

Word from the Pastor

Happy New Year!

One of the benefits of having a cardiologist who mandates that I follow a regular exercise routine is that I spend a lot of time on an elliptical trainer listening to the news. As 2009 ended and 2010 began, it was hard to ignore the many reports that people were eying 2010 with caution and reservation. Would the economy turn around in the New Year? What will be the impact of health care reform on each of us individually? Will there be progress in bringing order, stability and peace to the Middle East so that our troops can come home? Those, and many other questions, weighed heavy on peoples' minds.

No sane person can deny that uncertainty is part of our lives. But on the other hand, I hope that in the face of uncertainty, we do not lose sight of what is certain. For the twentieth year in a row, people from different backgrounds, communities, professions, social circles, churches (and many with no church affiliation at all) and walks of life did everything from put down plastic carpet protector on the floors of the sanctuary to sing beautiful solos in three productions of the Boar's Head Festival. We love every person who is a part of the Festival, but I can guarantee you that amongst the hundred-plus participants, you will not find agreement on health care reform, a consensus on the recipe for world peace, or even common ground on the solution to the current economic woes.

So how or why did all those people come together to work toward a common goal? Because of the message that the Boar's Head Festival proclaims. It is a celebration of the birth of Christ, and in all the efforts that were contributed to make it a reality, we have witnessed certainty. Certainty that no matter what is going on in the world, no matter how different we are, whether we can reach consensus on political solutions to the world's ills, or whatever is going on in our personal lives, Christ brings people together and enables us to do far more abundantly than we think possible.

So yes, 2010 will be filled with uncertainty. But remember that we began a New Year for the twentieth time in a row with a demonstration of the fact that if we all just focus on Christ in the New Year, great things will happen!

May God bless you abundantly in 2010,

Mike

PS- As I did during each of the three presentations of the Festival, I would like to again recognize Debbie Storrs for her efforts in every single one of the 20 annual Boar's Head Festivals and for her 13 years of directing the Festival.

PSS-Thank you all for the wonderful Christmas gifts presented to me on Christmas Sunday. I have already used both the Wal-Mart and the Stop & Shop gift cards!



JANUARY 2010

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

Article Submission:
info@firstchurchofwinsted.org

Special points of interest:

- 20th Annual Boar's Head Festival marks retirement of Debbie Storrs as Director. Below Pastor Mike presents Mrs. Storrs with a plaque and flowers.



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If you or a loved one over 60 are worried, we can help!

Medicare?

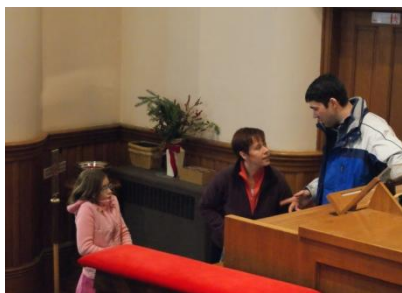
Prescription Drug Plans?

Program Entitlements?

Caregiving Issues?

*Paying the costs...??
...and more!*

*Appointment required
2 Locations in Winsted*



Winsted Health Center/ McCarthy Senior Center

Winsted Health Care Center and the McCarthy Senior Center can help answer your questions about Medicare, Prescription Drug Plans, Program Entitlements, Care giving issues and paying the costs.

If you or a loved one over 60 is worried, the Western Connecticut Area Agency on Aging offers trained counselors to answer all your questions in two locations:

1st Tuesday of each month from 1 - 4 pm

Winsted Health Center

860-379-0888

115 Spencer St, Box 888

kgriffin@winstedhealthcenter.org

3rd Thursday of each month from 9am - noon

McCarthy Senior Center

860-379-4252

80 Holabird Ave

Appointments are required!

No Cost!

FREE – unbiased interview and evaluation.

Helping Hands Chore Service

Need Help with...

Cooking?

Cleaning?

Shopping?

If you are over 60, we can help!

Services currently offered in

Winsted

Barkhamsted

New Hartford

Colebrook

Contact Julie Green

860-379-4900

Julia.helpinghands@att.net

Partially funded by a grant from the Western CT Area Agency on Aging
Donation requested
based on sliding scale.

