

# the edge

First Church in Windsor  
United Church of Christ—Gathered 1630  
An Open and Affirming Community  
for all God's people

Our mission is to worship God, love our neighbor,  
and follow Jesus as together we journey in faith.



**DECEMBER  
2011**



## From the Minister



*In each heart lies a Bethlehem, an inn where we must ultimately  
answer whether there is room or not  
When we are Bethlehem-bound we experience our own advent in His.  
When we are Bethlehem-bound  
we can no longer look the other way conveniently  
not seeing stars or hearing angel voices.  
We can no longer excuse ourselves by busily tending  
our sheep or our kingdoms.*

Anne Weems, *Kneeling in Bethlehem*

This has been a topsy-turvy fall replete with hurricanes, freak snowstorms, and power outages. It's been hard to stick to any kind of schedule and it seems as though we have been lurching from one crisis to the next. Now however, the season of Advent is upon us and we are "Bethlehem-bound." As the poet Anne Weems has correctly pointed out "in each heart lies a Bethlehem."

Advent is the season to turn inward and examine our hearts. It's also the time to clear out the clutter and make room in our lives to receive the gift of the baby Jesus. It's a season to focus on the things that are really important—our families, our community, our faith. It's also the time to remember the lonely, the lost, and the less fortunate. If we are not careful we can forget what this special time of year is all about. We can lose ourselves in the glitter and tinsel and forget that Advent is the time to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Prince of Peace.

I hope you will make a special effort to join us during this "season of the heart" at First Church. Included in this edition of the EDGE is a calendar of all the wonderful opportunities for worship, fellowship, and outreach that are available to you throughout the course of the entire Christmas season. It's been a topsy-turvy fall, but now let's get ready to receive the gifts of hope, peace, love, and joy waiting to be born anew in the hearts of each one of us.

Grace & Peace, RHH



**No 8 a.m. service on December 25 or January 1**  
There will be no 8 a.m. worship service on Christmas Day (December 25) or New Year's Day (January 1). We will return to our regular worship hours (8 & 10 a.m.) on Sunday, January 8, 2012.

## December Worship Schedule

Sundays at 8 a.m. Holy  
Communion  
10 a.m. Family Worship

**December 4:** Rick Huleatt  
(2nd Sunday of Advent)

**December 11:** Char Corbett  
(3rd Sunday of Advent)

**December 18:** Rick Huleatt  
(4th Sunday of Advent)

**December 24**  
(Christmas Eve)  
Worship at 5 & 9 p.m.

**December 25:** Char Corbett  
(Christmas Day)  
(No 8 a.m. Service)

## December Lectionary Lessons

**December 4** (2nd Sunday in  
Advent)

Isaiah 40:1-11  
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
2 Peter 3:8-15a  
Mark 1:1-8

**December 11** (3rd Sunday in  
Advent)

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11  
Psalm 126  
I Thessalonians 5:16-24  
John 1:6-8, 19-28

**December 18** (4th Sunday in  
Advent)

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 or Luke  
1:47-55  
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26  
Romans 16:25-27  
Luke 1:26-38

**DECEMBER 24** (Christmas Eve)

Psalm 97  
Isaiah 62:6-12  
Titus 3:4-7  
Luke 2:1-7, (8-20)

**DECEMBER 25** (Christmas Day)

Psalm 98  
Isaiah 52:7-10  
Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)  
John 1:1-14

## 2011 Advent/Christmas Calendar At a glance

Sunday Worship is at 8 and 10 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

**Sunday, 11/27** - 5:30 p.m. Advent Workshop & Potluck Supper  
in Nelson Hall.

**Friday, 12/2** - All Church Cookie Bake 6-7:30 p.m., Nelson Hall.

**Sunday, 12/4** - Christmas pageant rehearsal - 11:15 a.m.  
meetinghouse.

**Sunday, 12/4 and 12/11**—Advent Study gathering led by Erica  
Nierendorf in the Morrell Room. All are welcome to partici-  
pate.

**Wednesday, 12/7** - First Wednesday Concert Series “Christmas  
Favorite,” with guest organist John Coghill, 12:30 p.m., in the  
meetinghouse.

**Sunday, 12/11** - Christmas Pageant rehearsal - 11:15 a.m. in the  
meetinghouse.

**Sunday, 12/11** - Christmas Carol Bus Tour , 4 - 6 p.m. We'll  
board the bus at 4 p.m. and come back to Nelson Hall for the  
First Church Christmas Open House.

