

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!

## Word from the Pastor

### Lenten Greetings!

As you may know, Lent consists of the 40 days (plus Sundays) before Easter. It is a time when we reflect on the sacrifice made by Christ so that we could live free from guilt about our errors and wrongdoings. It is a time to prepare for Easter, the central and most important Christian day of the year. In many traditions, people make sacrifices such as not eating meat on Fridays. Churches often have special Lenten Bible Studies to reflect on the death and resurrection of Christ.

The truth of the matter is that there is no one "correct" way to prepare for Easter. The objective is to step back from the hustle of our busy lives and to reflect on the life and ministry of Christ, and most importantly, the love God showed to us by allowing Jesus to give his life for the forgiveness of our mistakes. As silly as it may sound, it's sometimes hard to admit our humanity and to acknowledge that we are not perfect. But it's easier to admit our mistakes knowing that we are forgiven. As Christians, we don't claim to be perfect...just forgiven. And because of that forgiveness, one of the ways we say "thanks" for it is by trying to do the right thing.

During this time before Easter, I hope you'll be able to reflect on the fact that we are all human. And as we accept our humanity, let us seriously accept the fact that we are also forgiven. God love us just as we are. For if we can accept our own humanity, it is that much easier to forgive and let go of the mistakes that others make.

May God's love shine in your lives during this Lenten Season.

Blessings,

*Mike*



### Oaxaca Mission Planning...

There will be a meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup> after the worship service for those interested in participating in the summer's mission trip to Oaxaca.



MARCH 2012

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Check us out online! [www.firstchurchofwinsted.org](http://www.firstchurchofwinsted.org)

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# Church News...



## CDC News

CDC has applied for a \$5,000 grant from the Libby Holman Foundation for carpet and insulation upgrades for the building, and after the application was reviewed, they were granted \$7,000. The last grant provided new tables and a new Smart Board.

After several attempts to connect to the church internet have failed, CDC will be getting separate internet service for the school, to power the new smart board.

It was voted not to increase tuition rates for the 2012-13 school year.

The Pre-K "Handwriting Without Tears" program is now in place at the school.



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

## Board of Christian Education

Allison Graboski was voted in as Chairperson and Emmig Hennig and July Davy will share secretarial duties.

The board discussed meeting the needs of family and youth.

Items for the calendar were discussed and some dates set:

March 24-Whale Hockey Game  
April-Easter Flower Sale and Easter Egg Hunt  
May 19-Ziti Supper  
May 31 thru June 2- Youth Trip to Montreal, Canada

## Scholarship Applications

Applications for scholarships are available. Our scholarships are given in memory of Alex and Elizabeth Smith or Jon Millard. Please see Allison Graboski for your forms. Forms should be submitted to the Chris Ed Board by May 15, 2012.

## Property Maintenance Board

Debby Kane agreed to continue as Chair and Bud Roberts will continue as the board secretary.

The board has decided to purchase 2 new shop vacs on sale for \$49 each. They will come in handy for vacuuming straw after next year's Boar's Head Festival...and other various needs.

Church break-ins in the Hartford area were brought to Pastor Wu's attention, where thieves seem to be interested in only money. It was discussed at cabinet level to make sure no money is left in the church. Other precautionary measures were discussed and all groups using the church will be reminded to make sure all doors are locked when they leave the building.

***Nursery Care needed during Bible study Sunday morning at 9:00, as a backup for Mary McAllister.***

***Volunteers please see Pastor!***

## Diaconate Board News

Laura McCaw and Lisa Nanni are Co-Chairs. Lisa also agreed to be secretary, temporarily.

Joan Eggering and John Eggering have agreed to serve on the Music Sub-Committee.

John Eggering is making sound recordings of the services, and if successful, the recordings will be linked to the webpage, and made available for shut-ins.

The Deacons will be assisting Pastor Wu with visitations of shut-ins.

Gale Gardiner will be invited to take an upcoming Open Mic Sunday to provide special music and sell her CD's for the benefit of Simply Smiles

## Diaconate/Social Committee Upcoming Events...

March 10- Steam Vent Coffee House

March 31-Beef Stew and Bingo

April 1-Laurel Hill Service with additional services slated for June, September and December

April 8-Sunrise Service and Easter Service

April 14- Steam Vent Coffee House

April 21-Theme Dinner

May 12-Steam Vent Coffee House

May 13-Mother's Day Brunch

June 17-Father's Day Brunch

June 23-Dessert and Bingo

August 26-Make your own Sundae Sunday-during fellowship hour.

September 26-tentative date for

Apple Picking at March Farm

October 20-Harvest dinner with Tea-cup Auction

December 1-Christmas Fair

*This was written by an 83-year-old woman to her friend.*

Dear Bertha,

I'm reading more and dusting less. I'm sitting in the yard and admiring the view without fussing about the weeds in the garden. I'm spending more time with my family and friends and less time working.

Whenever possible, life should be a pattern of experiences to savor, not to endure. I'm trying to recognize these moments now and cherish them.

