

Welcoming Host Information

Team members:

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Welcoming Host Guidelines: Developed by the team

- Volunteer for a Sunday service when the schedule is sent out usually the month before.
- Wear your Welcome Host name tag.
- Sit in one of the first pews. When the minister introduces you at the start of the service **stand up and face the congregation.**
- After the service: Stay in the aisle so that you are available and visible.
- Invite visitors to sign the visitor's book in the Narthex (make sure they know that this is NOT a membership book) and to put on a name tag. Ask if they would like a tour of the building and/or go with you for coffee in Fiske Hall. Remember each visitor is unique. For that reason, there are no generic instructions on what to say. You need to use your instincts and approach people gently. Just do what is comfortable for you.
- If possible, introduce visitors to Minister, other staff and friends.
- Church tours: Tours should be suggested. A list of what to point out on the tour is on next page. Use your judgement on how long the tour should be
- Your tour should end at Fiske Hall. Pamphlets of information are available in the entrance to the church where visitors signed the book on the hall bulletin board.

Thank you so much.

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Notes For Tour of Church

1. Narthex - Visitors can sign the book and pick up any pamphlets that are on the table.
2. Choir, organ and outside bell (see next page for organ info)
3. Sanctuary – The stain glass windows were moved here from Asylum Hill Church. They are memorial windows. Just like you: we brought our heirlooms with us when we moved here. The Pulpit is from the very first church on Central Row.
4. This is our fourth church. We built this one for us in 1931 and it seats about 350 people. Our first Church was in Hartford in 1850. Pictures of our building are on the wall before you enter the sanctuary.
5. Note the church mice in the corner, on the floor, in the Sanctuary.
6. Back entrance to Sanctuary: Picture on the wall is an aerial view of our church before the addition to the building. Note that Trout Brook Road does not go all the way through.
7. Hallway - Pictures are of ministers and all our church buildings
8. Memorial room: Plaque of people names whose ashes are in the memorial garden. Memorial garden is outside the glass doors through the winding path.
9. Parlor – Services are piped in on Sundays for those who for any reason cannot sit in the Sanctuary. If the knitting basket is in here, you can point out that anyone can pick up and add to the prayer shawl, and when finished, it is given to a member that needs comfort. There is usually a shawl in progress.
10. Bulletin Boards – Contain list of activities and signup sheets.
11. Staff offices, work room and mail boxes
12. Jean Brown Center and staff kitchen.
13. Choir and bell practice room and schoolrooms. School rooms are on all 3 floors.
14. Elevator, wheel chair and walker: for our members use.
15. Fiske Hall – Bulletin boards have a variety of information on our church information. We have plays twice a year. Every Tuesday 250 sandwiches are made and delivered to House of Bread in Hartford. Every other Monday Food Share mobile truck comes and delivers food. Then we serve breakfast to our clients. Once a month we serve a lunch to those who come for a nourishing hot meal. Breakfast and Lunches are funded through FoodShare Grant money. During the school year we deliver backpacks to 3 Hartford Elementary Schools.
16. Posted is the “211” help line on the bulletin board by the stage

Austin Organ Opus 2385:

Our organ was installed in 1963. The Austin organ Opus 2385 has 46 ranks of pipes with a 3 manual console and full AGO regulation pedalboard with independent mixtures and reeds on each manual.

Esther Nelson Ellison, organist and choir director of the church for more than 40 years, realized a larger organ was needed and began the drive for the organ around 1960. The \$49,770 cost was included in the capital campaign of 1960 when Fiske Hall was also added to the church. A restoration fund called the Ester Ellison Memorial organ fund was begun in 1968 after Esther's death by the Linderman family and other members of the church. Some of those funds were used to re-leather the organ pipe valves in 1988 at which time the organ was valued at about \$270, 000.

Estimated cost of organ 2015 is more than \$750,000. The instrument is in excellent condition.

The organ can speak at a whisper on the softest stop, the Flauto Dolce, and can crescendo to a roar with the full organ.

The organ is tuned and serviced once a year at a cost of about \$1,000 (2015). It is a 2 person job and takes a full day of work. The last significant repair was 2013 when the gussets were replaced at a cost of a few thousand dollars.

The organ is unique in that it is not heard every day in most people's lives. It is used regularly during worship, weddings and memorial services.

The organ provides a breath of air in worship through its pipes that is akin to a "Spirit of Life". It is ideal for performing all types of compositions from the very early Palestrina to the contemporary.

Ted Hine our music director: He has been playing the organ for just over a year and started taking formal lessons about March of 2015. His teacher is Peter Niedmann, organist at First Church in Newington and an accomplished composer. Ted practices, on average, two to three hours per day.

Ted's comment on how difficult is it to play? – Depends on who you ask! The touch is different than on a piano, so achieving a good legato requires near constant finger substitutions. Volume is controlled by either foot pedals or by changing the registration, either by adjusting the stops as you play or by using the pistons to cue a present registration. Establishing clarity in contrapuntal textures requires careful attention to the musical text and the use of agogic accents. Learning to play the pedals and the manuals at the same time is almost like learning an entirely new instrument. Overall, I would say that the organ is a difficult instrument to learn and to play well. I absolutely love playing it and am looking forward to continuing to improve my skill set! (October 2015) Ted Hine