



The newsletter of The First Congregational Church  
Canton Center, Connecticut

## *The CHURCHMOUSE*

### *December 2009*

#### FROM THE INTERIM MINISTER

Dear Friends,

“Trick or Treat!...Happy Thanksgiving!...O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!” In one short month we’ve gone through all these holidays/seasons. Now here we are in Advent.

Advent is the start of the liturgical calendar. The Common Lectionary, which appoints certain readings for each Sunday’s worship, is on a three year cycle. Year A is Matthew; year B is Mark; and year C is Luke. Selections from the Gospel of John are scattered in each of the three years. By following the lectionary in this way, most of the stories in the four gospels are read. This year that means on November 29<sup>th</sup>, we begin year C. The Gospel of Luke is the one that is highlighted in year C—the one with the most detailed story of the Nativity.

Advent used to be a time as solemn as Lent. It was a time of serious preparation for the birth of the Savior again into our lives. The hymns of Advent were dark and mystical—full of prophesy and mystery. The lectionary lessons talk about the end of times and John the Baptist bursting into our lives to tell us that the Messiah is coming—it’s time to repent and get ready.

Advent these days usually takes on the impatience of the culture. By Advent, the stores are full of Christmas—Christmas carols, Christmas sales, and lines for pictures with Santa. By the time Christmas actually comes, on the 25<sup>th</sup>, we’re sick of Christmas. But the 25<sup>th</sup> is actually only the first day of the season of Christmas, which lasts for twelve days until January 6<sup>th</sup>—Epiphany—when the Wise men finally arrive. I can’t tell you how many people tell me they start boxing up all the decorations as soon as the crumpled gift wrap makes it to the trash.

This year, let’s try to S-L-O-W down and enjoy Advent. Let’s think about what it means to “prepare to make him room”. How do we make room for Jesus in our lives? How do we make room for Jesus in Christmas?

Wishing you a productive, pondering Advent,

*Sue*



*Preparing for the  
Christmas Season*



## CALENDAR OF CHURCH EVENTS

Dec	1	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Diaconate
Dec	3	Thursday	7:00 PM	Bell Choir
Dec	6	Sunday	8:30 AM	Christian Education Committee
			10:00 AM	Worship and Church School
			10:00 AM	SYF meeting
			11:15 AM	Cherub Choir
			11:30 AM	Junior Choir
Dec	7	Monday	7:00 PM	Senior Choir
		Monday		Honor Court
Dec	8	Tuesday	10:30 / 7:00	Book Study
Dec	9	Wednesday	11:15 AM	Prime Timers' Christmas Party
Dec	10	Thursday	7:00 PM	Bell Choir
Dec	12	Saturday	9:00 AM	Pageant Rehearsal in the church
Dec	13	Sunday	8:30 AM	Missionary & Stewardship Committee
		Sunday	9:15 AM	Church School arrives for costuming
		Sunday	10:00 AM	Worship – Church School Pageant
			11:15 AM	Cherub Choir
			11:30 AM	Junior Choir
Dec	14	Monday	10:00 AM	Prayer Shawl Ministry
		Monday	6:30 PM	Music Committee
		Monday	6:30 PM	Board of Trustees
		Monday	7:00 PM	Senior Choir
Dec	15	Tuesday	10:30 / 7:00	Book Study
Dec	16	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Church Council
Dec	17	Thursday	7:00 PM	Bell Choir
Dec	20	Sunday	10:00 AM	Worship (Music Sunday); Church School
			11:15 AM	Cherub Choir
			11:30 AM	Junior Choir
			11:15 AM	Special Meeting of the Congregation – Budget Vote
Dec	21	Monday	7:00 PM	Senior Choir
Dec	24	Thursday	6 & 7:30 PM	Christmas Eve Candle Light Services
Dec	25	Friday		MERRY CHRISTMAS! Church Office is closed
Dec	27	Sunday	10:00 AM	Worship; Church School classes <b>do not</b> meet
Jan	1	Friday		HAPPY NEW YEAR! Church Office is closed.

December 2009						
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