

## Word from the Pastor

Advent Greetings!

The time between Thanksgiving and Christmas is always a busy time. There are so many things that need to be done in preparation for the holidays. Gifts need to be purchased and wrapped for family and friends. Celebrations fill our evenings and weekends. Plans need to be made for family gatherings. By the time Christmas Eve arrives, we are exhausted!

Advent is a time of preparation, and our activities fit that bill. But our preparations should go beyond preparing for our holiday celebrations. We need to remember to take a few quiet moments to reflect on the true reason for our activities. And what is that? To more fully realize the gift of Christ to each of us. God sent Christ into the world to show us a new way and share a new hope with all of us. Was Jesus going to solve all of our societal ills for us? No. That was not his mission. Did he come to proclaim a new way? No exactly. Christ was a new and different kind of gift from God because Jesus not only shared a message of hope, but he also walked amongst us and showed us how to approach the daily challenges of life. Our God is a doer, not just one who tells us how things ought to be. Jesus was not only a leader, but a servant. He was willing to walk down the path of humanity as far as necessary...to the cross...to assure us that we have hope and forgiveness no matter what we do.

How do we share the wonderful meaning with others? By our Advent activities. Celebrations and gift giving with family and friends are important. But of equal importance are the other activities undertaken by our Church family during this season. We share God's love by delivering over 60 Thanksgiving meals to shut-ins and the elderly in our community; by working side by side with people we wouldn't ever have met in our other activities of life to serve a meal and distribute food in Hartford; by purchasing clothing and toys for two families with financial challenges so that the family will have gifts to open on Christmas Day; by sharing music, words and fellowship with the residents of the local health care center; by taking a special offering for retired ministers and missionaries; by taking some time out of our busy schedules to worship together and celebrate the Advent season on Sunday mornings; and by countless other activities.

No matter how crazy our schedules are at this time of year, I hope you'll realize that our Church family is always reaching out and sharing the message of hope and of God's love for all of us. That's what Christmas is really about.

May your hearts be filled with joy during this holiday season!

Blessings,  
*Mike*



DECEMBER 2010

95 North Main Street  
Winsted, CT 06098  
860-379-1778

Article Submission:  
[info@firstchurchofwinsted.org](mailto:info@firstchurchofwinsted.org)

### Special points of interest:

- Christmas Fair  
Dec 4<sup>th</sup> 9-3
- Christmas Eve  
Candle Light  
Service to be  
held on  
December 24<sup>th</sup>  
at 7:30 PM
- Christmas Family  
to be sponsored
- Mitten Tree and  
Kelley's Kitchen  
Christmas Meal
- 21<sup>st</sup> Annual  
Boar's Head  
Festival



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## News Notes

### Seeing-Eye dog visits First Church

Leanne Marvin presented her "seeing eye dog in training" to the congregation during children time as well as during all ages Sunday school. She did an excellent job educating the church members and children alike. Leanne read a story about seeing-eye dogs to the children during our Sunday School time, and answered questions they had. Children of all ages were very excited to be able to pet Flash as well.

Many thanks to Leanne for sharing Flash, and his training with us. We hope Flash might come again as part of his training.

### Open Mic Sunday

The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month is Open Mic Sunday. If you have a talent to share, whether it is singing, playing, writing poetry, or just something you are passionate about, please contact Kim Janak.

Open Mic Sunday is a great opportunity for us to all get to know each other better!



### CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

On Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, our Sunday School players will be presenting their annual Christmas Pageant, which is rumored to be a Grinchy affair! For more information please see Dan Jones!

### ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS DUE

All annual reports are due and copy ready by January 16<sup>th</sup> and can be emailed to Chris Steele at: [chris@print-master.net](mailto:chris@print-master.net)

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Our Christmas Eve service will be held December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM. We will once again line the sidewalks with luminaries...and are requesting that you please begin saving your empty milk jugs for this annual event. **PLEASE BRING IN CLEAN-RINSED MILK JUGS ONLY! They tend to get really stinky if they are not rinsed.** At 6 PM, those interested in helping are asked to please come down and help with the lighting. They are left burning until they burn out. It is quite a sight...and a wonderful reminder of this season of Light!

### CHURCH DECORATING / STAGING

Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> we will be decorating the sanctuary for Christmas at 10 AM. Those interested in helping...please come down and lend a hand. Dec 18<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM, the Stage needs to go up in preparation for the Christmas Pageant and Boar's Head Festival, and all the decorations as well. We need strong men-folk to get the staging upstairs. Please call Deb Storrs 860-482-3491.



### Mitten Tree

A Mitten Tree is being sponsored once again by First Church.