**Sunday, 12/11**—First Church Christmas Open House, 6—7:30  
p.m. Bring your family and friends to celebrate the Christmas  
season—fun for people of all ages. Enjoy a supper of soup  
and grilled cheese. All are welcome!

**Sunday, 12/18**—Christmas Pageant rehearsal - 11:15 a.m. in the  
meetinghouse.

**Tuesday, 12/21**—Quiet Christmas Labyrinth, Nelson Hall, noon  
to 8 p.m. The Morrell Room will also be open as a meditation  
room from noon until 8 p.m.

**Wednesday, 12/22**—Quiet Christmas Labyrinth, Nelson Hall, 8  
a.m. to 8 p.m. The Morrell Room will also be open from 11  
a.m. to 7 p.m.

**Saturday, 12/24** - Christmas Eve.

4 p.m. - Pageant participants arrival time  
5 p.m. - Family Christmas Eve Worship Service.  
8:30 pm.- Pre-Service Concert  
9 p.m. - Lessons and Carols.

**Sunday, 12/25.** Christmas Day. 10 a.m. service only. No 8 a.m.  
service. Fellowship in the Parker Room.

**Monday, 12/26 and Monday, 1/2** - Office closed.

**Sunday, 1/1**—10 a.m. service only. No 8 a.m. service.

**Sunday, 1/8** - Epiphany/Three Kings Sunday.

CHURCH NEWS

# AROUND the CONGREGATION

Dear Friends,  
I wish to acknowledge the gifts of visitations, and beautiful flowers during my stay at Windsor Rehab. The people were too numerous to mention individually, so let me express my heartfelt thanks to all of you.  
Thank you! Bill Allen

Dear Friends,  
Thank you all for the comforting prayers and well wishes expressed on my behalf during the recent period following the death of my mother. All are profoundly appreciated and a great assist in getting through this difficult time. A special warm note of thanks to the Knitting Ministry for their prayers and the very beautiful and colorful shawl. All I need now is a rocking chair!  
Thanks again, Paul Monaco

To First Church,  
It was a pleasant surprise to open my door to find the most beautiful flowers on my doorstep. I thank you very much for your kind thoughts and prayers for me. I am doing quite well now. My first two check-ups have been good so far. Thanks again for your prayers and the flowers.  
Barbara Cort

## Deaths

**Sylvia Case** passed away on October 20. A service of remembrance was held on October 24 in the meetinghouse with a reception after hosted by the First Church Women's Club. Rev. Huleatt officiated.

**Barbara (Bobbie) Willet** passed away on November 16. A service of remembrance was held on November 19 in the meetinghouse. Rev. Huleatt officiated.

## Weddings

**Matt Graham**, son of Chuck and Jean, married Jennie Weinholtz on November 26 in the meetinghouse. Rev. Huleatt officiated.

## Baptisms

**Lillian Anne Fanguillo**, daughter of Ericka and Mark, sister of Eli and Brett, was baptized November 20. Rev. Huleatt officiated.

## Receive and Share Stewardship Update

The theme of our fall stewardship drive has been "Receive and Share." Thank you, thank you, thank you, to everyone who has contributed to the campaign so far. To date we have received 199 giving cards totaling \$237,934. It's still not too late to return a giving card if you have not already done so. You can either pledge online by visiting the church website ([www.fcwucc.org](http://www.fcwucc.org)) or simply mail your gift to the church office. In this season of giving let's not forget to support the ministry of this wonderful church from whom we have all received so much!



Receive and  
Share

## Advent Study Gathering

*And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. Luke 2:10*

This Advent season beckons us to ask, what are we preparing for? What is the meaning of Advent? There are two very different stories in the Bible about Jesus' birth, in Matthew and Luke. Why are they there? And in our times, how do we make space to prepare to welcome Jesus into our lives? Discover meaning anew in the story of Christ's birth.

We often have questions about the seasons of our liturgical calendar and are afraid to ask. Please join me, and talk together about what this all means to us. **Sunday, December 4 and 11, after the 10 a.m. service in the Morrell Room for an hour.**

**Erica Nierendorf, Student Minister**

# ADVENT WORSHOP



Sunday, November 27  
Parish House, Nelson Hall  
5:30—7 p.m.

Make crafts, ornaments, and cards.

And share a potluck supper.

