

Word from the Pastor

Holiday Greetings!

This is a very special time of the year. But it is also a very busy time, a time when many people feel stressed because of all that needs to get done. I hope that you will be able to find a few moments amidst all your holiday preparations to experience the true reason for the season: to sense in your heart and soul a new sense of hope, peace and joy. It's been that way since the day Christ was born.

We all know the story.... Joseph and Mary have to make a trip to comply with what many thought was a silly government mandate. They had to return to their hometown to register in the census. The trip was surely a burden on Mary as she was in the final days of her pregnancy. Joseph had to have been worried about Mary and the unborn child. His stress must have gone through the roof when he found out that there were no rooms available at the inn, and that they would have to stay in a barn that night.

Much like our lives, Mary and Joseph were not having a good time. But when the baby was born, some interesting things happened and their lives changed. Shepherds showed up at the barn, full of joy over Jesus' birth. They told Mary and Joseph about angels speaking to them about their son. The shepherds left rejoicing, and a few days later, more visitors came to see them. This time they from other countries. They brought expensive gifts. Although unusual things were happening, they took everything calmly. They didn't overreact to comments that their son would be a great leader and savior of all people. Instead, they felt a new sense of hope, peace and joy in their lives.

Yes, there will be many parties and social obligations to attend to in the weeks ahead. And we'll all feel the obligation to find gifts for those in our lives who are so hard to please. The logistics of gathering the family together to celebrate Christmas will seem overwhelming. The jammed packed parking lots and crowded stores will make us crazy.

But while this is all happening, take a moment every once in a while to breathe deeply and let the true spirit of the season fill your heart. Like Mary and Joseph, let God fill you with new hope, a sense of internal peace, and joy for the opportunity to share life with so many wonderful people. It's really up to us whether we let the insanity of the world take over our lives or whether we leave some room for hope, peace and joy.

May you and your family have a blessed Christmas,

Pastor Mike



DECEMBER 2011

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Winsted, CT 06098
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To request a copy
sent to your inbox
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Church News...

Scholarship Raffle



**\$5,000.00
Grand Prize**

**Limited to 200 Tickets
\$50 each**

**Drawing January 1st at 3 PM
First Church of Winsted**

**See Dan Jones for Tickets
860-379-6332**

Benefit: Scholarship Funds



Meeting the 4th Saturday each month
from 10 AM until Noon. Call Barb Mazzei
for info: 860-379-2900

*"To laugh often and much; to win the respect of
intelligent people and the affection of children;
to earn the appreciation of honest critics and
endure the betrayal of false friends; to
appreciate beauty, to find the best in others; to
leave the world a little better; whether by a
healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed
social condition; to know even one life has
breathed easier because you have lived. This is
the meaning of success."*

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

The Louvers in our tower have not fared well over time. They have rotted and worn so badly, they allow water to come into the tower...and then into the church walls.

Bud Roberts has taken on the task of replacing them...not a small task. When asked about the process he said, "It is a one man job, as more than one on the ladder does not 'get er done'. The impossible takes a little longer alone, but with my prayers being answered each time I exchange a set of louvers, I give thanks. Ten sets are in, 26 more to go." The rest of the hemlock he needs to complete the project will not be available until spring. Thanks to Bud for all he does, especially in high places! Before...



After...



CDC News...

A Smart Board interactive white board system has been purchased using donor funds.

A grant application has been submitted to the Holman for funding to be used for insulation and carpet for next year.

Fire Extinguishers have been charged, a new phone was purchased with 2 handsets and an intercom. Faulty swings have been replaced, and fences have been repaired.

Karen Sovak will attend a Continuing Ed class: PreK Handwriting.



Bible Study classes forming...

Heather Richardson will lead a Bible Study class based on the curriculum, "Intimacy with God." Meetings are scheduled to begin, Sunday, January 15 from 9-9:30 and will run for a 6 to 8 week session. Open to the public.

Laurel Hill Service

A worship service will be held on December 11 at 2 PM at Laurel Hill Health Care facility. Communion will be served. Open to church family...time to visit with residents...share a smile during the Christmas Season!

Christmas Fair

Saturday, December 3rd

9 am - 3 pm

FIRST CHURCH OF WINSTED

95 North Main Street

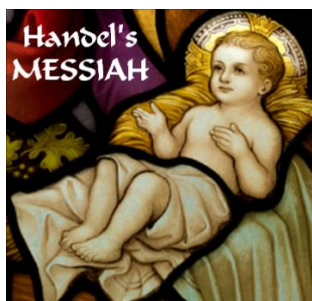
Discounted One Day Only!
Boar's Head Festival Tickets

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



Kristen Graves Christmas CD to support Native American Mission...

Kristen will have CD's on sale at our Christmas Fair on December 3rd, and will also join us to sing during the worship service on December 11th. Proceeds of CD sales will go to support a Guitar Camp she is running on the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reservation in South Dakota. The level of poverty is staggering in this community, and Simply Smiles is committed to a vision to curtail suicides, to provide basic needs, to give children an alternative to the dangers of the streets, to preserve and cultivate the rich Lakota Culture, and to provide bright futures for *these* impoverished children.



**Handel's MESSIAH
Community Sing-a-long**

December 10th at 2:00 PM

**Second Congregational
Church of Winsted**

Free Admission!

