

## Pastor's Word

Greetings in the Name of Christ,

As the crisp temperatures of Fall settle in and the leaves of the trees fall to the ground, our minds begin turn to the upcoming holiday season. Yes, it is November already, and Thanksgiving Day will soon be here. While the holidays are a time for joy and celebration, it is also a time of increased activity and oftentimes a lot of stress. I hope that you will be able to take a few moments in the days and weeks ahead to relax and to ponder the true meaning of the holidays.

Thanksgiving is a state of mind, and while the Thanksgiving holiday is a time when we make a special effort to give thanks to God for all the blessings we have received, it is something we should be doing year round! Also, during Thanksgiving, we should evaluate the reasons for our giving thanks. The Pilgrims were thankful that they were alive....they thanked God that they survived the weather, managed to gather enough food to prevent malnutrition, and for the fact that they were able to worship in the manner they desired. Their reasons for thanksgiving should be contrasted with many of our current expectations and desires: TVs that are almost as big as an entire wall of our houses, cell phones that not only make calls but that can surf the Internet, and creature comforts that weren't even a dream a few decades ago.

While there is no question that many are feeling the pressures of the current economic challenges, it is my honest opinion that even in these "worst of times," most of us are living a better life now than when we were children. Medical care has improved, technology has made life easier, and we can communicate with people around the world instantaneously over the Internet. Our expectations just continue to increase, and as expectations continue to increase, we need to make sure that there isn't a decrease in our thanking God for all that we have. So it is my wish that during this Thanksgiving Season, you may realize how you have been truly blessed by God's love and grace.

Speaking of blessings, we worship in an incredibly beautiful building. But as I mentioned during worship in the past few weeks, with a wonderful building comes the need to maintain it. The front steps of the Church building began to settle this year, and it was determined that repairs had to be made before the winter months. Through the grace of God, we were able to find someone to do the necessary repairs at a very reasonable cost: \$2,000, labor and materials included. However, we did not budget that expense, and so we will be taking a special offering during the next few weeks to defray the cost of the repairs. I borrowed the name of the 1971 hit by Led Zeppelin for the name of the offering: "The Stairway to Heaven Offering". While no one agrees on what the lyrics of that hit song really mean, I believe that our earthly lives are a journey that leads us to God and to heaven. As such, our Church, including those who are a part of it and the building in which we worship, are part of the stairway that leads us to heaven.

Some of the stairs along our journey to heaven needed some repair, and I hope that we can all make a contribution to The Stairway to Heaven Offering to show our thanks and appreciation to God for making First Church a part of our earthly lives. Envelopes will be placed in the Sunday bulletin, or you may send your contribution to the Church. Merely note in the memo section of your check that it is for The Stairway to Heaven Offering.

Blessings,

*Mike*



**OCTOBER 2010**

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

## Picture That...if you can...



Benny the Cat being put in his place..."I ain't 'fraid of no cat!" and he lived to fight another day!

Photo by Katherine Griswold <http://katherinegriswoldphotography.com/>



Haunted Graveyard at Lake Compounce had a great turn out with 33 attending...very frightening and ghoulish. Screams galore...scared silly. Great Fun!

Comments:

Susan Pfeiffer Tripodina just in from an awesome night at haunted graveyard with some great kids and friends! Thanks for all your hard work Cindy Lownds Roys and Rich! We had a great time!

### NEW CHOIR ROBES

New robes for the choir have been ordered for the Senior Choir through the generosity of Jack Conrad's memorial for Jessie! The order has been confirmed, and may be here in time for Christmas services!

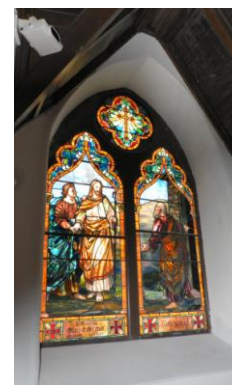
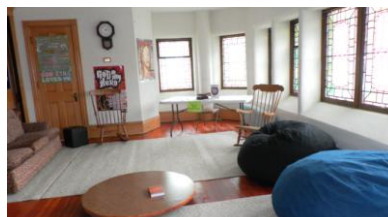
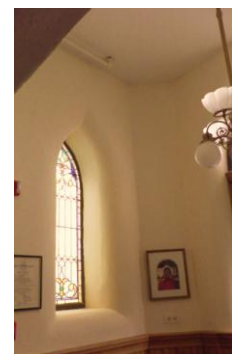
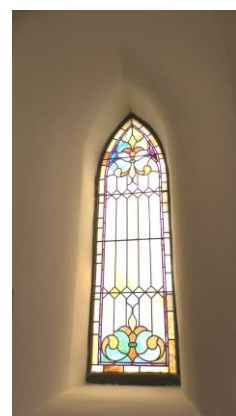
### FALL CLEAN-UP

Fall Clean-Up on November 6th from 8 am to noon. Even if you can only give an hour please come, you can work inside or out! Bring your elbow grease...and help us spiff things up for fall!!!! Report for duty and get your orders from Debby Kane...!

