

## Long Range Planning - Mission Statements

At the latest meeting of the Long Range Planning Committee, the need for a mission statement was discussed, because without a reason for our being, as a building block, it seemed impossible to come up with future plans.

Three versions of a mission statement were reviewed, and developed into a Mission Statement, a Welcome Statement, and a even a more formal statement that could be used in the bylaws.

### The Mission Statement:

(Or the reason we are here)  
To give as many people, whether young or old, guidance toward being what God

wants them to be.

### The Welcome Statement:

Come to be uplifted by the Spirit and strive to follow the path that God has planned for you. Know that you are welcomed, loved and cared for.

### The By-law Mission Statement:

We, of the First Church of winsted are called to proclaim the Gospel of Christ and the beliefs of both the American Baptist Church and the United Church of Christ in maintaining the worship of God. Our goal is to inspire in all persons a love of Christ, a passion for righteousness, and a consciousness of our duties to

God and our fellow human beings. We demonstrate this through worship and ministering to the needs of His people.

Anything we do to show love is worthwhile: a smile, a word of encouragement, a small act of kindness or sacrifice help us to grow by these actions. We must learn to love our enemies, and let go of the hate, envy, bitterness and the refusal to forgive.

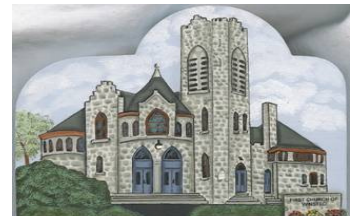
It is good to have a place to start...to help develop our mission...not only with First Church, but through First Church...and out to our neighbors, our neighboring communities...and out into the world!



November  
2009

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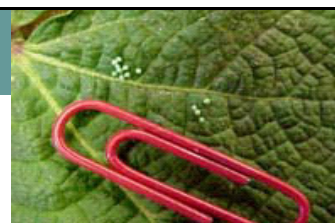
Artwork by Karen Delton

## Stewardship Month!

November is the month of giving thanks...for what we have, for what we do...for what others do for us...and more.

Tanya Mongitore and Kim Janak have volunteered to head up our Stewardship campaign for 2010. Many butterflies can taste with their feet to find out whether the leaf they sit on is good to lay eggs on to be their caterpillars' food or not. The picture

shows butterfly eggs, and the paper clip gives us a point of perspective...even smaller than a mustard seed (talk about faith!)...these little eggs will hatch into caterpillars and evolve into beautiful butterflies. It is an involved process...like stewardship. But the results are great. Your gifts of your time, talents, and of course, your tithes can help bring the knowledge of the love



of our Savior Jesus Christ to others. And a smile, a hug or some words of encouragement go a long way for folks who are in need. Your pledge helps First Church of Winsted fulfill that mission...to touch the lives of so many...young and old alike! Prayerfully consider your 2010 pledge.

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## PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Greetings all,

As I grow older, I find myself thinking more often about "the good ol' days". I often wish that my children had the same opportunity I had to spend so much time with our cousins and grandparents. There was never a question as to what we were going to do on Sunday after church. We would always go to my grandparent's house in New Haven. Our cousins would also be there, and we'd have dinner together and then play games or go somewhere with Grandpa.

While the gatherings were always memorable, there was one particular aspect of those Sunday afternoons that caught the attention of us children. Each and every time we went to my grandparent's house, each family would bring something small for my grandparents. Often it was fresh fruit, and in particular, oranges. They were considered to be a gift with good luck. And Sunkist

seedless oranges were tops. What we all remember so vividly is that no matter what you brought as a gift to them, Grandma and Grandpa would send some of it back home with you.

As we reached our cynical teenage years, we would regularly joke among ourselves that you should only give Grandma and Grandpa things you like or want....because inevitably, they'll give it back to you. If you liked oranges, bring them six and three will be sent home with you. If you like candy, bring a pound and you'll go home with a half a pound. It never mattered what you gave to my grandparents. Sooner or later, you were going to get back a portion of whatever you gave them.