An affiliate of:
Winsted Health Center Foundation
115 Spencer St
PO Box 888
Winsted, CT 06098
860-379-0888

Northwestern Connecticut Community College to Offer Course on ELDER CARE

ATTENTION CARE GIVERS!

New offering this spring at Northwestern Connecticut Community College in partnership with the Winsted Health Center Foundation.

ELDER CARE FOR FAMILY MEMBERS

This course is designed for non-professional caregivers to address the needs of elders at home.

Part One:

Six classes, Wednesdays,

March 10 – April 14

2:00pm – 4:00pm

Topics to be covered:

**age-related physical changes*

**common medical conditions*

**home safety/fall prevention*

**assisting with personal care*

CRN 1330: \$60

Part Two:

Four Classes, Wednesdays,

May 12 – June 2

2:00pm-4:00pm

Topics to be covered:

**accessing available services*

**caring for the care-givers*

**planning for the future*

CRN 1331: \$40

Scholarship assistance may be available through the Winsted Health Center Foundation. Contact Ms. Kris Griffin at 860-379-0888.

To Register call:

860-379-6446 or 860-738-6484

Northwestern Connecticut Community College

Park Place East, Winsted, CT 06098

www.nwcc.commnet.edu





Boar's Head Fest Celebrates 20 Years!

It seems like only yesterday that we were borrowing costumes from St. Andrew's Masonic Lodge to put on the first Boar's Head Festival. Ahh...it was truly more like a pageant then, when Jim Boratko and Karen Sovak talked Lorraine Tatar and I into making costumes. But it struck a heart string in all who attended...and became a ministry of this church. Then we got serious... the second year...we had lots of new costumes. Lorraine made the Pastor Tim Yeadon and Dave Pastorello's costumes, and I made the one for Dave Lewis. My mom...Mary Beckwith made King Wenceslas, which fit Will Minton, handed off to Dan Jones...and after many lengthenings...on to today's wearer, Tom Mazzei, who started out as Baby Jesus. Quite a transformation! John Eggering was also baby Jesus, and is now singing and doing preshow shtick...and thinking of taking on costumes for 2011. I think he would be a good show director...he knows the show better than I do. This show has a life of its own...and I am sure will continue with new young blood at the helm. I have totally reached the stage where my car keys, which also seem to have a life of their own...and park themselves in the most annoying places unknown to me...and somehow they manage to talk my glasses into joining them! We have all watched these kids grow up doing this show. My son Derek was King Wenceslas Page the first

year in that costume...then he and Sean were both gift bearers. Derek has been running the spot light for years now. Sean graduated to juggler...a talent also developed because of the festival and watching Karl Saliter juggle for years. He is now carrying the log for his own daughter Riley to ride...so another generation is beginning to become involved.

Courtney Kane wowed us all with her little country voice...and then passed the torch to Meghan, who is like a carbon copy of her big sister.

We've had lots of family gentry, including Ken Storrs, who learned to love bagpipes so much watching other piper's play that he learned to play them himself...mostly on his own. And then pursuing that love right to the College of Piping and Celtic Arts in Canada!

There have been babies and babies and more babies. Lori Snyder took the part of Mary carrying a doll while she was pregnant with the following year's baby Jesus.

Lots of folks have been involved the entire 20 year run, including our very regal royals, Al & Carol Jones, who have also helped out by donating costumes too! All three kings...Dave Pastorello, Dave Lewis and Pastor Tim Yeadon have been involved all 20 years...and hopefully counting. Barbara & Richard Mazzei, Dan and Denise Jones who also provided babies who are still performing! Star man...Steve Roys and his amazing audience seater wife Cindi and

children imported from Russia, but totally American today!

Dan Jones, Pastor Wu, and Debby Kane took on plastic...or should I say rubber. Couldn't tape to new carpets...so we needed a new idea...? Rented rubber entry mats...worked, but needed constant attention. Butch, Fred and Tom were there to lend a hand...and even "King" Richard helped when they took a configuration more like a rollercoaster than carpet. Denise Jones was sorely missed this year...but at home recovering from breast cancer surgery...had all of our prayers with her.