Fun for everyone

All are welcome!

*A-I requested to please bring a main dish.*

*J-N requested to please bring a salad or a side dish*

*M-Z requested to bring a dessert (NONUTS PLEASE)*

## All Church Cookie Bake and Drop-in Night

Friday Dec. 4 from 6-8 p.m.

Come share the Christmas spirit by baking cookies with your family and all of your FCW friends! An evening for all ages, we'll not only be making cookies for our homes, but also for our homebound and convalescing church members and others in the community. Table games, Christmas music and the munchies are all



part of the festivities. Don't be afraid to bring a few baking elves with you!

## ELC Update

On Thursday, **December 1 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.** (rescheduled from November 3 due to the storm) the Early Learning Center will host a fundraising vendor night in Nelson Hall. This is a fantastic opportunity to get started with your holiday shopping. Representatives from

several of your favorite home party or other direct-sell companies will be there with lots of cash-and-carry items - or to take orders. Whether you are looking for kitchen gadgets, home décor items, jewelry, kid's books & toys, makeup and personal care, handbags and home storage, there will be something for you at this event. We have representatives from Tupperware, Pampered Chef, Longaberger Baskets, Tastefully Simple, Barefoot Books, Lia Sophia, Silpada, Thirty One, Celebrating Home, Usborne Books, Discovery Toys, Arbonne, Avon, Mary Kay, Stampin Up, Scentsy Wickless Candles, Forgotten Acre Farms, The Pretty Committee and more. Each of the vendors will donate a portion of their sales to help with field trips, scholarships and other extra expenses within the Early Learning Center. What better reason to come out and shop? There have also been many items generously donated to serve as door prizes for the event. Please plan to stop by and help support the Early Learning Center.



## The Giving Tree For Covenant to Care

Sunday, December 4 and December 11 at 11:15 a.m.: Take a tag off the Christmas tree in Nelson Hall and purchase a gift or gift card to help a needy child through Covenant to Care. Gifts should be unwrapped and returned to the church office no later than December 18.



## First Wednesday Concert

Come listen to "Christmas Favorites" with guest organist, John Coghill, December 7 at 12:30 p.m. in the meetinghouse.



## Lofty Notes



Dear First Church Family,

First of all, I would like to express my deep gratitude to all who attended the “got faith?” concert last month. Special thanks go to Bob Lougee and Jim Corbett, who helped us through the various technological crises that tend to arise on these occasions.

As we enter the Advent season...a time of longing, hoping, and expectation, we also enter the season of Hypermarketing...a season of shopping, spending and insecurity. It can happen to anyone.

The recent storm and its attendant power outages showed many of us just how little we need to be content and comfortable...and how truly abundant “enough” is. Now, far be it from me to hinder the Jolly Old Elf from making the little ones happy (!), but is this not an opportune time to begin gently teaching the concept of “less is more”, and emphasizing the inestimable value of love, family, community? Is it possible to give more of time and self and less of temporal fa-la-la?

I invite you to dream that with me this Advent.

Peace, Mark

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### Christmas Caroling Bus—December 11 at 3:30 p.m. Get Onboard

Come one, come all as we sing our way through town on the Christmas Bus, visiting Windsor Rehab and homebound church members to deliver cookies, sing carols and spread Christmas cheer! We'll gather in Nelson Hall at 3:30 p.m., to then board our chartered bus which promptly departs at 4 from rear parking lot (elevator entrance). Our final stop will be back at the church at approximately 6:15 p.m., just in time for the FCW Christmas Open House party! We'll gather there to share a few more carols, soup, grilled cheese sandwiches, hot cider, cookies and even more Christmas cheer! Bring your family and friends! This is a delightful intergenerational activity for everyone ages 1 to 101! Please plan to dress weather appropriate - and in layers! RSVP's are appreciated so we can get an accurate seating and grilled cheese count! Sign up during fellowship hour or speak with Char Corbett or Mark Watkins for more details.



### Christmas Open House—December 11 at 6 p.m.

Can't make the Christmas Caroling bus but don't want to miss out on all the festivities? Then join us in Nelson Hall on Sunday, December 11 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. for a FCW Christmas Open House party, the final stop of the Christmas Caroling Bus! Soup, grilled cheese sandwiches, hot cider, cookies and Christmas cheer will be shared by all. Please RSVP by signing up in Nelson Hall or calling the church office so we can arrange for plenty of seating, soup and sandwiches. Everyone welcome - plan to bring an elf or two with you.