When I mentioned that tradition to someone in college, he told me that he thought that giving back a gift was impolite. It was a sign of rejection, along the lines of Elvis Presley's hit song, "Return to Sender". So I asked my grandparents about it, and they explained to me that it was the opposite. It wasn't about rejection or giving back. It was about sharing.

If you receive something good from someone, you should always share some of that goodness back with the giver. That was something they learned while growing up in China, and they noted that the less people have, the more important the act of sharing becomes, as everyone should have some good in their lives.

Each of us receives a multitude of blessings each day from God, and I hope you'll remember that it is not rude to give something back to God in return. In the next few weeks you'll be hearing about our 2010 budget and personal perspectives from various members and friends on why First Church is important to them. Pledge cards will be sent to everyone, and we will be collecting those cards on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

As we approach our national day of Thanksgiving, I hope you'll show your thanks by returning to God a portion of the blessings you have received.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Mike*

## Harvest Supper

Our Annual Harvest Supper will be held Friday, November 7th at 5 PM .

Menu will include:

Baked Ham, Butternut Squash, Red Potatoes, Peas & Carrots,  
Cranberry Juice, Bread & Desserts

Tickets will be \$10 for Adults, \$8 Seniors and \$5 for Children 3-12

All food items are donated, there is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room!

Please Contact Laura McCaw for more information!





## Children's Discovery Center



Apparently someone hit the CDC sign in the parking lot, and the fix-it

fairies have been about fixing things! CDC is very thankful for the wonderful repairs that are on-going.

There was apparently a mixed message about which roof needed fixing, and the wrong one got attention, but it probably needed work as well.

The Fire Marshall inspected the sight and issued a new certificate. The Fire extinguishers were inspected and approved for another year.

Susan McAllister and Don Sherman visited the center on Oct 22 and 23 for a Fire Prevention safety program, complete with a fire engine followed

up by a walk to the Fire Station.

The Staff completed it's First Aide/CPR/CT Child Care courses, and Medication Administration is the next area to be covered. Contracts for consultants have been signed and Emergency Books have been prepared.

Enrollment is up to 22 children in the M-W-F group, and 12 in the T-TH group. There are 3 students who are 5 day and one is every other week.

There are plans to visit an Apple Orchard, and the busses will be donated by Camp Jewell (Eric Tucker).

Fundraising is underway with the Genevieve Gift Wrap sale, which will have been completed by the time of printing.

In addition to Fundraising, the center

will be applying for two grants.

One from the Libby Holman Foundation and one from the Community Foundation with the help of Ruthie Napoleone (a parent) and Pastor Mike.

The Fall Newsletter will be distributed. The plan was to have them seasonally, but there have been requests to have them more often.

It's always busy at CDC...and if you know of any young person who might benefit from Nursery School, please have them contact Karen Sovak at 379-4838.

There's always room for more!

## Litchfield County Sampler! Radio Hour *Laurel City Singers in Concert!*

Laurel City Singers will present our take off on a "Prairie Home Companion" November 8th at 2 PM. We are calling it our Litchfield County Sampler - Radio Hours

Yep...complete down home country stories of Lake Highland, some good old fashion musical selections...AND even some old radio jingles!

The featured piece is Ysaye Barnwell's "We Are," which is a selection about hope for our youth.

Our own Riley Storrs will be singing the Oscar Meyer bologna song as one of the jingles during the show!

It will be a very interesting afternoon to say the least. Where else

can you see a live radio broadcast...ok...maybe not broadcast...how about recorded, or video taped?

We even have our own call letters...WLCS...bet you can't figure that out...ey? You can? Wacky Laurel City Singers...ok...you got me on that one...!

So...Mark you calendars for November 8 at 2 PM...and join us for some good ole hometown fun in the Laurel City...where the gals are all gorgeous, the guys are witty...and the singers hardly ever sing off-key!

Tickets \$10 Adult, \$8 Seniors and \$20 per family. See Debbie Storrs.