There will be a collection box in the Gathering Room, and our little tree on the Alter will serve as a reminder.

Let your light shine on those in need. Donate a pair of mittens, a hat or a scarf perhaps? Deadline to donate is December 19<sup>th</sup>!



### Cleaning for a Reason!

If you know any woman currently undergoing chemotherapy, please pass the word to her that there is a cleaning service that provides FREE housecleaning - once per month for 4 months while she is in treatment. All she has to do is sign up and have her doctor fax a note confirming the treatment. Cleaning for a Reason will have a participating maid service in her zip code area arrange for the service. This organization serves the entire USA and currently has 547 partners to help these women. It's our job to pass the word and let them know that there are people out there that care. Be a blessing to someone and pass this information along.

<http://www.cleaningforareason.org/>

Great information. You may not know someone going through chemo, but someone on your email list might. Please forward!

*A true friend is someone who reaches for your hand and touches your heart.*



# Gearing Up for Boar's Head



Our celebration of the 2011 Boar's Head Festival is rapidly approaching.

We have the largest choir to date participating this year...enabling us to have some of the choir on stage during the performances. This will prove to be a slight challenge, in that the "stage" choir will need to have music memorized.

There will be some surprises in the "Announcement Song" as well...with the choir joining in on the rousing chorus of "Off with their heads!"

For 2011...we will be adding a Celtic Band into the preshow mix. Birch Creek Band will be joining us along with Cece and Ruth. Cece is now playing bohdran with Birch Creek. You can see a

sample of their music using this link.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/BirchCreekBand#p/a/u/1/db6vzINB8QY>



Celtic Enchantment is just that, enchanting. The music is a gentle blend of 16 hauntingly beautiful instrumentals. The band is based out of the hills of Connecticut. The delicate mix and the sweet sound of the of the mountain dulcimer, bouzouki, mandolin, guitar and flute make this the perfect music when you need to find a relaxing escape. The music soothes the nerves and feels like stepping into an wooded glen.



**We are still searching for 2**

**Yule Log Carriers  
AND  
A small child to ride it!**

**Please call Debbie  
860-482-3491 to Volunteer!**

**Dinner will be provided to performers between Saturday performances. Please help out by donating finger foods including sandwiches, chips, cookies, fruit or veggie trays...and soda or juice.**

**Please coordinate with Holly Cassaday or Tanya Mongitore.**



Adoration of the Magi



Cece & Ruth  
will be joining Pre-show  
line-up!

**Boar's Head Festival  
TICKETS** are available from Brenda, give her a call! 860-379-6511.

Gift Certificates will be available this year as well. Boar's Head Tickets make great Christmas gifts!

## Advance ticket prices:

\$12 Adult  
\$9 Senior/Student  
\$5 Child 12 and under

## Door Prices:

\$15 Adult  
\$12 Senior/Student  
\$8 Child 12 and under

Tickets will be available at  
Christmas Fair!

## Notice from Nominating Committee

There will be openings on Church Boards and Committees for the 2011 Slate.

If anyone is interested in serving on a Board or Committee, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee.

Pam Allen     Barbara Woodard  
Ashley Jones     Gail Roberts  
Carol Miles     Tricia Wu



## Thanksgiving Dinner

A wonderful Thanksgiving Dinner sponsored and presented by the Youth Group and Board of Christian Education was a great event...and over 70 people were present to help eat the feast!

And a feast it was...complete with turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, butternut squash, green beans, juice coffee, AND pumpkin and apple pies.

It was so nice to come together as the family of God and share a wonderful meal.

Many thanks to the preparers, servers, and cleaner-uppers!



## Christmas Craft Fair

**Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>  
9AM ~ 3 PM**



**Crafts  
Jewelry  
Poinsettias  
Rada Knives  
Fish Painting  
Beef Soup Jars  
Chicken Soup Jars  
Brownie/Cookie Mix Jars  
Knitted & Crocheted Items  
Boar's Head Festival Tickets  
Christmas Trees & Wreathes  
Baked Goods  
Theme Basket Raffle  
Luncheon ~ 11 until 2**

## Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendars!