## Stairway to Heaven Offering

We are taking a special offering for the next two Sundays that Mike has called "the stairway to heaven" offering to cover the \$2,000 cost of fixing the front steps which have been done.

Bud and Steve have also finished the repair work in the Narthex which now looks great! The youth room upstairs has had the floor cleaned up and is taking shape. We will be adding a new rug and a computer too.



## Fall Session CT Conference UCC Annual Meeting

The Fall session of the One-Hundred Forty-Third Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ was held October 22-23, 2010 at Middletown High School, Middletown, Connecticut.

The theme of the weekend event was "Journey with Jesus...400 Years of Transforming Mission." It commemorated the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our nation's first overseas mission society, whose heritage lives on today in the UCC's Wider Church Ministries.

The international mission society was founded on September 5, 1810 by five men meeting in Farmington, Connecticut. Now we look forward to the next 200 years of mission and ministry.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Robert Orr, the Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Planning and Policy Coordination at the United Nations. He has published extensively on post-conflict reconstruction, peacekeeping and democracy promotion.

A number of workshops were offered. All were designed for 3 main categories of interest – Global Ministries, Local Ministry & Outreach and Evangelism.

**Bryan Nurnberg**, president and founder of **Simply Smiles, Inc.** was honored with the Living Waters Award, which recognizes outstanding Christian life and witness that is done outside the church setting as an expression of one's faith.

Rev. Charles L. Wildman marked his first appearance as Interim Conference Minister before the assembly. His service to the Conference began on August 15.

The Special Commission on Conference Sustainability, which has been examining the means by which the Conference funds its ministries reported to the assembled delegates. It has conducted wide-ranging interviews and research on the commitments and possibilities.

Worship was under the guidance of Conference Preacher the Rev. John Nelson, pastor of the Niantic Community Church.

Respectfully,

Gretel Eddy  
UCC Representative

## Board of Christian Education NEWS

- ✳ Stop by and check out the new youth group classroom in the former nursery. The old carpet has been taken out, thank you to Property Maintenance, lounge chairs, computer and cool faith posters have been added. It's a real cool, relaxed environment for the youth to converse and learn about their faith.
- ✳ Sunday School Superintendant Needed. We have been without a Superintendant for 2 years and it's an important position needed to support our volunteer teachers that the Board of Christian Education would really like to get filled. If anyone has any interest please speak to Denise Jones or Tanya Mongitore.
- ✳ Nursery Volunteers. We are still in need of volunteers to help out in the nursery on Sundays during worship. If you are willing to help out just one Sunday a month, please see Tanya Mongitore or Julie Davy.
- ✳ Tran-Siberian Orchestra Trip for the youth group on Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. See Julie Davy for further information.
- ✳ It was such a good time to break bread together last year that the Youth Group will be hosting the All Church Thanksgiving Feast on Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup> right after worship. Please sign up in the gathering room to help us plan for food.

### Looking Ahead...

- ✳ Christmas Pageant, Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> during worship
- ✳ Confirmation Classes to begin in February



## Upcoming Events



Trans-Syberian Orchestra Winter Tour 2010 at Hartford XL Center, Sat. Nov 6th, 3:30 p.m. Energized classical and contemporary music with light show. Group leaving church parking lot at 1:30 p.m., returning 6:30- 7:00 p.m. Signed permission form required. Cost to church member \$14. Room for 1 more rider if they contact July Davy before Mon.

**Laurel City Singers**  
In Concert

**Rockin' Revival**

**Sunday - Nov 14 at 2 PM**

<b>TICKETS:</b> \$10 Adult ♦ \$8 Senior Citizen ♦ \$20 Family 860-482-3491	<b>FIRST CHURCH OF WINSTED</b> 95 North Main Street
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*Laurel City Singers* has donated 140 tickets to this event to local area Churches and Senior Centers. Each location received 10 complimentary tickets...to give out as they choose. We recognize that these are very difficult economic times...and want to share our music...because it is a gift from God.

Door prize for the best costume...if you would like to come in your poodle skirt and saddle shoes...fringed jacket and sandals...go go boots anyone? Leather jackets...blue jeans and penny loafers...and duck-tails. Long-haired Hippy Folk, Flower Children and Greasers Welcome...!

Come on down and take a walk down memory lane...as we Rock Around the Clock!

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF BUNCO!!

Saturday November 20<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm

The First Church of Winsted

Donation \$15.00 per person



A FUNDRAISER FOR THE FIRST CHURCH OF WINSTED, YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO MEXICO

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!!!!

- SNACKS AND BEVERAGES SERVED BY OUR YOUTH GROUP
- PRIZES TO BE GIVEN AWAY AT THE END OF THE GAME
- DESSERT AND COFFEE DURING PRIZE DRAWINGS
- TWO TO THREE ROUNDS OF PLAY
- PENNY AUCTION
- A GREAT NIGHT OUT!!!

RESERVE A SPOT TODAY; BRING A FRIEND OR TWO TO JOIN IN THE FUN!!