## Worship Service at Laurel Hill Health Center

On Sunday, November 22 at 2 PM, First Church of Winsted will be visiting Laurel Hill Health Center and providing a worship service for the residents.



Laurel Hill has a strict policy about the health of visitors...and even though we would love for everyone to go, if you are not feeling well, please sit this one out.





## Christmas Fair Plans Underway



Laura McCaw and Chris Steele are the co-chairs of this year's Christmas Fair on December 5th. The fair runs from 9 til 3 PM. Tables are beginning to fill up... and there is even more room because we are using the Conference Room too! Barbara Mazzei will be getting information out about our Basket Raffle. For those of you who are new to

our fair...the Baskets are Themed - like Movie Night, Music, Car Care, Books, Coffee, Cooking...etc. If you are willing to donate a basket, there will be a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room. There will be the traditional Luncheon and maybe even a visit from old Saint Nick himself. Christmas Trees and Wreathes

will be available as well. Volunteers are needed for set-up and clean-up. If you would like a space, or know of someone who might like a space...or would like to volunteer to work, please call Laura @ 480-1565 or Chris @ 738-9333 or 307-3437!



HO HO HO!!!



## STEAM VENT Coffee House Last Chance for 2009 11/21

The Final Steam Vent for 2009 will be held on **SATURDAY**...yes Saturday, November 21st from 6-9 PM.

Steam Vent Café will be open from 6 until 8 PM serving Chinese food... courtesy of Mike's Mom! YUM!! You have to try the sticky buns!

Scheduled Performers include: Bookends, Pastor John and Allison Desorbo, Tom Sheeley, Don Jones, Mad River Crossing and Dark Horse. If you haven't yet attended one this season...plan to come out and see what you've been missing. You can sit and chat in the Gathering Room

(Steam Vent Café) or listen concert style in the Sanctuary.

The musicians are donating their time and talents for your listening pleasure... Come and tell them thanks!

Thanks to Fran for taping for Channel 13, and to the cooks and roadies!

Like the words of the song say: Stay all night, stay a little longer Dance all night dance a little longer Pull off your coat throw it in the corner, Don't see why you can't stay a little longer!



Come on down for really great Chinese food if nothing else! But don't let this last hurrah of the season get by you!

We have a suggested donation of \$10...but give what you can! No donation is too small. But don't let that stop you from coming! Can't give anything... let your presence be your gift.

Come on down...kick off your shoes... and forget about life for awhile!

Can I get a Yeee-haaa???

### Music Rehearals

**SENIOR CHOIR** rehearses on Mondays from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. Singing the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays.

**CHERUB CHOIR** meets on Tuesday's from 6-6:30 and singing praises the 2nd Sunday of each month.

**FOLK GROUP (made up of folk)** is forming for Open Mic Sunday's (4th Sunday. We rehearse Wednesday evenings at 6:30.

### Church Clean-up Day!

Saturday, November 14th a Clean-up day is being scheduled from 8 until noon. Debby Kane will ask Eric Christiansen to come down and give instructions on putting the garden to bed...get it...bed? There is raking and sweeping outside and also some cleaning activities inside...to help get spiffed up for Fall! So bring your rakes and shovels...dusters and mops? And we'll get to spiffing!

### Thanksgiving for Shut-ins

Denise Jones and Rhonda LeKang are looking for food donations for a traditional Thanksgiving meal to be prepared and delivered to our Shut-ins and to the shelter. If you can donate, please see Denise for details.

Drivers are also needed for Thanksgiving day to deliver the meals.

## Time to Think about the 2010 Awards - Woman of the UCC

March 1, 2010 is the deadline for nominating a woman from your church to be a Recognized Woman. Is there a particular "some-woman" who helps make things move smoothly in your church? Who is always there to lend a hand? Who never says "no" to any request from her family, her church, her community? Then the Woman of the UCC want to hear about her! She will be celebrated at the 82nd Annual meeting of Connecticut Women of the UCC in the Southbury Congregational Saturday April 24th, 2010. More info will be forthcoming in future issues of the Bellringer.