I'm not "saving" anything; we use our good china and crystal for every special event such as losing a pound, getting the sink unstopped, or the first Amaryllis blossom.

I wear my good blazer to the market. My theory is if I look prosperous, I can shell out \$28.49 for one small bag of groceries. I'm not saving my good perfume for special parties, but wearing it for clerks in the hardware store and tellers at the bank.

"Someday" and "one of these days" are losing their grip on my vocabulary. If it's worth seeing or hearing or doing, I want to see and hear and do it now.

I'm not sure what others would've done had they known they wouldn't be here for the tomorrow that we all take for granted. I think they would have called family members and a few close friends. They might have called a few former friends to apologize and mend fences for past squabbles. I like to think they would have gone out for a Chinese dinner or for whatever their favorite food was.

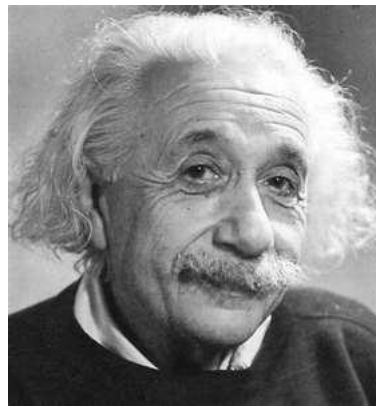
I'm guessing; I'll never know.

It's those little things left undone that would make me angry if I knew my hours were limited. Angry because I hadn't written certain letters that I intended to write one of these days. Angry and sorry that I didn't tell my husband and parents often enough how much I truly love them. I'm trying very hard not to put off, hold back, or save anything that would add laughter and luster to our lives. And every morning when I open my eyes, tell myself that it is special.

Every day, every minute, every breath truly is a gift from God.

"People say true friends must always hold hands, but true friends don't need to hold hands because they know the other hand will always be there."

**Life may not be the party we hoped for,  
but while we are here we might as well dance**



The intuitive mind is a sacred gift and the rational mind is a faithful servant.

We have created a society that honors the servant and has forgotten the gift...

~ Albert Einstein

## COFFEE HOUR INSTRUCTIONS...

Debby Kane has agreed to develop instructions for the coffee hour set-up and clean-up. She will also put the instructions for making coffee in the big pot on the wall in the kitchen.

Anyone wanting to share their culinary skills...is also encouraged to help out with our time of fellowship after the service. Instructions...should make this a much easier process!

## FIRST CHURCH – GOING GREEN!!

Vice-Moderator Richard Mazzei noted all the paper that we use at Meetings could be replaced by showing images on the wall with a projector. We have a projector...and a wall...so all that is left is getting the two together! Next Cabinet meeting...we will try to implement this suggestion!! Thanks Rich!



### "If I Had my Child to Raise Over Again"

If I had my child to raise over again,  
I'd fingerprint more and point fingers less.  
I'd do less correcting, and more connecting.

I'd take my eyes off my watch,  
and watch with my eyes.

I would care to know less, and know to care more  
I'd take more hikes and fly more kites.

I'd stop playing serious, and seriously play.  
I would run through more fields, and gaze at more stars.

I would do more hugging and less tugging.  
I would be firm less often, and affirm much more.


I'd build self-esteem first, and house later.

I'd teach less about the love of power,  
and more about the power of love!





## Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendars!

<i>Celebrate With Us...</i>		<i>Looking Forward</i>	
Sunday - 10 am	Worship	March 4 – after worship	Oaxaca Mission Trip Meeting
Sunday - 11 am	Rehearsal~Cherub Choir	March 6 – 6:30 pm	Men's Fellowship
Tuesday – 5:30 pm	Rehearsal~Worship Choir	March 10 – 6-10 PM	Steam Vent
Wednesday - 6 pm	Rehearsal~Cherub Choir	March 10	Set your clocks ahead!
Wednesday - 7:30 pm	AA / Alanon Meetings	March 11	Daylight Savings begins
Thursday – 6:00 pm	Rehearsal~Laurel City Singers	March 11 – after worship	Montreal Trip Meeting
		March 17	St Patrick's Day
		March 20	Spring Begins
		March 25	Open Mic Sunday
<b>Happy Birthday First Church</b>	<i>Board Meetings...</i>		
	March 06	PM Board	
	March 13	Board of Christian Ed.	
	March 20	Deacons	
	March 27	Cabinet Meeting	

## ★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

### March BIRTHDAYS

01 - Pat Wood  
 04 - Aedan McAllister  
 05 - Perry Green  
 06 - Steve Cassaday  
 06 - Roger Hurlbut  
 17 - Terence O'Neil  
 17 - First Church of Winsted  
 22 - Brittany Smyth  
 24 - Erik Janak  
 25 - Brianna Sollito.  
 28 - Laura McCaw  
 28 - Brigitte Gilbert-Corey  
 31 - Tamsin Pizinger

If you would have your birthday or  
 anniversary added to our list,  
 please email Deb Storrs:  
[dstorrs@snet.net](mailto:dstorrs@snet.net)

### Sunday School News:

Silver Lake Summer Camp  
 Calendars are available in the  
 Gathering Room. UCC camp  
 located in Sharon, CT. Week-  
 long sessions for 4th grade  
 thru high school. Sign up  
 early for best selection!  
 Camperships from the Marion  
 Bensle Memorial fund are  
 available through the Board of  
 Christian Education to assist  
 with attendance costs.