Call Glenell Morris, 860-480-0233 or email [glenellm@earthlink.net](mailto:glenellm@earthlink.net)  
Or sign up in the gathering room at the First Church of Winsted

SEE YOU THERE!!  
THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

## STEAM VENT COFFEE HOUSE & CAFÉ

Saturday, November 13 ~ 6-9 PM

Featured Performers:

6:20 – Rock Stars

(Riley Storrs & Alex Cassaday)

6:30 – Just Us Goilz

(The Ladies of Mad River Crossing)

7:00 – Cece & Ruth (always fun!)

8:00 – Riverstone (vocal duo)

8:30 – Jim Palermo & Tom Hanaford  
(harmonicas, fiddles, guitar)

Soup & Salad night at the Steam Vent Café!

Turkey & Sausage Soup or Corn Chowder and Salad \$5

Delicious...decadent deserts...yum! \$2

Various Beverages \$1

Steam Vent Coffee Houses will run every 2nd Saturday through November. If you would like a chance to perform, please call Debbie at 860-605-4742 or email

[info@firstchurchofwinsted.org](mailto:info@firstchurchofwinsted.org)

Benefit: Mission Activities

Free Will Offering

## Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendars!

<i>Celebrate With Us...</i>	<i>Board Meetings...etc.</i>	
<p><i>"Our Father, fill our hearts, we pray, With gratitude Thanksgiving Day; For food and raiment Thou dost give, That we in comfort here may live." - Luther Cross</i></p>	Nov 2	Property Maintenance Board
	Nov 9	Board of Christian Education
	Nov 16	Board of Deacons
	Nov 21	Thanksgiving Feast
	Nov 23	Cabinet
	Nov 25	Thanksgiving
	Nov 28	Advent Begins
	Dec 4	Christmas Fair



## Birthdays AND Anniversaries

### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

03 – Gloria Lee  
04 – Steven Roys  
07 – Lisa Nanni  
08 – Robert O'Connor  
16 – Kim Janak  
17 – Aaron Schames  
18 – Ayriana Marie Jarboe  
27 – Robert Miles  
27 – Lisa Toomey  
29 – Abigail Beaulieu

### NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

♥ None



## HARVEST SUPPER

The Annual Harvest Supper will be held on November 6<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 until 7 PM. Please check with Chris Steele or Laura McCaw for details!

**The Boar's Head Festival**

2011

January 8<sup>th</sup> ~ 4 PM & 7 PM  
January 9<sup>th</sup> ~ 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 Deline

### Positions Available:

Holy Families (3)  
Standard Bearer (3)  
Boar's Head Carrier  
Beefeater  
Family Gentry  
Woodsmen



## Leaves

*"How silently they tumble down  
And come to rest upon the ground  
To lay a carpet, rich and rare,  
Beneath the trees without a care,  
Content to sleep, their work well done  
Colors gleaming in the sun.*



*At other times, they wildly fly  
Until they nearly reach the sky.  
Twisting, turning through the air  
Till all the trees stand stark and bare.  
Exhausted, drop to earth below  
To wait, like children, for the snow."  
- Elsie N. Brady*



Artist: Karen Delton

# November 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Boar's Head Festival</b> <b>Reduced Rate Tickets</b> <b>Go on Sale December 4<sup>th</sup></b> <b>At the Christmas Fair</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Cherub Choir 6:00 Property Maint 7:00	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Church Cleanup Day 8-Noon Trans-Siberian Orchestra Harvest Supper 5:30-7:00
<b>7</b> Worship Service 10:00 am Senior Choir 9:30	<b>8</b> Sr Choir Rehearsal 6:00	<b>9</b> Cherub Choir 6:00 Chris Ed 6:45	<b>10</b> AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	<b>11</b> Laurel City Singers 7:00	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  STEAM VENT Coffee House 6-9 PM
<b>14</b> Worship Service 10:00 am Rockin' Revival Concert Laurel City Singers 2:00 PM Cherub Choir 9:45	<b>15</b> Sr Choir Rehearsal 6:00	<b>16</b> Cherub Choir 6:00 Deacons 7:00	<b>17</b> AA/Alanon 7:30	<b>18</b> Laurel City Singers 7:00 Boar's Head Festival Rehearsals Begin	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Bunco 
<b>21</b> Worship Service 10:00 am Senior Choir 9:30 All Church Thanksgiving Feast	<b>22</b> Sr Choir Rehearsal 6:00	<b>23</b> Cherub Choir 6:00 Laurel City Singers 7:00 Cabinet 7:00	<b>24</b> AA/Alanon 7:30	<b>25</b> Thanksgiving	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Worship Service 10:00 am Open Mic Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent	<b>29</b> Senior Choir Rehearsal 6:00	<b>30</b> Cherub Choir 6:00	<b>Dec 1</b> AA/Alanon 7:30	<b>Dec 2</b> Laurel City Singers 7:00	<b>Dec 3</b>	<b>Dec 4</b> Christmas Fair 9-3 Christmas Trees go on sale!