

**CHURCH CALL**  
**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**COVENTRY, CONNECTICUT**

**The Pastor's Corner**

*December 2011*

Christmas brings memories of my childhood in the Bronx. A week before the big day my Dad would go out to buy a tree. Then he would cart it home six blocks and up to our apartment. We were too impatient to wait to decorate it. Immediately the lights, which were always blue, went on along with the metal icicles that never stopped turning and radiating reflections. I recall sitting in front of the tree with its lights and ornaments for hours. My mind was filled with visions of what would happen Christmas morning. I was chock full of hope. I was absolutely certain that good things were coming. No ifs, ands, or buts.

As I think back on those moments I realize that what was behind all that hope was not just Santa. Even deeper than that was what I had heard and sung in Sunday School. It was not just "T'was the night before Christmas" that was in my brain but "Silent Night" and "Come All Ye Faithful". It was not just reindeer in my imagination but the animals around the manger. Above all it was the one in the manger. Somehow the essential spirit of Christmas had touched me. That is why as I sat in front of the tree hope abounded in me.

The challenge every year is to give the secular side of Christmas its due, but not stop there. It's crucial to go beyond to the spiritual roots and the birth of the babe of Bethlehem. For me one way that comes is to sit in front of the tree as I did long ago and sense the glory of the hope in the word becoming flesh and dwelling among us as the first chapter of John's Gospel states. For others they get the spirit of Christmas when they attend a concert or hear "Messiah". Some people discover it as they go to a Sunday school pageant or a candlelight service. Still others sense it as they buy a heifer through Church World Service or make a contribution to the soup kitchen. Whatever practice works for you, do it. Don't ignore it in the middle of the muddle of Christmas. Latch on to the hope; that marvelous, breath taking hope that permeates the message that Christ is born. Don't let Christmas pass you by without doing what it takes to bring you to the core of it all. No ifs, ands, or buts, please.

*Pastor Jim*

**Report on Ministers' Continuing Education:**

Leslie Kennard and I participated in October in an on line seminar on spirituality for clergy conducted by Andover Newton Theological School. There were eleven of us from all parts of the country. We had reading assignments and a way to post observations and questions so the course leader and class members could respond. Leslie and I were inspired to be part of a community of faith and be traveling on a joyful journey of the spirit with clergy of many different denominations.

Continuing education is critical for clergy to grow in their skills and their spirit. The course once again proved this. It was both a challenge to and an affirmation of truths that are precious to us. One truth is that it is vital to meet life believing that a positive faith in Jesus Christ makes a world of difference. The second is how uplifting it is to be aware of God and God's moving in love every moment of the day.

*Pastor Jim*

## *From the Settled Supply Preacher*

Dear Friends,

A couple of weeks ago, one of Bill's nieces emailed me some photos of her in her living room with her cats and her new dog, a full size Labrador retriever. She was in a wing chair in front of her Christmas tree, with the retriever lying on its back in her lap, and two cats asleep on top of the chair and one trying to sleep on the dog's tummy. It was such a cute photo.

Wait! Back up. In front of the Christmas tree? I asked her about it, and she said she puts her tree up about mid-October and takes it down on Thanksgiving Day, because by then she's sick of it.

While I am astonished that she has so totally separated secular Christmas from the Real Thing: Christ in Christmas, it certainly gave me a sense of how hard it is to keep Christmas (with a capital C) as our first priority. It's not surprising, I guess. Starting...when did we see the first Christmas items appear on the shelves in CVS?...in early October?...we are inundated with advertisements intended to incite each of us into a panicky buying-frenzy. The newspaper doubles in size and my mail box that here-to-fore has held only five pieces of mail in the average month (roughly corresponding to my bills) is suddenly stuffed to overflowing with colorful advertisements and pleas from various charities. Even my next-door neighbor, who is Jewish, admits that she feels the pressure to get out there and shop even though Hanukkah hasn't veered so heavily into the material and secular realm.