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### Pies and Quiches Aplenty

A special thank you to all those who helped to bake pies and quiche to support the 2012 summer youth mission trip to Vermont. Over \$300 was raised - and we are so very thankful! Also a special thank you to Sioux Wilusz and her daughter and youth member Jenne Szakacs, who helped to organize and promote the first YMT fundraiser of the year.

## Parish Caring Ministries



Parish Caring  
Ministries

If we learned nothing else from the October 29<sup>th</sup> snowstorm and resulting power outages, we learned about dependence. We learned just how dependent we are on our creature comforts, and how dependent those comforts are upon electricity. We all lived for several days outside of our normal comfort zones - whether it was without those things we rely so much upon day-to-day to make our lives easier, or we were living in shelters or with friends or family who were fortunate enough to have heat, power or generators.

Through these experiences - and perhaps more importantly - we also learned how dependent we are upon each other. We helped friends and neighbors in need with food, shelter, or storm clean-up, or benefitted from the kindness of others in these very same respects. This storm, for all its inconveniences and frustrations, brought out a sense of community and togetherness that we should not forget this season.

There are so many within our First Church family that need help each and every day, even now that we've had power restored and are back to our usual routines. We have members who need warm meals brought to them at times. We have members who cannot drive and could really use help getting to local appointments or to church on Sunday. We have members who are home-bound and would love a call or visit from another church member so that they still feel connected to the church community. We have members who could use your prayers during difficult times. All of these things that we did without question during the many days we were without power, we can still do to help those within our church community when they need us.

To volunteer with Parish Caring Ministries and help make a difference in the lives of our members in need, please contact me, April Michaud, at 860.298.0193 or [april-michaudct@comcast.net](mailto:april-michaudct@comcast.net). Thank you!



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## Quiet Christmas Labyrinth and Quiet Room

December 20 and 21



*Holy Patience, that deep calm resistance against the riptide of the season's hurry, while swell upon swell of Christmas laps at every edge of our lives, you call us to an Advent way of living; deep calling to deep; love bearing love; word becoming flesh. Slow, labored, beloved Patience, come. Teach us to trust in Advent's buoyancy; suspend us, outstretched, for the coming of Christ. Amen.*

In the midst of this Advent season and all the preparations for the Christmas holiday, is your heart yearning for quiet? For patience? For peace? For rest? Come to the quiet labyrinth in Nelson Hall where you are invited to lay down your burdens of hurry, sorrow, anxiety or stress and just simply walk and be with the One who offers care and comfort, strength and hope. Or perhaps you would prefer to meditate and read in the Quiet Room (Morrell Room), set aside for meditation, reading and prayer. ***The labyrinth and quiet room will be open to the community from 12 noon - 8 p.m. Tuesday, December 20 and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, December 21.***

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## Christmas Eve Concert

The Music Ministry of First Church will present a 30-minute concert on Christmas Eve, beginning at 8:30 p.m., followed by Lessons and Carols at 9 p.m. All are cordially invited to attend and bring family, friends and neighbors.

## Christmas Memorial Poinsettias

We are now accepting orders for the poinsettias which will decorate our meetinghouse on December 18. Following the Sunday service the plants will be distributed, by the flower committee, to members of our church family who are confined either to their homes or to a continuing care facility. The cost is \$10 per plant. Checks should be made out to: The First Church in Windsor and mailed to the church office. The deadline is December 11. Please be sure to include the names of loved ones being remembered.



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## Outreach News



### Mission Accomplished

The UCC's Mission:1 goal from November 1 to 11 was four-pronged: to collect more than 1 million food and household items for local food banks; to raise \$111,111 for hunger-related ministries and \$111,111 in online donations for East Africa famine relief; and to advocate for hunger-related causes worldwide by sending more than 11,111 letters to Congress. By campaign's end, the letters goal had been tripled and the food goal had reached 1.25 million items. The online tote board used to track accomplishments was left online over the final weekend so that churches like ours caught in the early winter snows the weekend of Nov. 6 could complete their Mission:1 efforts. On Sunday evening, Nov. 13, monetary donations received for hunger-related ministries had topped \$91,000 and monies for East Africa relief stood at more than \$94,000. However, tallies of committed funds to the two causes not yet received by the UCC's national offices in Cleveland added up to more than \$130,000 as of November 16th.

