

First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
Celebrating the Next 150 Years of
Service to God and Community

December 1, 2067

Dear Diary – Can't believe it has been fifty years since I joined First Church. The 150th anniversary celebration was just coming to a close when I became a member and now our 200th anniversary year is nearing its end. I had heard about the things they did in 2017 to celebrate the 150th and couldn't wait to volunteer for the 200th anniversary committee. Our committee decided to repeat the 150th events for the 200th. Our membership has grown too large for the Fairgrounds to hold our celebration dinner but we were able to book the space station for the event – what fun looking down on First Church from the sky. The Reporter allowed us to continue the tradition of monthly anniversary articles, and the ladies of First Church made another wall hanging for the sanctuary. We now have the 150th and the 200th telling the stories of First Church facing each other across the room. The 150th still looks like new – those ladies sure know how to make things that last. My grandson has just joined First Church and he's planning on serving on the 250th anniversary committee. *Chris Hymnal, Sr.*

December 1, 2117

Dear Diary -- Another fifty years in the life of First Church has flown by – and, yes, I served on the 250th anniversary committee like I told my grandfather I was going to do. Our anniversary articles in the Reporter this year had told about all the things we did during the last 50 years –we added mission trips to Mars along with continuing the trips to Jamaica. With space travel making it easy to get from place to place, Essex Eats Out has expanded to include all the places in the world named Essex – the other 16 in the United States, one in Ontario, two in England, and two in Jamaica – it's great seeing our Jamaican friends more often than our every two-year mission trips. My granddaughter plans on continuing on the family tradition of serving on anniversary committees of First Church and volunteering for the 300th anniversary – she's another Chris Hymnal so the name will also continue. *Chris Hymnal, III*

December 1, 2167

Dear Diary -- Today I was researching some of the news releases from the 150th anniversary year to do an article for the Essex Reporter for the last of our 300th anniversary year monthly articles. I found a national news release in November 2017 that tells about the discovery of a planet they were calling Ross 128b – it was described as being 11 light years away from Earth, earth sized and similar in temperature to earth. How amazing is that since First Church's will be making their 10th annual mission trip next year is to Ross 128b and I'll be on that trip. Can't wait to tell the others about this article!!! *Christine Hymnal*