

Word from the Pastor

New Year Greetings!

Although Christmas Day has come and gone, the Christmas holiday lasts for 12 days. Yes, just like the familiar Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas." Why are there 12 days of Christmas? Tradition has it that the Three Kings or Wise Men arrived in Bethlehem 12 days after Christ was born.

In today's world, a 12 day journey is inconceivable. Clearly they did not have the benefit of Garmin! In the 70's, it took me 72 hours to travel from Connecticut to northern Mexico (on a Greyhound bus), a fraction of the time it took them to arrive. In the 90's, it took me less than 24 hours (including down time waiting for connections) to go from New York to New Delhi, India, which are almost exactly on opposite sides of the world from each other. Since that time, technology has advanced and you can now make the same trip in 16-18 hours (depending on the winds). At least from a travel perspective, the world is getting smaller. Distances don't mean as much as they did in the past. What used to be a once in your lifetime dream trip is now someone's weekly commute!

So is the 12 day journey of the Magi the equivalent of a historical artifact....something that reminds us of humanity's more primitive days? Does it have any relevance to the modern world where in 12 days you could fly around the world 16 times? I believe there is an important message to us all from the 12 day journey of the Magi. It serves to remind us that not everything in God's kingdom will happen as quickly as we wish. Instant gratification is not always possible. And equally important, we need to realize that sometimes instant gratification is not lasting gratification. Good things take time.

Take, as an example, our Boar's Head Festival. While it all seems to fall into place with minimal effort (only one rehearsal for the cast), it is a combination of experience gained over twenty years of performing the Festival and countless hours of behind the scenes preparations like sewing, planning, mailings, etc., that allows it to take place with such apparent ease.

As we begin 2011, I hope we will make an extra effort to step back when we are feeling that things are not happening as quickly as we think they should. Not everything in God's kingdom happens as quickly as God' people want.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for the fruit basket, chocolates, and Wal-Mart gift card that you gave me for Christmas. While the proportion of chocolates in comparison to the fruit could have been higher (just kidding!), our family enjoyed the fruit, and I have already made a purchase with the gift card. Thanks!

May God's blessings be upon you throughout the New Year,

Mike



JANUARY 2011

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

Article Submission:
info@firstchurchofwinsted.org

Special points of interest:

- Annual Meeting
Jan 23rd
- Welcome New
Members Jan
16h
- 21st Annual
Boar's Head
Festival
January 8 & 9



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The Wisdom of Santa...?

Just a week before Christmas I had a visitor. I just finished the household chores for the night and was preparing to go to bed, when I heard a noise in the front of the house. I opened the door to the front room and, to my surprise, Santa himself stepped out from behind the Christmas tree. He placed a finger over his mouth so I would not cry out "What are you doing?" I started to ask. The words choked up in my throat, as I saw he had tears in his eyes.

His usual jolly manor was gone. Gone was the eager boisterous soul we all know. He then answered me with a simple statement, **"TEACH THE CHILDREN."** I was puzzled; what did he mean? He anticipated my question, and with one quick movement brought forth a miniature toy bag from behind the tree. As I stood there bewildered, Santa said, "Teach the children! Teach them the meaning of Christmas. The meaning that children now-a-day's have forgotten!"

Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a **FIR TREE** and placed it before the mantle. "Teach the children that the pure green color of the stately fir tree remains green all year around, depicting the everlasting hope of mankind. All the needles point heavenward, making it a symbol of man's thoughts toward heaven."

He again reached into his bag and pulled out a brilliant **STAR**. "Teach the children that the star was the heavenly sign of promises long ago. God promised a savior for the world, and the star was the sign of the fulfillment of that promise."

He then reached in his bag and pulled out a **CANDLE**. "Teach the children that the candle symbolizes that Christ is the light of the world, and when we see this great light we are reminded of He who displaced the darkness." Once again he reached into his bag and removed a **WREATH** and placed it on the tree. "Teach the children that the wreath symbolizes the eternal nature of love. Real love never ceases. Love is one continuous round of affection."

He then pulled out from his bag an ornament of **HIMSELF**. "Teach the children that I, Santa Clause symbolize the generosity and good will we feel during the month of December."

He reached in again and pulled out a **HOLLY LEAF**. "Teach the children that the holly plant represents immortality. It represents the Crown of Thorns worn by our Savior. The red holly berries represent the blood that was shed by Him." Next he pulled out a **GIFT** from the bag and said, "Teach the children that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..." "Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift. Teach the children that the Wise Men bowed before the Holy Babe and presented Him with gold, frankincense, and myrrh. "We should always give gifts in the same spirit as the Wise Men."

Santa reached in his bag and pulled out a **CANDY CANE** and hung it on the tree "Teach the children that the candy cane represents the shepherds crook. The crook on the shepherds' staff helps to bring back strayed sheep to the flock. The candy cane is the symbol that we are our brothers keeper."