Normally, when I watch TV, I use commercial time to empty the dishwasher or fold laundry or walk the dog. But when I'm too tired to move from the couch, I see lots of very happy people buying their way to popularity, power, and pride. It's (almost) enough to inspire me to grab my purse and head for Retail-Land. I am just as susceptible to a good ad campaign as anyone else, and it is very easy for me to get caught up in the buy-more-than-I-can-afford-and-do-it-NOW hysteria. So this year, I did all of my Christmas shopping on-line, and, with the exception of two gifts, I was done before October 1. (Yes, I confess, you hear me sounding a little smug here.)

BUT, now I am able to settle into the dark weeks of Advent, the time BEFORE Christmas, when we travel with the Israelites through the dark days of political, religious, economic, and cultural turmoil, some of which is happening here at home—even IN our homes—and some across the planet. Advent is the time when we look to the Israelites to get our bearings as children of God in an increasingly Godless world. Advent is the time, as the days get shorter and the nights get darker and longer, for us to gather together in worship—both at home and at church--away from the hue and cry of retail-mania, and open our hearts and lives to God, to hope, to the possibilities of peace in our hearts and in our homes and in our country and in our world.

The Advent promise of God is a lot to wrap our minds and hearts around. But we have four whole weeks BEFORE Christmas to spend on our Advent task of pondering what God did and is doing and will do in the dark hours of early Christmas Day. I believe that if we can stay the course and spend our Advent time thinking about Advent, and what God is in the process of giving us, then our preparations for Christmas will result in a holy day that is much more....Holy.           May you be blessed in all your preparations.

*Leslie*

## ***December Worship Schedule***

**December 4, 2011**

Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9

**December 11, 2011**

Scripture: Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

**December 18, 2011**

Scripture: Luke 1: 26-38

**December 24, 2011**

**December 25, 2011**

Scripture: Psalm 98 John 1: 1-14

**Worship at 9 & 10:30 a.m.**

Sermon: "Comfort My People"

Pastor Jim Silver

**Worship at 9 & 10:30 a.m.**

Sermon: "An Advent State of Mind" Leslie Kennard

One Service at 10:30 – Christmas Pageant

*See Christian Education section below for details about the pageant*

**Christmas Eve Services at 5:00 and 11:00 p.m.**

**Christmas Day -- One service at 10:30 a.m.**

Sermon: "Sing with Joy, Don't Hold Back"

## **BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE – DECEMBER 20 AT 7:00 PM**

Not everyone enjoys the Christmas holidays. Some people deeply miss loved ones who have died and Christmas becomes more tears than laughter. There are those who have family members in the armed services and they will be far apart during the holidays. Then some are burdened with heavy loads of care and anxiety that no amount of Christmas cheer can overcome. And there are those with mixed feelings of joy and sorrow at this time of year.

The Blue Christmas Service is for those of us who need to know that God understands and loves us just the way we are. We can bring to the Lord what troubles us as well as what brings us joy. There will be an opportunity to light candles by way of giving our concerns to God so there can be healing. The service will last about a half hour. Don't hesitate to bring your friends. This is for everyone, whether or not they attend this church.

## **IN THE CHURCH FAMILY**

### ***Joys and Concerns***

**In the hospital or ill at home:** *We extend our prayers for a return to better health:*

Priscilla Gillon

Amy Jones

Julie's friend, Kim

Aunt Barbara

Gene Mitchell

Pat Taylor

Bill's mom in Florida

Becky Bement

Chris

Alice Morrisey

Franklin Richardson

Sharon Gale

Brianna Banks

B.J Leone

Uncle John

Uncle Fred

Don Stark

**Those in Nursing Homes:**

Bill Brainard–Regency Healthcare Jill Hackett–Marlborough Healthcare Bill Scott–Mansfield Rehab

**Deaths in the Coventry Community:** *Our prayers are extended to the families and friends of those who died recently:*

"Blessed are you who mourn, for you shall be comforted"

James Ashley, October 27, 2011 – Kim Ashley's brother

Maureen Christensen, November 4, 2011 - Ethel Green and Tom's Christensen's mother

Paul Schmidt – Joyce Wicks brother-in-law

Barbara MacArthur – November 13, 2011

Loretta Benoit – November 21, 2011

## ***IN APPRECIATION***

***Thanks to all the Foodshare volunteers who stayed and helped mail the November Church Call. It is greatly appreciated.***

## ***FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE***

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB: [www.firstchurchcoventry.org](http://www.firstchurchcoventry.org)

YOU CAN E-MAIL THE CHURCH AT: [First.congregatnl@snet.net](mailto:First.congregatnl@snet.net)

Church Face book page:

[www.facebook.com/pages/First-Church-of-Coventry/172840529410169](http://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Church-of-Coventry/172840529410169)

### **COVENTRY CLERGY FUEL FUND**

The Coventry Wish Fund, celebrating its 37<sup>th</sup> year, will again fund the Coventry Clergy Fuel Bank.