As for our own efforts, we met our goal of 30 letters to Congress; 1200 healthy food items collected for the Windsor Food Bank and our annual Turkey Basket Drive (which resulted in two dozen completed baskets); AND - despite the 15 inches of snow, loss of power and downed trees left by Storm Alfred - the Fredette, O'Donnell and Gale families still persisted to prepare, deliver and serve a hot chicken and rice meal to the 80 men at Immaculate Conception Shelter in Hartford on Sunday, October 30! Mission accomplished indeed!

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### Korean Friendship Garden is Dedicated

On Sunday, October 23, the Nancy G. Clark Korean Friendship Garden was dedicated. The garden was installed as an Eagle Scout project by Joseph Patalik of Troop 203 to honor the friendship between FCW and our sister church, San Woon, in South Korea.

Joseph funded much of the project by collecting and redeeming 28,627 cans and bottles. The rest came from donations by commemorative and memorial gifts. Master gardeners, Helen Silchenko and Paul Grimmeisen assisted with the garden design. 236 man hours of work were involved in researching, planning and planting this garden.



Pastor Lee from the San-Woon Presbyterian Church assisted Pastor Rick in the dedication ceremony. Nancy Clark cut the ribbon. For more information, go to [fcwucc.org](http://fcwucc.org).

## First Church Used Book Sale



Thank you to the many, many First Church members and friends who helped make our used book sale a success. Your contributions of books, boxes and bags; use of your vehicle and muscle power to pick up book donations from people; help with sorting and moving books; time spent on a shift as a cashier; publicizing the event; re-boxing leftovers after the sale; brawn and good humor throughout; and those who purchased used books all helped us raise almost \$2,000 for First Church. This exceeded last year's total by almost \$200, despite having to postpone the sale for a week due to power outages from storm Alfred—remarkable and gratifying!

Our publicity brought a number of folks who visited us for the first time, bought books and said they enjoyed their visit. The new signs this year helped; thanks, Mary Phelan, they were a great idea. Several people asked if our church did this every year because they want to donate books next time. Nelson Hall was abuzz with book customers and book sale volunteers all chatting about books and socializing with one another. Mark Watkins, Midge Christopher and friends graciously moved the after-concert refreshments Saturday night to “Café Browse” in Nelson hall, which was an extra opportunity for more browsing and sales.

A number of teachers took books for their classroom libraries and school libraries. Boxes of cookbooks and new fiction went to Windsor Public Library for their used book sale. Leftover books were taken by Traveler Restaurant in Union, CT, where each of their diners receives a free book. The Windsor Food Bank was delighted to receive our leftover bags, just in time for distribution of Thanksgiving groceries.

Our used book sale was an opportunity to clean out our bookshelves, transform clutter by recycling reading, invite the community in, enjoy fellowship while doing good for others and raise some money for First Church. Thanks to the many members, friends and family who helped make it happen.

*Betsy Kenneson*

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## Get Involved Fair

If you would like to serve on one of the ministries of the church please contact Noel Osowiecki (860) 688-6779 or notify the church office (860) 688-7229 indicating which board or committee you are interested in. A brochure (“Ways We Can Serve”) which can be found in both the meetinghouse and Nelson Hall explains the different volunteer opportunities that exist within our church community. Serving in this capacity is not only a generous way to share your time and talents, but it is a wonderful way to meet fellow church members and make new friends.

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## Are You Up-To-Date on Your Pledge?

Our financial secretaries, Jim and Joan Thornton, have just mailed updated statements. If you are not current on your pledge, please bring it up to date as quickly as possible before year end. If you have questions, you can email the Thorntons at [jimjoanthornton@att.net](mailto:jimjoanthornton@att.net), write them at First Church, 107 Palisado Avenue, Windsor, CT 06095 or contact the church office.



## 2012 Youth Mission Trip – We're Headed for Vermont

First Church anticipates sending several teams of youth and adult volunteers to Vermont from July 14 - 22, 2012 to assist with the ongoing hurricane relief efforts. We will be working closely with the UCC Vermont Conference's Disaster Response Team. Our VT housing and worksite locations will be determined in May, but our recruiting, fundraising and training begin now! Applications are now being received on a first-come-first-serve basis for those interested in participating in the 2012 trip. First Church adult members and youth entering 9th grade by September 2012 are encouraged to apply (with priority), as well as friends of our community. Applications can be picked up from the church office or downloaded from the church website. There is a \$215 participation fee for all youth, of which \$50 must be submitted with each youth application to reserve your spot. Adult volunteers pay no fee. Scholarships are available. *Please note the application deadline is December 31.* The required orientation for all participating youth and adults will be held Sunday, January 15 at 12 noon in Nelson Hall. For more information, please contact the church office at 860-688-7229 or email Char Corbett, Associate Pastor, at charcorbett@snet.net.