This year they would like to see some young women recognized—they know there are some out there who do a lot for their churches and communities and they would like to celebrate women of all ages.

Entries must be received no later than March 1st, 2010. Send a short typed paragraph of your nominee's outstanding work, to: Pam Didio, CT Women of the UCC, 125 Sherman Street, Hartford, CT 06205. (email: [pamd@ctucc.org](mailto:pamd@ctucc.org)).

Please be sure to include the following:

- Name and address of nominee
- Name of her church
- Name and phone number of person submitting nomination ( in case we have questions )
- Brief description of why this nominee should be recognized

Please only submit one or two nominations per church. The nominees will receive a personal invitation to attend this year's annual meeting and we encourage people from her church to come and help her celebrate. "Frosting on the cake" would be for her congregation to pay her registration. This would be a nice surprise for your honoree(s). (Only a suggestion).

### New Church Directory

Our new Church Directory is in the works. Tricia Wu is heading up this project, and says she has had a good number of responses turned in.

If you have not yet turned in your information, please get it to Tricia as soon as possible. She will be in-putting the information during November, and hopes to have it available for church members by December 1st.

### UCC News

The Litchfield North Association of the UCC sent two delegates to the Synod in June 2009 which was held in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Our local delegates were:

Denise Clapsaddle from the Riverton Congregational Church and Tracy Gray from the Cornwall Congregational Church.

### Children's Christmas Pageant

Plans are underway for the Children's Christmas Pageant, which will take place during the service on December 20th. Dan Jones has some surprises in store for this year's pageant. It could be a "Rockin' Christmas" this year.

So hold onto your seats...as our youth take us on a Rock-n-Roll roller coaster ride into the Christmas Season! Rising to the occasion...free falling and following the curves that the Lord gives us...but brining us home safely in the end! Christ is Born!

### Church Family Thanksgiving Dinner

The Youth Group will be preparing a Thanksgiving Dinner for the entire Church Family for after Service on Sunday, November 22nd. AND it's free!

Yep...a whole Turkey Dinner with all the fixins!

There will be a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room so they can get a head count and prepare enough food!

So plan to stick around and share a traditional meal together...we are all thankful for something...no?

Happy Thanksgiving!

## 20th Annual Boar's Head Festival

The 20th Annual Boar's Head Festival plans are underway...and there are plenty of opportunities to volunteer! Christmas is a time of sharing...time, talents, and even an encouraging word!

It is so hard to believe that the festival celebrating it's 20th season...and for those of us who have been there through the whole run, a bit scary. Where does the time go! Just yesterday, John Eggering was the baby Jesus... and is now about to get his driver's license!

We need:

- Volunteers to prepare sandwiches, vegetable or fruit platters, bring chips, bake cookies...etc for the meal for the cast between the two Saturday performances, and set up the meal during the first show
- Folks willing to come and help iron costumes
- Greeters to help hand out programs and escort guests to their seats
- Cast members - woodsmen, family gentry
- Plastic tapers...set-up and clean-up crew.

This is a huge undertaking for a church of this size...but the results are amazing. Please don't wait to be asked... just stick up your hand and volunteer. AND pray for good weather!

## Property Maintenance Board News...

Debby Kane reports that the following projects have been completed:

1. Painting of back hallway
2. Painting of cement floor
3. Tape, spackle, paint closet in Conference Room
4. Fix shed roof in CDC playground
5. Fix back door at CDC
6. Fix CDC sign that was knocked over
7. Move all paint to large back closet
8. Seven new door mats

All the fire extinguishers have been checked, approved and have new tags

Debby and Bud met with custodian Sean Storrs for his annual review, which was favorable. A new vacuum has been donated.

Recently completed was the removal of paint from the wood molding in the back hallway, and the molding has been restained.

The floors in the sanctuary have been polished with the help of community service. The brass has been polished both in the sanctuary and in the balcony!