The presentation of flowers and a plaque in appreciation of my 20 years involvement and retirement after 13 years of directing was made before the Sunday performance...to a packed house and the entire cast and choirs. There are pictures of the view Mike and I had from the "stage" on page 7. I am humbled and thankful for having had the opportunity...but onward and upward. I hear plans for 2011 going on around me...and know that this is a ministry of First Church of Winsted that will not die. We have an abundance of "baby-bumps" as they call them today...that will arrive on time to play the infant king! And speaking of King...Chris King had news that Emily is expecting... and he even did some repairs to the organ when we couldn't get schedules straight with our organ tuner. So...the organ behaved...and did not make any strange noises...except when it changed settings on its own before one of the



songs. I bet it was Howard...being a bit mischievous...what do you think?

Although it will probably take a committee to do this, and if one person takes on each task...it will be light work. But for one person to keep it all straight and get it done...well...it has just become too much for me. I have time lines and guidelines...and all the forms are set up...only needing date changes...for now. BUT perhaps might be changed by some crafty types...as they add their own ideas to this constantly evolving...and growing presentation of the true meaning of Christmas.

Many families come together to make this work...and that is what makes it Christmas to me!

The hope that is born in each child...and the wonderful feeling of love that is felt when you cradle a newborn in your arms...

The people who keep coming back to do this year after year...some since they were born! It's a whole Boar's Head Family!

Like the song says...

This is Christ the Lord...Masters be ye glad! Christmas is come in and no folk should be sad!

Not always the case...as we mourn those gone from our lives this time of year as well! BUT for one weekend... 'tis true!


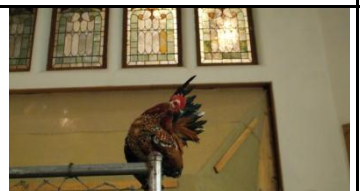

Thanks be...to all...too numerous to mention!
Hugs,
Debbie Storrs, director (officially retired)

Twelve Days of Christmas - History Lesson

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

- The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
- Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.
- Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.-
- The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.
- The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
- The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
- Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit--Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
- The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
- Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit--Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.
- The ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments.
- The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
- The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendars!

<i>Celebrate With Us...</i>		<i>Looking Forward</i>	
Sunday - 10 am Monday - 6 pm Tuesday - 6 pm Wednesday - 6:30 pm Wednesday - 7:30 pm Thursday - 6 pm	Worship Rehearsal~Senior Choir Rehearsal~Cherub Choir Rehearsal~Folk Group Rehearsal AA / Alanon Meetings Rehearsal~Laurel City Singers	January 1 January 9 & 10 February 14	New Years Day Boar's Head Festival Valentine's Day
		<i>Board Meetings...</i>	
	January 6 7:00 pm January 12 6:30 pm January 19 7:00 pm January 24 11:15 am January 31 11:15 am	CDC Liaison Committee Board of Christian Ed. Deacons Annual Meeting Annual Meeting Snow Date	



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

04 - Barbara Mazzei
 07 - Raymond Savoy
 08 - Christian McAllister
 10 - Caryl Pizinger
 11 - Maridel Fredericksen
 11 - Belinda Corey
 12 - Andrea Ohotnicky
 13 - Judy Savoy
 15 - Ashley LeKang
 15 - Cindy Roys
 17 - Mary-Pat Fredericksen
 17 - Maggie McAllister
 20 - Kayla McCaw
 22 - Kathy Weaving
 22 - Joe Tatar
 23 - Betty Greeley
 24 - Cheryl Jones
 26 - John Dondero
 27 - Kathryn McCusker

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

♥ 22 - Ray & Judy Savoy
 ♥ 24 - Mel & Gloria Lee

Memorials

✠ 02 - Lucy Nordgren

Student News

Congratulations to Brittany Smyth for making the Dean's list for the fall semester at Mitchell College New London, CT. with a 4.0, where she is majoring in hospitality and tourism! She graduated from The Gilbert School class of 2007. She is the daughter of Terry & Becky Smyth of Winsted.