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### Youth News and Events

**Youth Group Calendar** – Check the church website and Facebook page for current Middle School and High School events, details and permission slips – or see Char for the upcoming programs. Here are the December highlights:



**Sunday, November 27: All FCW Youth - Advent Workshop.** Help set up for the Advent workshop after worship and/or help to staff the craft and game tables during the event. All the fun begins at 5:30PM at the Advent workshop with a potluck dinner immediately following. It's Christmas fun for everyone!

**Friday, December 2: All FCW Youth – All Church Cookie Bake.** Share the Christmas spirit by baking cookies with all of your FCW friends! An evening for all ages, we'll make and bake cookies 6-8 p.m. for our homes and our homebound and convalescing church members. Youth will be the lead bakers by running the tables, overseeing the kitchen and helping little ones with their cookies. Table games, Christmas music and munchies are all part of the festivities. Bring a friend and be a jolly baker-fun-maker!

**Sunday December 11: All FCW Youth – Christmas Caroling and Open House:** Hop on the bus and join us for caroling around town 4-6PM, followed by an FCW Open House from 6-7:30 p.m. – with grilled cheese, soup, cookies and Christmas cheer to share with everyone!

**Sundays December 4, 11 and 18: All FCW Youth – Christmas pageant rehearsals,** 11:15 a.m. in the meetinghouse. You're needed and wanted too for this wonderful family Christmas service. Be in the cast, play an instrument, sing – please share your gifts.

**Saturday, December 24: All FCW Youth – Christmas Eve Worship Services** in the meetinghouse: 5 p.m. Family Worship Service (Christmas Pageant and Carols) and 9 p.m., (traditional Lessons and Carols worship service.)

## From Our Church School Administrator

Every year it seems that the Christmas season sneaks right up on me, but not this year. Oh no, not this year! You see, we've all had some serious time to prepare and get ready for the upcoming holiday season. To tell you the truth, I'm getting a bit anxious over the whole affair. Trust me; it's kind of painful to go on day after day waiting and wondering if it's ever going to come. I mean - come on Santa - I'm actually more than ready for once.

To make things even worse, they sort of cancelled Halloween this year and I've been without any good sweets or treats to carry me over from the last holiday. I'm telling you—those stockings better be jammed to the ceiling this year. This year Christmas better rock! No more talk about recession or a double-dip in the economy, the only double-dip that I want to hear about is double-dipped chocolate cookies are on the plate, because Santa is coming to town.

Of course I'm excited; my Christmas list was completed and sent out extra early this year. I started working on it the night of the big October snowstorm. The blackout, the wind howling and the snow flying through the air totally put me in the Christmas spirit. The storm was awesome, but I just hope that my list was legible enough for him to understand what I was truly looking for from him this year. After all, it's not exactly easy to write neatly when you're shivering under the covers with a flashlight in the other hand. In any case, I'm hopeful, that he'll get the main points of what I'm wishing for this year: heat, happiness and health.

Merry Christmas! **Helga Finlay**

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The following is a list of upcoming dates to note on your calendar:

**Sunday, December 4: 11:15 a.m.** Christmas pageant rehearsal begins in the meetinghouse for the holy family, Angel Gabriel, Roman soldier, the three kings, and the narrator.

**Sunday, December 11: 11:15 a.m.** Christmas pageant rehearsal continues for all animals, angels, and shepherds.

**Sunday, December 18: 11:15 a.m.** Christmas pageant rehearsal will take place for all pageant participants.

**Saturday, December 24 5 p.m.** Christmas Pageant (all participants please arrive at 4:15 p.m.)

### *Calling all parents!*

We need a few parents to help out during the Christmas pageant getting kids in costume, help with makeup and directing the children behind the scenes.

**Sunday December 11: 3:30 p.m.** Holiday Caroling & Open House. Join us onboard the caroling bus. The bus will depart from the parking lot behind Parish House at 4 p.m. and return at approximately at 6 p.m.