He reached in again and pulled out an **ANGEL**. "Teach the children that it was the Angels that heralded in the glorious news of the Savior's birth. The angels sang Glory to God in the Highest, on earth peace, and good will toward men."

Suddenly I heard a soft twinkling sound, from his bag he pulled out a **BELL**. Teach the children that the lost sheep are found by the sound of the bell, it should bring man to the fold. The bell symbolizes guidance and return."

Santa looked back at the tree and was pleased. He looked back at me and I saw that the twinkle was back in his eyes. He said, "Teach the children the true meaning of Christmas, and to not put me in the center, for I am but a humble servant of the One That Is, and I bow down and worship Him, our Lord, our God."

Submitted by Ashley Jones

News Notes

New Arrival Expected...

Jamie and Sabrina McAllister are expecting their first **daughter** sometime in May. Congrats to the parents...and grandparents (Brenda & Bruce Sherman)! And all the Big Brothers! Sean, Christian and Aedan!

Super Bowl Grinder Sale...

Watch for upcoming notes...February 6th.

Sledding Party...

The annual sledding party will be February 20 at Camp Jewell. Stay tuned! Pray for snow!

2011 Mission Trip Planning...

There will be a meeting on January 16th with Simply Smiles to begin plans for the 2011 Mission Trip.

Confirmation Classes Set for Spring...

Classes will be forming in the spring for Confirmations for those eligible. The

confirmation date will be April 17 – Palm Sunday! First Class Feb 27th.

Sunday School Superintendent...

Barbara Mazzei has accepted the roll of Sunday School Superintendent...and will begin by planning the Pool/Pizza Party...March 12th or 19th! Details to follow!...

Link to Grinchiest Pageant...MOVIE!

<http://www.firstchurchofwinsted.org/Bellringer.html>

Gearing Up for Boar's Head

Boar's Head Festival Rehearsal...Sunday
January 2nd at 1:30 PM....where we take this...



And turn it into this....



BUT WE ARE NOT THERE YET...

CALLING ALL ABLE BODIED PEOPLE...

Prepare the Way O Zion...your Christ
is coming in...

Followed by lots of animals...
So we need to lay plastic, rugs
and build a manger. **PLEASE
COME & HELP on Wednesday,
Jan 5th at 6:30 PM!!!**

Animals Provided by:

Dragon Dance Farm

"Sonny" the Llama "Alvero" the
Great Pyranees and "Sugar Plum"
the chicken. Lynda Dunlop &
Richard Busch

The Roys Family

"Spirit" the White Dove

Commerford Farm

Goats & Donkey with Transportation
by John Stennman

The King Family

Prize-winning Laying Hens...

Register Citizen Article...12/31/10

<http://www.registercitizen.com/articles/2010/12/31/news/doc4d1d66a894e96726636468.txt>



Cece & Ruth will be joined
by Birch Creek in the 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
Rehearsal!!**

Notice from Nominating Committee

Nominating committee has
begun to look for replacement
board members as terms may
have expired or current
members are not renewing
their terms. If you are
interested in becoming part of
any of the various boards and
committees that we have, you
should contact any member
of the nominating committee.

Pam Allen Barbara Woodard
Ashley Jones Tricia Wu
Carol Miles

New Year... New Traditions...New Habits

Looking for a way to relieve
stress? Join the fun in singing
with a group of wonderfully warm
(and sometimes, crazy) people.
Don't know how to read music?
That's okay. Most of our choir
members don't, either!

The Worship Choir rehearses
every Monday evening at 6:00 pm
for 1-1½ hours. Tweens, teens,
and adults of all ages are
welcomed.

Annual Meeting



Annual Meeting of First Church of Winsted
will be held on January 23, 2011
immediately following the worship service;
a snow date of January 30 has been
scheduled. Please stay and hear what we
accomplished in 2010! AND get a preview
of 2011...Happy New Year!

All reports are due by Sunday Jan 16th
COPY READY, and can be sent directly to
Christine Steele for printing.

You can email your reports directly to
Christine Steele at:

Chris <chris@print-master.net>

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	January 1 January 8 & 9 January 16 January 16 January 16 January 23 (snow date Jan 30) February 6 February 20	New Years Day Boar's Head Festival Annual Reports Due Mission Trip Planning Right Hand of Fellowship Annual Meeting Super Bowl Grinders Sledding at Camp Jewell
<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

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
27 - Kathryn McCusker

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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



Right Hand of Fellowship!

On Sunday January 16th the "right hand of fellowship will be given to the following:

Joanne Sherman
Donna Sherman
Dawn Sherman
Mike Cyr
Cedric Hopkins
Emma Hennig

Also entering our congregation:

Steven Vaill
Sean Storrs

Please be sure to welcome them into the fold! Does this mean cake at coffee hour? Bet it does!



