured, I won’t even notice these opportunities God offers me—op-

portunities for grace, love, correction, and hope—and I will go on my way a poorer spirit for it.

Let’s make room for the new to happen as we “begin again”. For God has promised in Jeremiah, “Know the plans I have for you. They are plans for good, to give you hope and a future.” May we make room for God’s plans for all of us! Blessed be!

—REV. DR. KEN ORTH, PASTORAL COUNSELING AND SPIRITUAL
DIRECTION AFFILIATE

September 2015

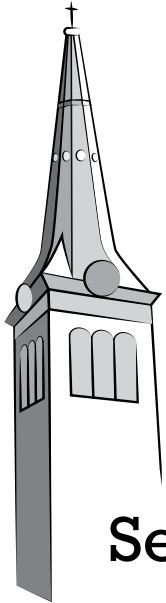
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:00 AM Summer Bible Study 9:45 AM Summer Worship 10:30 AM Outdoor Church	31	1	2	3	4	5
6 9:00 AM Summer Bible Study 9:45 AM Summer Worship 11:00 AM J2A Teacher Meeting 7:30 PM Men's Group	7 Labor Day	8 7:00 PM Rite 13 Teacher Meeting 7:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM Mission & Outreach Ministry	9 7:30 PM Facilities Ministry 7:30 PM Personnel Ministry	10 7:30 PM First Choir Rehearsal	11 Patriot Day	12
13  WELCOME BACK 10:00 AM Homecoming Sunday Worship 11:30 AM Homecoming Picnic 12:00 PM Youth BTS Outing 7:30 PM FORUM Begins	14	15 SPIRE DEADLINE 7:30 PM Boy Scouts	16 10:00 AM FAN Toddler Playgroup 6:30 PM Health Ministry	17 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	18	19 3:00 PM CPR Training 5:00 PM The Dwelling Place
20  Supply School Registration 10:00 AM J2A Class - 9th & 10th Grades 10:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Rite 13 Classes - 7th & 8th Grades 10:15 AM Stepping Stones Begins 11:30 AM Flower Committee Meeting 11:30 AM Stroller Walk 7:30 PM FORUM (High School)	21	22 7:30 PM Boy Scouts	23 First Day of Autumn 10:00 AM FAN Toddler Playgroup 7:30 PM Purpose Forum	24 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	25	26
27 10:00 AM J2A Class - 9th & 10th Grades 10:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Rite 13 Classes - 7th & 8th Grades 10:15 AM Stepping Stones (Church School) 11:30 AM Leadership Team Meeting 7:30 PM FORUM (High School)	28	29 7:30 PM Boy Scouts	30 10:00 AM FAN Toddler Playgroup 12:00 PM Blood Drive	1 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	2	3

The Spire

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September

We Need You!

Do you have an hour, an evening, or a weekend to give? Here are a few opportunities to serve your church and community.

Please Help Us Fill the Little Red Wagon!

Nonperishable food can be dropped off in the church lobby or in the back of the Sanctuary. If you can help deliver food donations to the Woburn Council of Social Concern, please contact Cindy Mahoney, 781-729-2503 or Cindy33733@aol.com; or Louise Ritenhouse at 781-729-1625 or lritenhouse@comcast.net.

The Facility Ministry Needs Your Help!

We have a large, old facility and welcome all the support and suggestions we can get. Step right up if you are interested, especially if you have a particular project in mind! Email John Fiske at johnmfiske@gmail.com for more info.

Faith Formation Ministry

The Faith Formation Ministry is looking for new members. We meet once a month to grow and develop our children and youth programs. Please email Ben Pulaski at ben@fcc-winchester.org for more info.

Purpose Forum

Come to the Purpose Forum on September 23 to help brainstorm solutions or propose your own idea for a project, large or small. All are welcome!

Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end.

—SENECA, 60 A.D.