The Fuel Bank assists with heating costs for residents in emergency situations. You may send warm holiday wishes by making a contribution this year. Your greeting will appear on the Town Hall Bulletin Boards, published on the Coventry Web page, [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org), in the Broadcaster and the Coventry Monthly. If you have contributed in the past, we thank you. One hundred percent of the dollars raised goes toward costs for Coventry residents. Please indicate on the line below how your names should be listed. Please submit this form by December 10<sup>th</sup> to appear in the Broadcaster. Contributions should be made out to the **Coventry Fuel Bank** and sent to: **Coventry Human Services, 1712 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238.**

### **FLOWER COMMITTEE NEWS**

The Flower Committee is now taking donations towards flowers for the Advent display. A 'Flower Offering' envelope has been included in this Call. Please fill out the appropriate memorial information and return it to the church office by Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. You may also place the envelopes in the offering plate at Sunday worship or in the church office with Kim. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Keenan at 742-1047. Additional flower envelopes are on the table underneath the nametag board in the hallway.

## **MOBILE Foodshare at First Congregational Church of Coventry!**

**Hosted by the Friendly Circle of First Church every other Wednesday from 10:00 – 10:30 a.m.**

This mobile pantry program provides primarily fresh fruits and vegetables to individuals & families in need. For more information, call 860-742-8487 or call Foodshare at (860) 286-9999. *(Please bring your own bag)*

**Upcoming Distribution Dates: December 7 & 21, January 4 & 18**

### **2012 NOLA Mission Trip Update**

We are up and running! After our first informational meeting, we have set the dates for our trip - next July 1st-7th. Hopefully you saw us tabling at the church fair! We are still looking to recruit a few more participants before December 18th. We are also looking to fund raise by handling yard work and maintenance projects. Do you need leaf removal or tree and limb removal following the snowstorm? We can set up a time for our work crew to practice our home building skills by painting and doing some interior work as well. We will work with you to help figure out what might be a reasonable donation in return for our service. Please contact Andy Wicks at [andrewj.wicks@yahoo.com](mailto:andrewj.wicks@yahoo.com) or speak with Fred North III at church. Keep a lookout for more updates from us as we prepare to bring our Coventry spirit and dedication to the Big Easy!

DID YOU KNOW? There is an Interfaith Sewing and Service group that meets weekly on Wednesdays at the Willimantic Congregational Church at 199 Valley St. (parking on Walnut). You can come for any part or all of the time between 10AM and 2:30PM. Come on your own or with a group; come with a project or for ideas or just help for someone else. Bring a lunch; learn a new skill; enjoy the fellowship of people on a mission to bring warmth and relief to people in all sorts of situations. You can get lists of projects, needed supplies and further details on pages 5 7 6 of the CT Women's newsletter- <http://www.ctucc.org/ctwomen>. Info submitted by Carol North

## *Tree Lighting and Caroling Program*

On Sunday, December 11, 2011 we will conduct our 24<sup>th</sup> annual Celebration of Life, Love, Faith and Family. The family program will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the Tree Lighting, and conclude with a *family* program of Christmas Carols and music in the Fellowship hall from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Like other years, the tree lighting part of the program is particularly significant. It is entitled In Celebration of Life and Love, Faith and Family. We will gather around the Blue Spruce tree that is decorated with lights that have special significance, sing carols and read the memorials and joys. Again, this year, we invite you to fill out the form below if you would like one of the lights in memory of someone, or in celebration of a special joy. This form will need to be returned to the office on or before December 9<sup>th</sup> to have your 'special name' included in the bulletin.