## **MONTREAL TRIP...**



### CALLING ALL CHURCH YOUTH (GRADES 7-12)!!!

Have you ever spent a spring weekend in Montreal? Maybe so, but  
 have you ever toured Montreal by bike?!? Dust off your passport  
 and join us on a visit to Old Montreal, the Latin Quarter, the St.  
 Lawrence River, and many other interesting places...on a bike! We  
 will leave Winsted on Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup> and return on Sunday,  
 June 3<sup>rd</sup>. For further details, join us at a meeting after the Worship  
 Service on Sunday, March 11.





# March 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <b>Artist: Karen Delton</b>	<b>March Birthstone:</b> <b>Aquamarine</b> 	<b>March Flower:</b> <b>Daffodil</b> 	<b>Astrological Signs</b> <b>Mar 1-20</b> <b>Pisces</b> <b>Mar 21-31</b> <b>Aries</b>	<b>1</b> <b>LCS</b> <b>7:00 PM</b>  <b>Pat Wood</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>10:00 am</b> <b>Worship Choir</b> <b>9:20 am</b> <b>Cherub Choir</b> <b>11:10 pm</b> <b>Oaxaxa Mission Trip Meeting</b> <b>Aedan McAllister</b>	<b>5</b>  <b>Perry Green</b>	<b>6</b> <b>NO</b> <b>Worship Choir</b>  <b>Men's Fellowship</b> <b>6:30 PM</b>  <b>Steve Cassaday</b> <b>Roger Hurlbut</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Cherub Choir</b> <b>6:00 pm</b> <b>AA/Alanon</b> <b>7:30 pm</b>  <b>PM Board</b> <b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>8</b> <b>LCS</b> <b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  <b>STEAM VENT</b> <b>Coffee House</b>  <b>Set your Clocks Ahead!</b>
<b>11</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>10:00 am</b> <b>Cherub Choir</b> <b>9:45 am</b> <b>Montreal Trip Meeting</b>  <b>Daylight Savings Begins</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>Worship Choir</b> <b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Cherub Choir</b> <b>6:00 pm</b> <b>AA/Alanon</b> <b>7:30 pm</b>	<b>15</b> <b>LCS</b> <b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  <b>Happy St. Patrick's Day!</b>  <b>Terence O'Neil</b> <b>First Church of Winsted</b>
<b>18</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>10:00 am</b> <b>Worship Choir</b> <b>9:20 am</b> <b>Cherub Choir</b> <b>11:10 pm</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Worship Choir</b> <b>5:30 pm</b>  <b>Spring Begins</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Cherub Choir</b> <b>6:00 pm</b> <b>AA/Alanon</b> <b>7:30 pm</b>	<b>22</b> <b>LCS</b> <b>7:00 PM</b>  <b>Brittany Smyth</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  <b>Prayer Shall Ministry</b> <b>10 am - noon</b>  <b>Whale Hockey Game</b>  <b>Erik Janak</b>
<b>25</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>10:00 am</b> <b>Open Mic</b> <b>Cherub Choir</b> <b>11:10 pm</b>  <b>Brianna Sollito.</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>Worship Choir</b> <b>5:30 pm</b>  <b>Cabinet</b> <b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Cherub Choir</b> <b>6:00 pm</b> <b>AA/Alanon</b> <b>7:30 pm</b>  <b>Laura McCaw</b> <b>Brigitte Gilbert-Corey</b>	<b>29</b> <b>LCS</b> <b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>   <b>Tamsin Pizinger</b>

"Happiness is not something you postpone for the future; it is something you design for the present." - **Jim Rohn**

**Some of our Coffee House performers have web sites...and music clips...check them out on line. See more info on page 6!**

# STEAM VENT

March 10th - Featured Performers  
Starting the Season off right!



## Coffee House

6:00 Open Mic - Bill Morrell

6:30 Chronic Rhythm - Owen Lovejoy & friends

7:00 Hannah Martocchio

7:30 Suzanne Vick [www.suzannevick.com](http://www.suzannevick.com)

8:00 Keyborgg Sounds - Don Jones/Randy Donaghy

8:30 Buzz Turner [www.buzzturner.com](http://www.buzzturner.com)

9:00 Robert Alan Scalla

9:30 Open Mic

### STEAM VENT CAFÉ - Italian Roulette Night!

Your choice of Ziti, Spaghetti or Macaroni.

Your choice of Alfredo Sauce, Marinara Sauce, or Penne Vodka Sauce.

Your choice of chicken breast or Italian sausage.

Green salad and warm Garlic bread \$7.00

Beverages \$1.00 ~ Deserts \$2.00

Music is FREE - free will offering to benefit missions - tax deductible!

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