

First Church of Winsted
Come as you are...
Leave transformed!

BELLRINGER

Come...be uplifted by the
Spirit and strive to follow
God's path for you!

A note from the Pastor

Holiday Greetings,

The Thanksgiving and the Christmas season is a wonderful time. We not only celebrate the grace of God as shown through the many blessings we receive year round, but we also have the opportunity to spend some extra time with family and friends.

But as cheerful as it is, this is also a time when the pressure really builds! There are so many preparations that need to be completed, so many gifts that need to be "thoughtfully" selected, holiday gathers both for work and with friends, and for some reason, as the pressures build, tempers become short. Any kind of travel, whether it be to the grocery store or the visit far away relatives is more difficult at this time of year not only because of traffic and weather, but because patience is a bit lacking. Personally, I avoid business trips in December because you need to allow extra time to pass through security, the planes are jam packed, and travelers are often a bit grouchier.

I hope that as we transition from Thanksgiving to Advent, you will allow yourself some time to consider the true meaning of the season. Yes, you need to allow yourself that time. The world is not going to give it to us, and your guilt will also tell you that you don't have time. It sounds selfish, but unless the true meaning of the season forms a solid foundation in our hearts and minds, everything we do is pointless. It's just busy work, being done for the sake of meeting commitments. The birth of Christ didn't come with commitments. It came with grace. A grace that allows us to take a moment to take a deep breath and think about why we are celebrating.

As you will read in this Holiday Edition of the Bellringer, there are numerous activities in our Church from now until Epiphany. I hope that they will bring meaning to the season for you. After all, that's why we do them. Not to fill our calendars, but to praise God.

May the wonder of Christ's birth be in your hearts throughout this season,

Mike



DECEMBER 2013

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To request a copy
sent to your inbox
send an email to:
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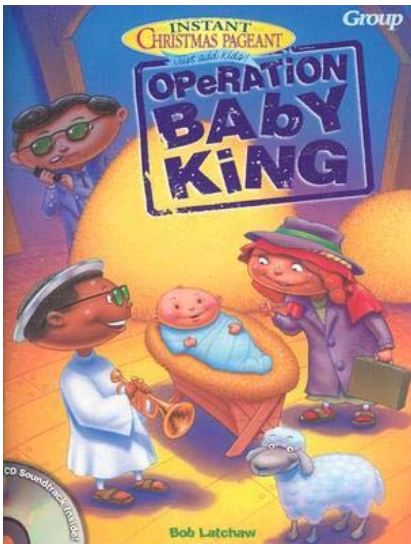
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Check us out online! www.firstchurchofwinsted.org

Church News...



Angel Agent Double-O-Heaven and a host of helpers lead the way to the manger!

Sunday, December 2nd during the worship service

Rehearsals:
December 8 & 15th during Sunday School time

Saturday, December 21st – 10:00 – 12 noon

Arrive at 9:15-9:30 on Sunday, December 22 for your costume.

Questions? Or if you would like to help with costumes, props or backstage – please contact Allison Graboski at (860) 238-7484 or athall37@yahoo.com

A special Happy Birthday Party for Jesus will follow the worship service.



The Prayer Shawl Ministry started in 2011 and since then 88 shawls have been distributed not only within our community, but worldwide to CA, FL, NC, NY, PA, RI, VA, Mexico, England, to a member of the Peace Corp and to Newtown, CT. Recently a fish hat was made to comfort a local child battling cancer.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the 4th Saturday each month from 10 AM until Noon. Call Barb Mazzei for info: 860-379-2900

Diaconate Board News...

The Diaconate purchased new Bibles for the pews in the Sanctuary. The new Bibles are the same version as the Pulpit Bible, so when the Pastor reads scripture from the Pulpit, you'll be able to follow along and read the same words that the Pastor is speaking!

Please start collecting milk jugs for the Christmas Eve Luminaries. You can drop off **well rinsed** milk jugs, which will be cut and placed along the walk ways on Christmas Eve. So pretty...welcome the light of the world!



Christian Education News...

The Christmas Pageant will take place on Dec 22nd during Worship Service. Allison Graboski is heading up the pageant this year with a theme of Operation Baby King!

- There was a gathering at the church for the Bells of Hope bell ringing for the statewide children's adoption project. Sunday school children and adults from our church shared pizza and rang the church bell at 6 p.m. on Sunday, November 24th



CDC Report:

- Safety training has been completed by Pastor Wu
- The Ruwet field trip was enjoyed by 15 children and 11 parents.
- The CDC calendar is on the website
- The Geniveive Fundraiser showed a \$550 profit. Thank you to all that participated.