Congratulations to Brianna Smyth for passing her GRE to get into Grad school! She is a graduate of The Gilbert School class of 2005

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the First Church of Winsted will take place on Sunday, January 24, 2010, at 11:15am (immediately following the Worship Service).

A light lunch will be provided, and both members and friends of the Church are invited to attend.

ANNUAL MEETING

Please type these links into your browser.

Carolers:

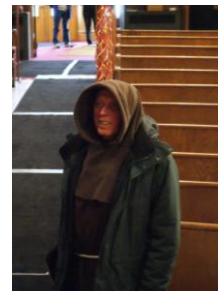
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P0MRmrkeZ7k>

Piper Ken:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RoAsRrJKP5Q>

More to follow courtesy of
 John Barrett

Hip Hip Hazzah!



Why Music Matters by Karl Paulnack

Submitted by Cindi Roys.

Hello folks: Here is a beautiful essay - takes a bit of time to read it, but it supports the theory that music and art should never be cut from curricula; they are the things we turn to when the going gets rough. I thought it was beautifully written, and thought you might too.

WHY MUSIC MATTERS by Karl Paulnack

One of my parents' deepest fears, I suspect, is that society would not properly value me as a musician, that I wouldn't be appreciated. I had very good grades in high school, I was good in science and math, and they imagined that as a doctor or a research chemist or an engineer, I might be more appreciated than I would be as a musician. I still remember my mother's remark when I announced my decision to apply to music school—she said, "You're wasting your SAT scores!" On some level, I think, my parents were not sure themselves what the value of music was, what its purpose was. And they loved music: they listened to classical music all the time. They just weren't really clear about its function. So let me talk about that a little bit, because we live in a society that puts music in the "arts and entertainment" section of the newspaper, and serious music, the kind your kids are about to engage in, has absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with entertainment, in fact it's the opposite of entertainment. Let me talk a little bit about music, and how it works.

One of the first cultures to articulate how music really works were the ancient Greeks. And this is going to fascinate you: the Greeks said that music and astronomy were two sides of the same coin. Astronomy was seen as the study of relationships between observable, permanent, external objects, and music was seen as the study of relationships between invisible, internal, hidden objects. Music has a way of finding the big, invisible moving pieces inside our hearts and souls and helping us figure out the position of things inside us. Let me give you some examples of how this works.

One of the most profound musical compositions of all time is the Quartet for the End of Time written by French composer Olivier Messiaen in 1940. Messiaen was 31 years old when France entered the war against Nazi Germany. He was captured by the Germans in June of 1940 and imprisoned in a prisoner-of-war camp.

He was fortunate to find a sympathetic prison guard who gave him paper and a place to compose, and fortunate to have musician colleagues in the camp, a cellist, a violinist, and a clarinetist. Messiaen wrote his quartet with these specific players in mind. It was performed in January 1941 for the prisoners and guards of the prison camp. Today it is one of the most famous masterworks in the repertoire.

Given what we have since learned about life in the Nazi camps, why would anyone in his right mind waste time\ and energy writing or playing music? There was barely enough energy on a good day to find food and water, to avoid a beating, to stay warm, to escape torture— why would anyone bother with music? And yet—even from the concentration camps, we have poetry, we have music, we have visual art; it wasn't just this one fanatic Messiaen; many, many people created art. Why? Well, in a place where people are only focused on survival, on the bare necessities, the obvious conclusion is that art must be, somehow, essential for life. The camps were without money, without hope, without commerce, without recreation, without basic respect, but they were not without art. Art is part of survival; art is part of the human spirit, an unquenchable expression of who we are. Art is one of the ways in which we say, "I am alive, and my life has meaning."

In September of 2001 I was a resident of Manhattan. On the morning of September 12, 2001 I reached a new understanding of my art and its relationship to the world. I sat down at the piano that morning at 10 AM to practice as was my daily routine; I did it by force of habit, without thinking about it. I lifted the cover on the keyboard, and opened my music, and put my hands on the keys and took my hands off the keys. And I sat there and thought, does this even matter? Isn't this completely irrelevant? Playing the piano right now, given what happened in this city yesterday, seems silly, absurd, irreverent, pointless. Why am I here? What place has a musician in this moment in time? Who needs a piano player right now? I was completely lost.