O Christmas Tree



Our annual Christmas Tree Sale was a great success...we raised \$2,578.00!!

Thanks to the many workers who sat out in the freezing cold...saved by Rich Mazzei's Chimney!

Thank to all of you who bought their trees...and to Bud Robers for storing them at the farm.

Thanks to our four leg-ed friends who added a little hominess to the sales. Bear and Digger!!

Great fellow-ship...and some ladies too!

Grinchiest Pageant

The Christmas Pageant on December 19 was fashioned after the Dr Seuse story: The Grinch who Stole Christmas. The "Who's" were amazing in their Jammies and "Who Hair!"...with Paxton Lewis-Franklin playing the part of the Grinch, Alex Cassaday playing Cindy Loo Who...and Spectra who played the part of Max.



A Sneak Peek at the Boar's Head Festival in Winsted

By JASON SIEDZIK

WINSTED — Live animals, a brass band and songs about “talk-boxes and soul-catchers.” All three await attendees of the 21st annual Boar’s Head Festival, scheduled for Jan. 8 and 9.

“It’s a Christmas tradition,” said Debbie Storrs, youth choir director and financial secretary for the First Church of Winsted, “almost like the Nutcracker.”

Storrs talked about three of the elements of the festival during rehearsals Thursday evening. The festival originally began as a fundraiser for the church’s new organ, but according to Storrs, it remains popular even as the philanthropic focus has shifted — but the community element is ever-present.

“It’s a way to help our community,” said Storrs. “We couldn’t do this alone.”

The church bought a new [old] organ “over 20 years ago,” according to Storrs, and needed to raise \$40,000 for the motors to control the organ’s blowers. In order to raise that money, the church decided to sponsor a festival — one that dates back to medieval England.

“There’s no deli meat involved,” said Storrs, clarifying the origin of the name.

The entertainment options span other towns in the Northwest corner. The Laurel City Singers, drawn from various churches in Winchester, will perform, as well as a choir made up of residents of Winsted, Norfolk, Colebrook and Barkhamsted. Similarly, the brass band draws from Gilbert and Northwestern Regional alumni, as well as college students.

“We try to keep all the kids from all the schools involved,” said Storrs.

The festival usually sells out, according to Storrs, regardless of the weather. Although the church has dodged severe weather for most of its run, icy conditions could not turn attendees away.

“The Lord’s been good to us,” said Storrs of the weather.

The Boar’s Head Festival is scheduled for Jan. 8 at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., as well as Jan. 9 at 4 p.m. Advance tickets are \$12 for adults, \$9 for seniors and \$5 for children. Admission at the door is \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$8 for children. To make seating reservations, call (860) 379-6511 or mail ticket requests to the First Church of Winsted, attn: Boar’s Head Festival, 95 North Main Street, Winsted, CT 06098. Make checks payable to the First Church of Winsted and include a self-addressed stamped envelope.



The poster for the Boar's Head Festival 2011 features a black and white illustration of a boar's head in a shield at the top right. Below the title, there is a row of small, stylized figures representing various animals and people. The text is arranged in a clear, bold font, providing all necessary details about the event, including dates, times, location, and ticket prices. A small illustration of the First Church of Winsted is shown at the bottom right of the poster.

The Boar's Head Festival

January 8th ~ 4 PM & 7 PM
January 9th ~ 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

Regardless of the origin, the Boar’s Head Festival has marked a traditional celebration of the Christmas season, specifically the Epiphany. While the festival also has pagan roots, these meanings have been recast in a Christian light, but the seasonal focus remains.

“It’s the awe of the real Christmas,” said Storrs. “So many people came to visit one child.”

Although the organ’s motors have been long paid off, the festival continues to raise funds for noteworthy causes. The church established two scholarships for Gilbert and Northwestern Regional students who wish to pursue higher education in music, funded by the festival’s proceeds. Additionally, the church donates money to the local soup kitchen, as well as using proceeds to further musical education for parishioners. The rest of the money goes towards heating bills.

The festival tells the entire tale of the Epiphany, using live animals and song. Nearly the entire saga is sung, aside from a handful of announcements at the beginning; Storrs added that the sung announcements admonish viewers about using their “talk-boxes and soul-catchers” — phones and cameras.



The modern Boar’s Head and Yule Log Festival originated at Queen’s College in Oxford, England, and according to legend, stems from an incident where a scholar was confronted by a wild boar. The scholar — attributed as either Copcot or Bernard Gilpin in various legends — shoved his book of Aristotle’s works down the boar’s throat in self-defense, causing the boar to choke. The scholar then cut the boar’s head off and brought it back to the college for a feast.