Willard Minton, *Director*
Christopher King, *Accompanist*
Cindy Rines, *Soprano*
Debbie Storrs, *Alto*
Robert Lovendale, *Tenor*
Willard Minton, *Baritone*

Presented by the Music Committee of the Second
Congregational Church of Winsted
Call 860-379-4766 for more information

*Non-perishable food items will be accepted for the local
Salvation Army Food Bank and
Open Door Soup Kitchen*

The Boar's Head Festival



January 7th ~ 4 PM & 7 PM

January 8th ~ 4 PM

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

TICKETS: 860-379-6511

\$15 Adult ~ \$12 Senior/Student ~ \$5 Child

+ Discounted Tickets Available +
December 3rd ONLY at Christmas Fair!
\$12 Adult ~ \$10 Senior/Student ~ \$3 Child



Artist: Karen Delton

Laurel City Singers

Once upon a Christmas Concert





Sunday ~ December 4th at 2 PM
First Church of Winsted 95 North Main Street

Tickets: \$10 Adult ~ \$8 Senior ~ \$20 Family

Church Family tickets half price! See Deb Storrs

Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendars!

<i>Celebrate With Us...</i>		<i>Looking Forward</i>	
Sunday - 10 am	Worship	December 3	Christmas Fair
Monday - 6 pm	Rehearsal~Worship Choir	December 4	Once Upon a Christmas Concert
Wednesday - 6 pm	Rehearsal~Cherub Choir	December 10	Messiah Sing-a-long
Wednesday - 7:30 pm	AA / Alanon Meetings	December 24	Christmas Eve Service 7:30 PM
Thursday - 6:00 pm	Rehearsal~Laurel City Singers	December 25	Christmas Service 10:00 AM
		January 1	Boar's Head Fest Rehearsal 1:30
		January 1	Scholarship Raffle Drawing 3:00
		January 7	Boar's Head Fest 4 & 7 PM
		January 8	Boar's Head Fest 4 PM
		<i>Board Meetings...</i>	
		December 6	7:00 pm PM Board
		December 13	7:00 pm Board of Christian Ed.
		December 20	7:00 pm Deacons
		December 27	7:00 pm Cabinet Meeting
			

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

December BIRTHDAYS

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

December Anniversaries

♥ 13 - Jamie & Sabrina McAllister

If you know of someone missing from this list, please let Debbie



LCS rehearsing for Dec 4 concert at 2 PM



TOUCH HANDS

As years go on and heads get gray
 How fast the guests do go
 Touch hands...
 touch hands with those that stay
 Strong hands to week,
 old hands to young,
 Around the Christmas board...
 Touch hands...
 The false forget, the foe forgive
 For every guest will go,
 Every fire burn low
 and cabin empty stand.
 Forget!
 Forgive!
 For who may say
 that Christmas Day
 May ever come
 to host or guest again.
 Touch hands!
 Author Unknown

Recognize every day is a special occasion!

*Use your good china, your best sheets...
 all that stuff you are saving for good!
 Celebrate the gift you have
 today...tomorrow is not promised!*

First Church of Winsted
 Not a type-o!

*Someone needed our sign letters
 more than we did...but the
 missing letters have been
 replaced...*



YOUTH TRIP...

Bright Nights in Forest Park Springfield, Massachusetts

Sunday December 11th - bus leaves @ 4pm - cost is \$5 per person
 Open to all ages youth, first come first serve and you are welcome to bring one friend
 The max is 52 people and a sign up sheet will be at church this Sunday
 If you have any questions or would like to go but will not be present to sign up on Sunday please call Ashley Jones at 860-480-5450.
 Follow us on Facebook!! Search First Church Youth Group!!



Christmas Eve Service at 7:30 PM
Christmas Day Service at 10:00 AM
Come and celebrate the greatest gift of all!



December 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Artist: Karen Delton	December Birthstone: Turquoise 	December Flower: Narcissus 	Astrological Signs Sagittarius: Nov 22 – Dec 21 Capricorn: Dec 22 – Jan 20	1	2	3 Christmas Fair 9 - 3
4 Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:30 <i>Once Upon a Christmas Concert</i> <i>Laurel City Singers</i> 2 PM 2nd Sunday Advent	5 Worship Choir 6:00 pm	6 Property Maintenance Board 7:00	7 Cherub Choir 6:00 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	8 Laurel City Singers 6:00 Boar's Head Festival Rehearsals Begin!	9	10 Handel's MESSIAH Sing-a-Long 2 PM 2nd Cong Church
11 Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:30 3rd Sunday Advent	12 Worship Choir 6:00 pm	13 Chris Ed 7:00	14 Cherub Choir 6:00 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	15 Laurel City Singers 6:00	16	17
18 Worship Service 10:00 am Cherub Choir 9:30 4th Sunday Advent	19 Worship Choir 6:00 pm	20 Deacons 7:00 pm	21 Cherub Choir 6:00 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	22 Laurel City Singers 6:00	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 7:30 PM
25 Worship Service 10:00 am  Merry Christmas	26 Worship Choir 6:00 pm	27 Cabinet Meeting 7:00 pm	28 Cherub Choir 6:00 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	29 Laurel City Singers 6:00	30	31 New Year's Eve 
Jan 1, 2012 Worship Service 10:00 am Christmas Pageant BH Rehearsal 1:30 Raffle Drawing 3 PM	Jan 2 Worship Choir 6:00 pm	Jan 3	Jan 4 Cherub Choir 6:00 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	Jan 5 Laurel City Singers 6:00	Jan 6	Jan 7 The Boar's Head Festival  4 & 7 PM
Jan 8 The Boar's Head Festival  4 PM						

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BELLRINGER