And then I, along with the rest of New York, went through the journey of getting through that week. I did not play the piano that day, and in fact I contemplated briefly whether I would ever want to play the piano again. And then I observed how we got through the day.

Why Music Matters...continued

At least in my neighborhood, we didn't shoot hoops or play Scrabble. We didn't play cards to pass the time, we didn't watch TV, we didn't shop, we most certainly did not go to the mall. The first organized activity that I saw in New York, on the very evening of September 11th, was singing. People sang. People sang around fire houses, people sang "We Shall Overcome". Lots of people sang America the Beautiful. The first organized public event that I remember was the Brahms Requiem, later that week, at Lincoln Center, with the New York Philharmonic. The first organized public expression of grief, our first communal response to that historic event, was a concert. That was the beginning of a sense that life might go on. The US Military secured the airspace, but recovery was led by the arts, and by music in particular, that very night.

From these two experiences, I have come to understand that music is not part of "arts and entertainment" as the newspaper section would have us believe. It's not a luxury, a lavish thing that we fund from leftovers of our budgets, not a plaything or an amusement or a pastime. Music is a basic need of human survival. Music is one of the ways we make sense of our lives, one of the ways in which we express feelings when we have no words, a way for us to understand things with our hearts when we can't with our minds.

Some of you may know Samuel Barber's heart wrenchingly beautiful piece Adagio for Strings. If you don't know it by that name, then some of you may know it as the background music which accompanied the Oliver Stone movie Platoon, a film about the Vietnam War. If you know that piece of music either way, you know it has the ability to crack your heart open like a walnut; it can make you cry over sadness you didn't know you had. Music can slip beneath our conscious reality to get at what's really going on inside us the way a good therapist does.

Very few of you have ever been to a wedding where there was absolutely no music. There might have been only a little music, there might have been some really bad music, but with few exceptions there is some music. And something very predictable happens at weddings—people get all pent up with all kinds of emotions, and then there's some musical moment where the action of the wedding stops and someone sings or plays the flute or something. And even if the music is lame, even if the quality isn't good, predictably 30 or 40 percent of the people who are going to cry at a wedding cry a couple of moments after the music starts. Why? The Greeks. Music allows us to move around those big invisible pieces of ourselves and rearrange our insides so that we can express what we feel even when we can't talk about it. Can you imagine watching Indiana Jones or Superman or Star Wars with the dialogue but no music? What is it about the music swelling up at just the right moment in ET so that all the softies in the audience start crying at exactly the same moment? I guarantee you if you showed the movie with the music stripped out, it wouldn't happen that way. The Greeks. Music is the understanding of the relationship between invisible internal objects.

I'll give you one more example, the story of the most important concert of my life. I must tell you I have played a little less than a thousand concerts in my life so far. I have played in places that I thought were important. I like playing in Carnegie Hall; I enjoyed playing in Paris; it made me very happy to please the critics in St. Petersburg. I have played for people I thought were important; music critics of major newspapers, foreign heads of state. The most important concert of my entire life took place in a nursing home in a small Midwestern town a few years ago.

I was playing with a very dear friend of mine who is a violinist. We began, as we often do, with Aaron Copland's Sonata, which was written during World War II and dedicated to a young friend of Copland's, a young pilot who was shot down during the war. Now we often talk to our audiences about the pieces we are going to play rather than providing them with written program notes. But in this case, because we began the concert with this piece, we decided to talk about the piece later in the program and to just come out and play the music without explanation.

Midway through the piece, an elderly man seated in a wheelchair near the front of the concert hall began to weep. This man, whom I later met, was clearly a soldier—even in his 70's, it was clear from his buzz-cut hair, square jaw and general demeanor that he had spent a good deal of his life in the military. I thought it a little bit odd that someone would be moved to tears by that particular movement of that particular piece, but it wasn't the first time I've heard crying in a concert and we went on with the concert and finished the piece.

When we came out to play the next piece on the program, we decided to talk about both the first and second pieces, and we described the circumstances in which the Copland was written and mentioned its dedication to a downed pilot. The

Why Music Matters...continued

man in the front of the audience became so disturbed that he had to leave the auditorium. I honestly figured that we would not see him again, but he did come backstage afterwards, tears and all, to explain himself.