Directly following the Tree Lighting program, the families are invited to attend a special program of Christmas carols and music. If you would like to use the child-care service, please fill out the information below.

A special part of the Caroling program is sharing our Favorite Holiday Treats. We are asking all those who attend the program to bring something to share. This year we would like to start encouraging less sweets, due to so many that have sugar restrictions, and instead bring more appetizers to share. As always, hot-spiced cider will be available. Please join us!

If anyone is interested in performing a special selection, please contact Fred North II through the church office by December 9<sup>th</sup> at 860-742-8487 or 870-742-5689.

-----Please cut and return this form-----

In Celebration of Life and Love, Faith and Family

**In memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**From** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Celebration of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**From** \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people attending the Tree Lighting Program \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people attending the Caroling Program \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to the church office no later than December 8<sup>th</sup>. For your convenience, you may leave it in the envelope on the office door

## **Your Pastoral Search Committee**

### **Give Thanks!!**

Our "local church profile" is finished! We are on the schedule we set for ourselves, and after a brief break to give thanks with family and friends, we will have a few sessions to prepare for upcoming interviews, and soon ministerial profiles should start coming to us for consideration.

You can track our progress on our bulletin board in the social hall each week.

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome; please feel free to talk with any member of the Search Committee.

Peter Sturrock, Joyce Wicks, Walt Chambers, Fred North III,  
Marj Roach, Regina Malsbary, Mark Skripol and Susan Prusack

### **Board of Pastoral Relations Announcement**

What's on your mind? Please let us know what you're thinking about transition ministry, our services, our church, or anything else. Feel free to drop a note in the offering plate, or an envelope in our box in the church office or speak with one of our members; Marilyn Barrette, Bruce Campbell, Bob Ford, Doris LeDoyt, Marj Roach or Jim Watson. We would love to hear from you.

### **CHRISTMAS IN COVENTRY – SAVE THE DATE**

Sunday 12- 4:00 p.m. for an Old Fashioned Christmas in Coventry Village  
Horse and wagon rides, chlorate bazaar, Santa Claus, Community Carol Sing, Pony rides, old-fashioned country cupboard. Call Rose Fowler for vendor information

### **Pictorial Directory Update**

Now that all the photos have been taken, work will soon begin on the design of our pictorial directory. The printed directories will be available in time for our 300th anniversary early in 2012.

### **Christmas Tour**

On December 3 our church will be included in the Coventry Historical Society's 2011 Christmas tour of historic homes and buildings. The 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee is coordinating this activity with the Historical Society and will serve as docents during the tour. For more information about this event, call 860-465-9437 or visit the Society's website at <http://www.ctcoventryhistoricalsociety.org/>. Your 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee has great items for your Christmas giving: - tan and gray tee shirts, for \$15

### **SUPPER OF THE MONTH**

On Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> we hosted a Roast Turkey dinner from 4:30 – 6:30 in our Social Hall. We served a total of 198 dinners for a profit of \$1,304 after Sunday sales. Our buffet style dinners are catching on. Thanks to everyone who donated turkeys and other items to defray the still ever-rising costs of food. Our next supper will be held on January 14, 2012. We have not decided yet on a menu yet – stay tuned for more information soon.

*Reminder: We do not have a supper in December. Happy New Year and see you on January 14!*

## NOTES FROM THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Warmest holiday greetings from your Board of Christian Education! As we all navigate the busy season of Advent our thoughts go to providing a meaningful experience for our youth. Our biggest announcement in this regard is the upcoming performance of our Sunday School in the annual Christmas program. We hope everyone can be on hand to be entertained by our young faithful thespians as they share an inspiring message of for season.

FCCC Sunday School presents:

# The Wisdom of the Pine

A CHRISTMAS LEGEND



10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Sunday, December 18, 2011

**SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS:** We have wound up the season of Pentecost by studying the subject of parables utilizing the lectionary scriptures out of the Gospel of Matthew. While most of our teachers and helpers are staying on for our next rotation, **we are still looking for two good helpers** for Advent and the following season of Christmas and Epiphany. We ask that you also look ahead to the season of Lent as a wonderful opportunity to express your faith in helping downstairs with our exciting new rotational model.

