



The newsletter of The First Congregational Church  
Canton Center, Connecticut

## The CHURCHMOUSE

December 2008

### **FROM THE INTERIM MINISTER**

Dear Friends,

The church is busy with the plans for Advent and Christmas. It is so good to see such energy and enthusiasm.

This month I thought I would answer some of the questions that people have been asking, so that everyone would understand why I do some of the things I do (you'll never understand them all, so don't even try).

**WORSHIP PREPARATION** -- Each week, worship is planned around the lectionary lessons for that week as well as the liturgical season. I try to take several things into consideration.

By habit, I use the liturgical materials in Lavon Baylor's series for prayers and such. I pick hymns that go along with the sermon and service themes. If the primary theme hymn is in the Chalice hymnal, then all hymns are taken from that hymnal; similarly with the Pilgrim hymnal. I only use one hymnal each service to make it easier on the choir and the congregation. Switching can get confusing.

Some people are visual learners—so most weeks I try to use additional responsive readings that require people to follow along. Visual learners also usually follow along with the scripture readings. Other people are auditory learners, they prefer to listen rather than participate. So, some weeks, there are no responsive readings and I read multiple scriptures.

In pastoral prayers I try to use poetic, visual imagery. Some weeks the prayers are more formal with language taken from the psalm of the day, and other times it is more down to earth. The time of silence varies from weeks to week. Some folks like a long time of silence, to enter deeply into prayer; while silence drives other to distraction.



**PINS** -- Everyday, I wear a pin made by Lucinda (there was an article about her in Yankee magazine last year). She makes pins to make money for programs for the homeless. Since I have run a shelter for teenage mothers and their children for 15 years, we have sold her pins for about that long. Over the years, even if I only buy one or two from each new batch, that still adds up to dozens of pins. So, I wear house, little people, angel, inspirational, patriotic, Christmas and women's pins.

The Missions Committee has given me permission to have some pins available during coffee hour on December 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, if you would like to purchase any.

**BIBLE STUDY** -- The morning class is going well. About a dozen folks either have attended or have expressed an interest in the class.

I would be willing to do an evening class, if three or four people are willing to commit to a definite schedule.

**SEARCH COMMITTEE** -- See the article on page 4 by the Council for specifics, but they have developed a timeline for the next few months.

**PARSONAGE** -- No, I don't stay in the parsonage. I commute daily, Sunday through Thursday from my home on Coventry Lake. The Trustees have rented the parsonage.

**SCHOOL** -- I am working on my Doctor of Ministry degree at Bangor Theological Seminary. I go to Bangor two days a month to do the class work. The rest of the work is done at home or on the Internet.

Hope this answers some of the mysteries that are me. Let me know if I can answer any other questions along the way.

Keep the faith, Sue

## CALENDAR OF CHURCH EVENTS

- Nov. 30 **First Sunday of Advent**, 10:00 AM, Worship /Church School (*begin in church*)  
 Sunday, 11:15 AM **Cherub Choir**; 11:30 AM **Junior Choir** in the Music Room.  
 Sunday afternoon, **Trans- Siberian Orchestra concert** at the XL Center.
- Dec. 1 Monday, 7:00 PM, **Senior Choir**.  
 Monday evening, **Honor Court** is hosted by our church in Hartford.
- Dec. 2 Tuesday, 10:30 AM, Minister's **Bible Study**.  
 Tuesday, 7:00 PM, **Diaconate**.
- Dec. 4 Thursday, 7:00 PM, **Bell Choir**.
- Dec. 5 Friday, 7:00 – 9:00 PM, **JYF Bowling** at Blue Fox "Rock & Bowl."
- Dec. 7 **Second Sunday of Advent**, 8:45 AM, **Christian Education Committee**.  
 Sunday, 9:00 AM, **Confirmation Class wreath preparation**.  
 Sunday, 10:00 AM, Worship /Church School (*begin in church*).  
 Sunday, 11:00 AM **Advent Potluck and Workshop** in the Parish Hall.  
 Sunday, 11:15 AM **Cherub Choir**; 11:30 AM **Junior Choir** in the Music Room.  
 Sunday, 11:30 AM, **Confirmation Class session** (after Advent potluck).
- Dec. 8 Monday, 10:00 AM, **Prayer Shawl Ministry**.  
 Monday, 6:30 PM, **Board of Trustees**.  
 Monday, 6:40 PM, **Music Committee**.  
 Monday, 7:00 PM, **Senior Choir**.
- Dec. 10 Wednesday, 11:00 AM, **Prime Timers** Christmas Potluck.  
 Wednesday, 7:00 PM, **Church Council**.
- Dec. 11 Thursday, 7:00 PM, **Bell Choir**.
- Dec. 13 Saturday, 9:00 AM, **Pageant Rehearsal** in the sanctuary.
- Dec. 14 **Third Sunday of Advent**, 9:00 AM, **Missions** committee.  
 Sunday, 9:15 AM, **Church School students** begin in class for costuming.  
 Sunday, 10:00 AM, Worship, including the church school **Pageant**.  
 Sunday, 11:15 AM. **Special Meeting of the Congregational** to vote '09 Budget.  
 Sunday, 11:15 AM **Cherub Choir**; 11:30 AM **Junior Choir** in the Music Room.  
 Sunday, 11:45 AM, **Confirmation Class session**.  
 Sunday, 4:00 PM, **SYF Christmas Party** at the Smith's.
- Dec. 15 Monday, 7:00 PM, **Senior Choir**.
- Dec. 16 Tuesday, 10:30 AM, Minister's **Bible Study**.
- Dec. 18 Thursday, 7:00 PM, **Bell Choir**.
- Dec. 21 **Fourth Sunday of Advent**, 10:00 AM, Worship (**Music Sunday**) and Church  
 School (*begin in church*).  
 Sunday, 11:15 AM **Cherub Choir**; 11:30 AM **Junior Choir** in the Music Room.
- Dec. 22 Monday, 7:00 PM, **Senior Choir**.
- Dec. 24 Wednesday, **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES 6:00 PM & 7:30 PM**.
- Dec. 25 Thursday, **CHRISTMAS DAY!** The Church Office is closed.
- Dec. 26 Friday, The Church Office is closed.
- Dec. 28 Sunday, 10:00 AM, Worship. Church School classes and Choirs will **not** meet.
- Dec. 29 Monday, **NO** Senior Choir.

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