Clean-up...spiff-up...is underway. Speaking of clean-up...don't forget to volunteer for the Fall Clean-up day on November 14th from 7:30 AM till Noon! We will be working inside and out! Many hands make light work!

A possible solution to heating the water in the baptistery is being considered. The possibility of using a submersible heating unit will be explored. Cold water in the baptistery...is not a

good thing!

The collection of old paint will be checked out to see which cans are still good, and the rest will be disposed of.

Eric Christiansen...our garden guru, will be asked if he can help us get the rock garden in shape for winter...you gardeners out there may want to come learn from our pro!

B&D Landscaping has been doing our plowing and sanding during the winter, and they will be contacted to see if they will be available for 2009-2010 winter season.

Our new carpets...all installed, and the new carpet smell is finally starting to wear off.

The benches for the choir...in fire engine red (not that fire engine red is a bad color...for our resident fire-fighters), is really seaming to clash with our new color scheme. Anyone with upholstery knowledge...?? We would like to cover in a more coordinating colored fabric.

And finally, Tanya Mongitore could use someone's help to replace the felt on our bulletin boards downstairs. She needs an extra pair of hands to help hold the fabric in place...they are a bit larger than she had anticipated. If you are willing to help out with this project, please speak to Tanya!

Phew...we have certainly been busy! Busy hands are happy hands, so they say!

*Note of thanks from the editor to the computer fairie who secretly donated a new laptop to the cause! :-)*

# Just for fun...

Forget Rednecks here is what Jeff Foxworthy has to say about New Englanders...

If your local Dairy Queen is closed from October through April, you live in New England .

If someone in a Home Depot store offers you assistance and they don't work there, you live in New England

If you've worn shorts and a parka at the same time, you live in New England .

If you've had a lengthy telephone conversation with someone who dialed a wrong number, you live in New England

If 'Vacation' means going anywhere south of New York City for the weekend, you live in New England.

If you measure distance in hours, you live in New England

If you know several people who have hit a deer more than once, you live in New England .

If you have switched from 'heat ' to 'A/C' in the same day and back again, you live in New England.

If you can drive 65 mph through 2 feet of snow during a raging blizzard without flinching, you live in New England .

If you install security lights on your house and garage, but leave both unlocked, you live in New England.

If you carry jumpers in your car and your wife knows how to use them, you live in New England .

If you design your kid's Halloween costume to fit over a snowsuit, you live in New England .

If the speed limit on the highway is 55 mph -- you're going 70 and everybody is passing you, you live in New England .

If driving is better in the winter because the potholes are filled with snow, you live in New England.

If you know all 4 seasons: almost winter, winter, still winter and road construction, you live in New England.

If you have more miles on your snow blower than your car, you live in New England .

If you find 20 degrees 'a little chilly', you live in New England.

If there's a Dunkin Donuts on every corner, you live in New England.

If you actually understand these jokes, you live in New England



## What is it like to be a Christian?

It is like being a pumpkin.

God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. Then He cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, and greed. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see.



The Artistry of: Nancy Herzig, Norfolk, CT



## Don't Forget our Shut-ins

~ Nora Bacon ~  
~ Marion Chapin ~  
~ Pauline Fancher ~

**Laurel Hill Health Care**  
**108 East Lake Street**  
**Winsted, CT 06098**



# 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 Senior Choir Rehearsal Cherub Choir Rehearsal Folk Group Rehearsal AA / Alanon Meetings Laurel City Singers	November 7      5:30 pm November 8      2:00 pm November 11 November 14      7:30 am November 21      6:00 pm November 22      11:30 am November 22      2:00 pm November 26 December 5      9 am - 3 pm December 12 December 21 December 24 December 25	Harvest Supper Laurel City Singers Concert Veteran's Day Church Clean-up Day Steam Vent Coffee House Church Thanksgiving Dinner Worship at Laurel Hill Thanksgiving Day Church Fair Hannukah Winter Begins Christmas Eve Service Christmas Day
		<i>Board Meetings...</i>	
November 3      7:00 pm November 10      6:30 pm November 17      7:00 pm November 24      7:00 pm		PM Board Board of Christian Ed. Deacons Cabinet	
			