What he told us was this: "During World War II, I was a pilot, and I was in an aerial combat situation where one of my team's planes was hit. I watched my friend bail out, and watched his parachute open, but the Japanese planes which had engaged us returned and machine gunned across the parachute cords so as to separate the parachute from the pilot, and I watched my friend drop away into the ocean, realizing that he was lost. I have not thought about this for many years, but during that first piece of music you played, this memory returned to me so vividly that it was as though I was reliving it. I didn't understand why this was happening, why now, but then when you came out to explain that this piece of music was written to commemorate a lost pilot, it was a little more than I could handle. How does the music do that? How did it find those feelings and those memories in me?"

Remember the Greeks: music is the study of invisible relationships between internal objects. The concert in the nursing home was the most important work I have ever done. For me to play for this old soldier and help him connect, somehow, with Aaron Copland, and to connect their memories of their lost friends, to help him remember and mourn his friend, this is my work. This is why music matters.

What follows is part of the talk I will give to this year's freshman class when I welcome them a few days from now. The responsibility I will charge your sons and daughters with is this:

"If we were a medical school, and you were here as a med student practicing appendectomies, you'd take your work very seriously because you would imagine that some night at two AM someone is going to waltz into your emergency room and you're going to have to save their life. Well, my friends, someday at 8 PM someone is going to walk into your concert hall and bring you a mind that is confused, a heart that is overwhelmed, a soul that is weary. Whether they go out whole again will depend partly on how well you do your craft.

You're not here to become an entertainer, and you don't have to sell yourself. The truth is you don't have anything to sell; being a musician isn't about dispensing a product, like selling used cars. I'm not an entertainer; I'm a lot closer to a paramedic, a firefighter, a rescue worker. You're here to become a sort of therapist for the human soul, a spiritual version of a chiropractor, physical therapist, someone who works with our insides to see if they get things to line up, to see if we can come into harmony with ourselves and be healthy and happy and well.


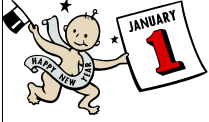


Frankly, ladies and gentlemen, I expect you not only to master music; I expect you to save the planet. If there is a future wave of wellness on this planet, of harmony, of peace, of an end to war, of mutual understanding, of equality, of fairness, I don't expect it will come from a government, a military force or a corporation. I no longer even expect it to come from the religions of the world, which together seem to have brought us as much war as they have peace. If there is a future of peace for humankind, if there is to be an understanding of how these invisible, internal things should fit together, I expect it will come from the artists, because that's what we do. As in the Nazi camps and the evening of 9/11, the artists are the ones who might be able to help us with our internal, invisible lives."





January 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Artist: Karen Delton	Dec 28	Dec 29	Dec 30	Dec 31	1 	2 Final Set-up For Boar's Head Plastic/Manger Decorations 9:00 AM
3 Worship 10 am Senior Choir 9:20 am Boar's Head Run-trough Rehearsal 1:30~4:00 pm	4 Senior Choir 6:00 pm	5 Cherub Choir 6:00 pm PM Board 6:30 pm	6 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	7 Laurel City Singers 6:00 pm Small Choir BRASS 7:00 pm Main Choir	8	9  Boar's Head Festival 4:00 & 7:00 pm
10 Worship 10 am Cherub Choir 9:30  Boar's Head Festival 4:00 pm	11 Senior Choir 6:00 pm	12 Cherub Choir 6:00 pm Chris Ed 6:30	13 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	14	15	16
17 Worship 10 am Senior Choir 9:20 am Nominating Committee 11:15	18 Senior Choir 6:00 pm	19 Cherub Choir 6:00 pm Deacons 7:00 pm	20 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	21	22	23
24 Worship 10 am Open Mic Sun ANNUAL MEETING 11:15 am	25 Senior Choir 6:00 pm	26 Cabinet 7:00 pm	27	28	29	30
31 Worship 10 am Senior Choir 9:20 am Annual Meeting Snow Date						