<i>Celebrate With Us...</i>		<i>Looking Forward</i>	
Sunday - 10 am Monday - 6 pm Tuesday - 6 pm Wednesday - 7:30 pm Thursday - 6 - 9 pm	Worship Worship Choir Rehearsal Cherub Choir Rehearsal AA / Alanon Meetings Laurel City Singers	December 4 9 am - 3 pm December 2 December 7 December 19 December 21 December 24 7:30 pm December 25 January 1 January 8 & 9 January 23 (snow date Jan 30)	Church Fair Hannukah Pearl Harbor Day Christmas Pageant Winter Begins Christmas Eve Service Christmas Day New Years Day Boar's Head Festival Annual Meeting
		<i>Board Meetings...</i>	
			
December 08 December 14 December 21 December 28	7:00 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	PM Board Board of Christian Ed. Deacons Cabinet	

### Birthdays / Anniversaries

#### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

02 – Amanda Storrs  
02 – Diane Woodard  
04 – George Sherman  
06 – Antoinette Collins  
12 – Robb Janak  
16 – Natalie Majewski  
18 – David Ryu  
19 – Thomas Mazzei  
19 – Becky Smyth  
19 – Riley Storrs  
24 – Sean Storrs  
25 – Dorothy Neubauer  
26 – Courtney Toomey  
31 – Noreen Marchand  
31 – Bob Steele

#### DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

♥ 13 - Jamie & Sabrina McAllister



### We Can Help Others! Opportunities...

**Salvation Army Food Bank** needs your help...stocking the shelves. We have collection bins at the front of the church, and we will see that your donations are delivered. With the oncoming heating season and 10% unemployment, the need has become even greater. Please help us help our fellow man by bringing in a non-perishable food item for our bins.

**Christmas Families...**we are getting the names of two families who needs our help with Christmas. If you want to make a donation of an unwrapped gift...or made a financial donation...we'll shop for you. Requests will be posted in the Narthex.

**Open Door Soup Kitchen...**can always use your help this time of year through donations. First Church donated an annual gift of \$500 through the Boar's Head Festival...but personal donations are also good!

**Senseless Acts of Kindness...**you know what to do. Sometimes just a smile...an attentive ear...or a hug!

### Christmas Tree Sales!!



Our annual Christmas Tree Sale begins Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> during the Christmas Fair.

#### WORKERS ARE NEEDED!

We need coverage Monday through Friday 4-7 PM and Saturday and Sunday from 8 AM until 8 PM. Rich Mazzei will have his chimnea stoked to keep everyone warm. Men and Women are welcome to help with this...and perhaps a snowman or two...! Call Rich to volunteer: 860-379-2900

This is a great opportunity to help out...as this fundraiser generally raises about \$2,700 for the church.



Get into the holiday spirit with music to fill your heart!

# CHRISTMAS ANGELICUS



Joyful Noise, Inc  
presents  
**Chorus Angelicus**  
& Gaudamus

John McDonough, narrator  
Kevin Jones, organist  
Nicholas White, director

Tickets:  
Priority Adult \$40 General Adult \$25  
Student \$20 Student \$15  
www.chorusangelicus.org  
(860)496-8841

GROUP RATES AVAILABLE



Saturday, December 11, 2010 at 5:00pm  
Christ Church Cathedral, Hartford, CT

Friday, December 17, 2010 at 7:30pm  
Hotchkiss School Chapel, Lakeville, CT

Saturday, December 18, 2010 at 5:00pm  
St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Litchfield, CT

Sunday, December 19, 2010 at 5:00pm  
Trinity Episcopal Church, Torrington, CT

## "A NEW ENGLAND TRADITION"

made possible through the support of:



STAPLES

# The Boar's Head Festival



January 8<sup>th</sup> ~ 4 PM & 7 PM

January 9<sup>th</sup> ~ 4 PM



**FIRST CHURCH OF WINSTED**  
95 NORTH MAIN STREET • WINSTED • CT

**TICKETS: 860-379-6511**

✦ **ADVANCE PRICES SAVE \$3/TICKET** ✦  
\$12 Adult ~ \$9 Senior/Student ~ \$5 Child

✦ **DOOR PRICES** ✦  
\$15 Adult ~ \$12 Senior/Student ~ \$8 Child



Artist: Karen Delton

# Simply Smiles COFFEE



**Every bag of Simply Smiles  
Coffee can feed a child for  
three weeks!**

## Simply Smiles Coffee!

Simply Smiles COFFEE provides bright futures for impoverished children and their families.

Through your purchase of Simply Smiles Coffee, a Mexican blend, you are helping to both feed starving people and to make coffee farming a viable way of life again. Enjoy this special coffee knowing that doing so is simply changing lives.