**Sunday December 11: 5:45 p.m.** Hot soup and grilled cheese sandwiches. Join us in Nelson Hall to welcome back our First Church holiday carolers. Bring your favorite yummy soup along and we'll be sure to have plenty of grilled cheese sandwiches to go around. Last year we had a wonderful time at this event and we would like to encourage everyone to join the fun.

**Sunday December 25:** Merry Christmas! No church school.

**Sunday January 1:** Happy New Year! No church school (The Parker Room is always available to parents and their children should the need arise during the worship service.)

### Happy Birthday!

Emma Capuano  
Benjamin Fraley  
Gabrielle Osowiecki



**OPERA SCENES - AND MORE - RETURN!**

Please join us Saturday evening, January 28th at 7 p.m. for a rip-roaring program of excerpts from Opera and Broadway. Our own talented parishioners will be joined by professional singers from near and far. Tickets are a mere \$10.00 (\$7.00 for seniors/students). Proceeds will benefit the First Church Organ Renovation Fund and Silver Lake. **SAVE THE DATE!**

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**Women's Club Update**

On Tuesday, November 8, Janet and Bill Allen presented a fascinating program entitled "Life as an Early 1900's Missionary in China." Their presentation was based on the many letters received from Janet's mother from her best friend who served for several years as a missionary for China Inland Mission. The Allens are donating their honorarium to support missionary work in Kenya.

The Women's Club next meets on Tuesday, December 13. The Rev. Ruth Martz will present a program entitled "Advent Dramatization." This is our Christmas potluck luncheon so please bring a main dish or dessert. In addition, please bring unwrapped toiletries and knitwear for our annual Christmas donations to Hartford Hospital, Windsor Family Services Windsor Food Bank, Head Start and the nursing homes in town. The luncheon begins at noon. The program begins at 1 p.m. All are welcome and encouraged to bring a friend. The Book Lovers are hosting the meeting. Please call Elizabeth (Libby) Parker at 860-688-1596 for more information.



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**Auction and Dinner  
March 24, 2012  
Loomis Chaffee School**

**Use your Imagination to Dream up Donations**

Life is busy so bidders love the following types of donations: dinners, certificates, vacation spots, health and wellness items, family fun and many other "good for the soul" types of items.

**I/We want to support the auction by helping with:**

Set—up, clean-up, auction night operations (circle one:)

Business calls/Item Pick ups/Ticket sales after church (circle one:)

**By donating a silent auction item (please describe):**

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----- Value: -----

Name:----- Address:-----

Phone #:----- Email address:-----

Please tear off this page and leave in the church office, bring it to church and place in an offering plate or give to a deacon. You can also volunteer by contacting Helen Davenport-Senuta, 860-285-8694. ([dancerhiker@comcast.net](mailto:dancerhiker@comcast.net)), or Mary Phelan, 860-688-7229. ([first.church.windsor@snet.net](mailto:first.church.windsor@snet.net))

**Tickets go on Sale in December!**

# First Church Staff and Contact Information

Senior Pastor  
**REV. RICHARD HANNA HULEATT**

Associate Pastor  
**REV. CHARLENE CORBETT**  
Pastor Emeritus

**REV. F. VAN GORDER PARKER**  
Music Director/Organist

**MARK D. WATKINS**  
Associate Music Director

**VICTOR M. EVANS**  
Parish Caring Ministries Coordinator

**APRIL MICHAUD**  
Church Administrator

**MARY PHELAN**



Church School Coordinator  
**HELGA FINLAY**

Church School Assistant  
**GARY SAVA**

Andover Newton Student  
**ERICA NIERENDORF**

Treasurer

**AUBREY LOOMIS**

Bookkeeper

**JENNIFER BILODEAU**

Sexton

**MICHAEL HITE**

Director, Early Learning Center

**ELLEN MONCHUN**

## Sunday Church Services

**8 a.m.**—Communion in the Round

**10 a.m.**—Service and Church School  
Childcare Available

107 Palisado Ave., Windsor CT 06095

**Phone:** 860-688-7229

**Fax:** 860-688-9408

**Email:** [first.church.windsor@snet.net](mailto:first.church.windsor@snet.net)

**Web:** [www.fcwucc.org](http://www.fcwucc.org)

**Church Office Hours: 8:30 –4:30 p.m. (M-F)**

**Edge articles should be sent to the church office by email by the 15th of each month.**

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