Worship Choir December schedule



Sundays – December 1, 15, 29 at 9:20

Sundays – December 22 & 29 at 11:15-11:45

Tuesdays – December 3, 10, 17 at 5:30-6:45

Tuesday, December 24 at 6:45

Tuesday, December 31 No Choir rehearsal

Christmas Fair

Saturday, December 7th

9 am - 3 pm

FIRST CHURCH OF WINSTED

95 North Main Street

Discounted One Day Only!
Boar's Head Festival Tickets

★
Bake Sale
Luncheon
Wreathes
Poinsettias
Rada Knives
Christmas Trees
Themed Basket Raffle
Christmas Arts & Crafts



Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendars!

<i>Celebrate With Us...</i>		<i>Looking Forward</i>	
Sunday - 10 am	Worship	December 7	Christmas Fair 9-3
Sunday - 9 am	Bible Study	December 12	Boars Head Fittings 7-9
Sunday - 9:15 am	Rehearsal~Rock Starz 4 Jesus	December 15	Boars Head Fittings 11-noon
Wednesday - 7:30 pm	AA / Alanon Meetings	December 19	Boars Head Fittings 7-9
Thursday - 6:00 pm	Rehearsal~Laurel City Singers	December 22	Christmas Pageant & Birthday Party for Jesus
		December 22	Boars Head Fittings 11-noon
		December 24	Christmas Eve Service 7:30 PM
		December 24	Christmas Eve Service 11:30 PM
		December 25	Christmas Day
		December 28	Boar's Head Fest Rehearsal 1:30
		January 4	Boar's Head Fest 4 & 7 PM
		January 5	Boar's Head Fest 4 PM
<i>Board Meetings...</i>			
	December 3 7:00 pm	Board of Christian Ed.	
	December 10 7:00 pm	Deacons	
	December 17 7:00 pm	Cabinet Meeting	
	December 18 7:15 pm	CDC Liaison Meeting	



★ HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ★

December BIRTHDAYS

- 02 – Amanda Storrs
- 16 – Natalie Majewski
- 18 – David Ryu
- 19 – Thomas Mazzei
- 19 – Becky Smyth
- 19 – Riley Storrs
- 24 – Sean Storrs
- 25 – Jesus
- 26 – Courtney Toomey
- 31 – Noreen Marchand
- 31 – Bob Steele

December Anniversaries

- ♥ 13 - Jamie & Sabrina McAllister



The Boar's Head Festival

Sign-up for the Boar's Head Festival!

There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room, or you can email Debby Kane at kane@nwcommunitybank.com

Please volunteer in whatever way you are able...so we can once again tell the story of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Costume Fittings: please see schedule above

Boar's Head Festival 2014

January 4th at 4 & 7 PM and January 5th at 4 PM
 First Church of Winsted, 95 North Main Street

Tickets: Adult \$15 * Senior \$12 *
 Child \$8

CHRISTMAS FAIR DISCOUNT
 December 1st from 9 AM until 3 PM
\$3 off each ticket price!

Run through: Sunday, December 29th! Cast: 1:30 Choir & Brass: 1:45



December 2013



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	December Birthstone: Turquoise 	December Flower: Narcissus 	Astrological Signs Sagittarius: Nov 22 – Dec 21 Capricorn: Dec 22 – Jan 20			
1 RS4J 9:15 am Worship Service 10:00 am 1st Sunday Advent	2	3 Worship Choir 5:30 pm Chris Ed 7:00	4 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	5	6	7 Christmas Fair 9 - 3
8 RS4J 9:15 am Worship Service 10:00 am RS4J 9:15 am 2nd Sunday Advent	9	10 Worship Choir 5:30 pm Diaconate 7:00	11 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	12 Boars Head Costume Fittings 7:00-9:00 pm	13	14
15 RS4J 9:15 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:20 Boars Head Costume Fittings 11:00-noon 3rd Sunday Advent	16	17 Worship Choir 5:30 pm Cabinet Meeting 7:00 pm	18 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm CDC Liaison Meeting 7:15 pm	19 Boars Head Costume Fittings 7:00-9:00 pm	20	21
22 RS4J 9:15 am Worship Service 10:00 am Christmas Pageant Worship Choir 11:15 Boars Head Costume Fittings 11:00-noon	23	24 Worship Choir 6:45 Christmas Eve Service 7:30 PM Christmas Eve Service 11:30 PM	25 Merry Christmas 	26	27	28
29 RW4J 9:15 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:20, 11:15 BH Rehearsal 1:30	30	31 New Year's Eve 	Jan 1 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	Jan 2	Jan 3	Jan 4 The Boar's Head Festival  4 & 7 PM
Jan 5 The Boar's Head Festival  4 PM						



FIRST CHURCH OF WINSTED

95 North Main Street, Winsted, CT

ALL ARE WELCOME

Sunday Worship - 10:00 AM

Communion - 1st Sunday of Every Month
Sunday School - Nursery Care - During Worship
Coffee Hour - Following Worship

E-Mail / Office – info@firstchurchofwinsted.org

Telephone (860) 379-1778

Church Web-Site www.firstchurchofwinsted.org

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