**That's one strong cup of coffee..**

**Available at Church Fair!!**



## 2010 DIRECTORY

### CHURCH OFFICE

Pastor	Rev. Michael Wu	860 693-4803
Office		860 379-1778

### OFFICERS: (meets **FOURTH Tuesday** of the month at 7:00 p.m.)

Moderator	Susan B. McAllister	860 738-7758
Vice-Moderator	Kim Janak	860 733-5200
Clerk	Barbara Mazzei	860 379-2900
Treasurer	Deborah Kane	860 238-7263
Associate Treasurer	Joan Eggering	860 379-8966
Financial Secretary	Debbie Storrs	860 482-3491

### DENOMINATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES:

Congregational (U.C.C)	Gretel Eddy	860 379-8616
American Baptist (ABC)	Tricia Wu	860 693-4803

### BOARDS:

#### Christian Education (meets **SECOND Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.**)

*Tanya Mongitore	860 738-2279
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#### Sunday School Superintendent: Vacant

#### Diaconate (meets **THIRD Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.**)

*Laura McCaw	860 738-8262
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#### Property & Maintenance (meets **FIRST Tuesday** of the month 7:00 p.m.)

*Debby Kane	860 238-7263
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<u>Sexton:</u> Sean Storrs	860 201-4658
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### COMMITTEES:

#### Auditing:

Peter Toomey	860 480-9337
Gail Roberts	860 582-2885
Robert Miles	860 379-8781

#### Finance Committee:

Debby Kane, Treasurer	860 238-7263
Joan Eggering, Assoc-Treasurer	860 379-8966
Debbie Storrs, Financial Secretary	860 482-3491

#### Nominating

Carol Miles	860 379-8781
Ashley Jones	860 379-6332
Gail Roberts	860 582-2885
Tricia Wu	860 693-4803
Pamela Allen	860 379-8904
Barbara Woodard	860 379-1882

\*Chairperson



# December 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>Artist: Karen Delton</p>	Nov 29 <b>Worship Choir</b> 6:00 pm	Nov 30 <b>Cherub Choir</b> 6:00 pm	<b>1</b>  <p><b>First Night of Hanukkah</b></p> <p>AA/Alanon 7:30 pm</p>	<b>2</b> <b>Laurel City Singers</b> 6:00 pm <b>Small Choir</b> 7:00 pm <b>Main Choir</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>Christmas Craft Fair</b> 9 am - 3 pm  <b>Christmas Tree Sale Begins</b>
<b>5</b> <b>Worship 10 am</b>  <b>Worship Choir</b> 9:20 am  <b>Nominating Committee 11:15</b>	<b>6</b> <b>Worship Choir</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Cherub Choir</b> 6:00 pm  <b>Chris Ed</b> 6:30  <b>Pearl Harbor Day</b>	<b>8</b> <b>AA/Alanon</b> 7:30 pm	<b>9</b> <b>Laurel City Singers</b> 6:00 pm <b>Small Choir</b> 7:00 pm <b>Main Choir</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  <b>Decorations go up in the Sanctuary</b> 10:00
<b>12</b> <b>Worship 10 am</b>  <b>Cherub Choir</b> 9:30  <b>Nominating Committee 11:15</b>	<b>13</b> <b>Worship Choir</b> 6:00 pm	<b>14</b> <b>Cherub Choir</b> 6:00 pm  <b>Deacons</b> 7:00 pm	<b>15</b> <b>AA/Alanon</b> 7:30 pm	<b>16</b> <b>Laurel City Singers</b> 6:00 pm <b>Small Choir/Brass</b> 7:00 pm <b>Main Choir</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  <b>Staging goes up in the Sanctuary</b> 10:00
<b>19</b> <b>Worship 10 am</b>  <b>Christmas Pageant during worship</b>  <b>Nominating Committee 11:15</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Worship Choir</b> 6:00 pm	<b>21</b> <b>Cherub Choir</b> 6:00 pm   <b>Winter Begins</b>	<b>22</b> <b>AA/Alanon</b> 7:30 pm	<b>23</b> <b>Laurel City Singers</b> 6:00 pm <b>Small Choir</b> 7:00 pm <b>Main Choir</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</b> 7:30 <b>Sr. Choir Meets at 7:00</b>  <b>Luminaries</b> 6:00 PM	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas</b> 
<b>26</b> <b>Worship 10 am</b>  <b>Worship Choir</b> 9:20 am  <b>Nominating Committee 11:15</b>	<b>27</b> <b>Worship Choir</b> 6:00 pm  <b>Cabinet</b> 7:00 pm	<b>28</b> <b>Laurel City Singers</b>  6:00 pm <b>Small Choir/Brass</b>  7:00 pm <b>Main Choir</b>	<b>29</b> <b>AA/Alanon</b> 7:30 pm	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  <b>New Year's Eve</b>	Jan 1 

**FIRST CHURCH OF WINSTED**

95 North Main Street  
Winsted, CT 06098

# BELLRINGER