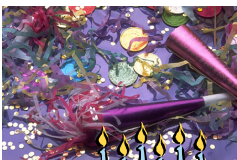
## Birthdays/Anniversaries

### November Birthdays

03 - Gloria Lee  
 04 - Steve Roy  
 08 - Robert O'Connor  
 17 - Aaron Schames  
 18 - Ayriana Jarboe  
 27 - Lisa Toomey  
 27 - Bob Miles  
 29 - Abigail Beaulieu

### November Anniversaries

♥ None



### 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  
 25 - Baby Jesus  
 26 - Courtney Toomey  
 31 - Noreen Marchand  
 31 - Bob Steele

### December Anniversaries

♥ 13 - Jamie & Sabrina McAllister



**Christian Butterfly** symbolism has been talked about throughout the ages. The butterfly emerging from the chrysalis has traditionally been a symbolism of Christ rising from the tomb.

The stages of the butterfly - egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, and butterfly are wonderful analogies to our life as Christians.

- The miracle starts with an **egg** the size of the top of a straight pin....just as human life starts with a tiny fertilized egg. A few short days later a TINY caterpillar emerges through the shell of the egg.....a baby is born.
- The **caterpillar** stage of eating, eating, eating is symbolic of life on earth.....preoccupied so often with the physical and material.
- In the **chrysalis** stage it appears the caterpillar is lifeless inside the chrysalis.....symbolizing death and the darkness of the tomb, an inevitable reality. But, lo, inside of the chrysalis a miracle is taking place.....
- The **butterfly** emerges..... symbolic of our souls rising from the grave and ascending into heaven and eternal life.

Christian butterfly symbolism can also be found in comparing the butterfly *metamorphosis* (transformation) to Christian *metanoia* (conversion or transformation).

*2 Corinthians 5:17 "So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come."*





Artist: Karen Delton

# First Church of Winsted

## November 2009

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>1</b> Worship 10 AM  Senior Choir 9:20 AM  All Saints Day	<b>2</b> Senior Choir 6:00 pm	<b>3</b> Cherub Choir 6:00 pm  PM Board 7:00 pm	<b>4</b> Folk Group 6:30 pm  AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	<b>5</b> Laurel City Singers 7:00 pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> HARVEST SUPPER 5:30 pm
<b>8</b> Worship 10 AM Cherub Choir 9:30  Stewardship Sunday  Laurel City Singers Concert 2PM	<b>9</b> Senior Choir 6:00 pm	<b>10</b> Cherub Choir 6:00 pm  Chris Ed 6:30 pm	<b>11</b> Folk Group 6:30 pm  AA/Alanon 7:30 pm  Veteran's Day	<b>12</b> Boar's Head Rehearsals Begin!  Laurel City Singers 7:00 pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY 7:30 am –Noon
<b>15</b> Worship 10 AM  Senior Choir 9:20 AM	<b>16</b> Senior Choir 6:00 pm	<b>17</b> Cherub Choir 6:00 pm  Deacons 7:00 pm	<b>18</b> Folk Group 6:30 pm  AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	<b>19</b> Laurel City Singers 7:00 pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> COFFEE HOUSE 6-9:30 PM Chinese Night!
<b>22</b> Worship 10 AM Open Mic Sunday  Church Family Thanksgiving Dinner After Service!  Laurel Hill Service 2:00 PM	<b>23</b> Senior Choir 6:00 pm	<b>24</b> Cherub Choir 6:00 pm  Cabinet 7:00 pm	<b>25</b> Folk Group 6:30 pm  AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	<b>26</b> Thanksgiving	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Worship 10 AM  Senior Choir 9:20 AM	<b>30</b> Senior Choir 6:00 pm	<b>31</b> Cherub Choir 6:00 pm	Dec 1	Dec 2	Dec 3	Dec 4