January 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Artist: Karen Delton						1 
2 Worship 10 am Worship Choir 9:30 am Nom Comm 11:15 Boar's Head Festival Rehearsal 1:30 Cast Blocking 2:00 Full Runthru	3 Worship Choir 6:00 pm	4 Cherub Choir 6:00 pm	5 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	6 Laurel City Singers 6:00 pm Small Choir Brass 7:00 pm Main Choir	7	8 Boar's Head Festival 4 & 7 PM
9 Worship 10 am Cherub Choir 9:30 Nom Comm 11:15 Boar's Head Festival 4 PM	10 Worship Choir 6:00 pm	11 Cherub Choir 6:00 pm	12 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	13	14	15
16 Worship 10 am Nom Com 11:15 Right Hand of Fellowship Reports Due for Annual Report	17 Worship Choir 6:00 pm	18 Cherub Choir 6:00 pm	19 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	20	21	22
23 Worship 10 am Worship Choir 9:30 am Annual Meeting After Worship Service	24 Worship Choir 6:00 pm	25 Cherub Choir 6:00 pm	26 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	27 Laurel City Singers Spring Planning Meeting	28	29
30 Worship 10 am Open Mic Sunday Snow Date for Annual Meeting	31 Worship Choir 6:00 pm	Feb 1 Cherub Choir 6:00 pm	Feb 2 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	Feb 3	Feb 4	Feb 5



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

Sunday School Superintendent: Vacant

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

*Laura McCaw 860 738-8262

Property & Maintenance (meets **FIRST Tuesday** of the month 7:00 p.m.)

*Debby Kane 860 238-7263

Sexton: Sean Storrs 860 201-4658

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
Tricia Wu	860 693-4803
Pamela Allen	860 379-8904
Barbara Woodard	860 379-1882

*Chairperson

CONNECTICUT WOMEN OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Summer 2010
COMMUNICATOR—SPECIAL

SPECIAL ISSUE

COMMUNICATOR—SPECIAL ISSUE

God Gives the Growth

Stories, reports and impressions from YOU, the women of Connecticut!

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**TOGETHER
BUILDING BRIDGES**
U.C.C. New England Women's
"...a time to break down and a time to build up..."
—Ecclesiastes 3:1—

THE FENCE

(NOTE: I came across this recently in my office — I believe it came to me from a former State Board member, Pat Davis, of Kensington, CT.)

Once upon a time two brothers who lived on adjoining farms fell into conflict. It was the first serious rift in 40 years of farming side by side, sharing machinery, and trading labor and goods as needed without a hitch.

Then the long collaboration fell apart. It began with a small misunderstanding and it grew into a major difference, and finally it exploded into an exchange of bitter words followed by weeks of silence.

One morning there was a knock on John's door. He opened it to find a man with a carpenter's toolbox.

"I'm looking for a few days work" he said. "Perhaps you would have a few small jobs here and there I could help with?"

"Yes," said the older brother. "I do have a job for you. Look across the creek at that farm. That's my neighbor, in fact, it's my younger brother."

"Last week there was a meadow between us and

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COMMUNICATOR—SPECIAL ISSUE

PAGE 2

he took his bulldozer to the river levee and now there is a creek between us. Well, he may have done this to spite me, but I'll go him one better. See that pile of lumber by the barn? I want you to build me a fence, an 8-foot fence, so I won't need to see his place or his face anymore."

The carpenter said, "I think I understand the situation. Show me the nails and the post-hole digger and I'll be able to do a job that pleases you."

The older brother had to go to town, so he helped the carpenter get the materials ready and then he was off for the day. The carpenter worked hard all that day measuring, sawing, nailing. About sunset when the farmer returned, the carpenter had just finished his job. The farmer's eyes opened wide, his jaw dropped.


There was no fence there at all. It was a bridge — a bridge stretching from one side of the creek to the other! A fine piece of work, handrails and all — and the neighbor, his younger brother, was coming across, his hand outstretched.

"You are quite a fellow to build this bridge after all I've said and done."

The two brothers stood at each end of the bridge, and then they met in the middle, taking each other's hand. They turned to see the carpenter hoist his toolbox on his shoulder.

"No, wait! Stay a few days. I've a lot of other projects for you," said the older brother.

I'd love to stay on," the carpenter said,
"but, I have many more bridges to build."



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The newsletter is published three times yearly. Due to the high cost of postage, we encourage anyone who would like to receive the "Communicator" by e-mail to notify the office. Every UCC church rep currently receives either a hard copy or an email copy, which we encourage the reps to post in the church office when they have finished reading it.

To receive your electronic copy of the "Communicator" please contact Pam DiDio at [pamd@ctucc.org](mailto:pamd@ctucc.org) to have your name added to the list.

Subscribe now  
to the  
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**Free Offer!**

**FIRST CHURCH OF WINSTED**  
95 North Main Street  
Winsted, CT 06098

# BELLRINGER