Our Rotational Model is based on presenting a broad topic over four Sundays (or so). Four “Activity Zones” are established downstairs in the education wing. The activities done over a topic period repeat over the four consecutive Sundays. Instructional preparation is reasonably minimal as a result. The Activity Zones are: 1) Art, 2) Music, 3) Outreach and 4) Discovery. We ask anyone in the congregation who has artsy, crafts-y, games-y, music-y or any other interests, to **join us for a “Month of Sundays” in the activity zone of your choice.** *You will find our growing children are not only worth it; they will lift your spirits in a way only their wonderful graces can.* If you would like to volunteer or desire more information, please seek out any of BCE member or ask in the office!

### SNOW CANCELLATIONS WILL BE BROADCAST OVER WFSB-CHANNEL 3

**NURSERY CARE:** We welcome Victoria Krzeminski to our Nursery care staff joining Sharaya Wiggins and Kaitlyn Caldwell. Please take a moment to greet our team down in our Nursery and let them know how much we all appreciate their help

**BCE:** Mark Campbell, Chairperson; Christine North, Sunday School Superintendent; Stacy Stevenson, Secretary; Ed Ingraham; Caroline Johnson; Deb Kasper

### Mission Board

Thank you for all your generous food items for Coventry Human Services. We collected 421 food items that we delivered on Monday, November 13th. As reported in September, we devoted \$200 to them. Our pew envelopes for July and August totaled \$159.30, so we presented them with a check for \$359.30. Pew envelopes for September totaled \$99.30 additional monies to the CROP WALK. October’s pew envelopes were devoted to the Willimantic Soup Kitchen, which totaled \$69.30. We devoted \$200 to them last month, so we sent a check for \$269.30 to them. November envelopes are supporting the Holy Family shelter, so we will send them that plus \$200 at the end of the month.

Starting November 21<sup>st</sup> you will see gift tags on the bulletin board outside the church office for 30 DCF (Department of Children and Families) children in the Willimantic area. Please take a tag or two and bring your unwrapped gift in by Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. You may leave them on the mission table in the social hall. A DCF worker will pick up the gifts on Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for all you do for those in need.

The Mission Board

### **P.F. NEWS**

Our PF group, small but mighty, has had a very fun, productive and enlightening fall. Rachel Dorsey led us through three of the Chronicles of Narnia series with lunch, movie and great discussion. We've had several fun fellowship nights, CROP walked to support hunger relief efforts around the world, set up for church suppers and attic treasures, and even took care of leaf-raking for a friend's yard. We're going to kick off December to walking through the Christmas in the Village as a group, then join with the church for our annual Tree-Lighting and Caroling. After the Sunday School pageant at our worship service on 12/18, our PF will go to the apartment, have lunch, watch the movie "Soul Surfer" and have another group discussion afterwards.

We will take Christmas off, but are trying to schedule time to serve at one of our local soup kitchens on Friday 12/30. Members of our group that are intending to join in the Multigenerational Mission Trip to New Orleans next summer will also have a number of opportunities to do odd jobs for donations of support of the trip. Keep watch for more details as we firm up all these plans, and thanks for your support of our programs!!

Yours in Christ

Fred North and Rachel Dorsey, PF Coordinators

12/4 - 12 - 3 PM Walking Christmas in the Village

12/10 - 4 - 8 PM Neighborhood Caroling

12/18 - 12 - 3 PM Soul Surfer Lunch & Movie

12/25 - No PF

12/30 - Soup Kitchen TBD

### **Report of the 2011 fall Connecticut Conference Meeting.**

The 144th meeting of the CT Conference was held at the Guilford church on October 22nd. Attending from our church were Rev. and Mrs. Silver, Ellie Hutchins and Rev. Carol North. Highlights of the day included participation of members from Rev. Ho Jun Chang's members of the Storrs Korean Church, who drummed at the opening of worship and chanted prayers before communion. There was lively singing by all attendees. Marilyn Graham was honored as this year's recipient of the Living Waters Award. Delegates from the CT conference sister governing body, the Kyung Ki Presbytery, brought greetings from South Korea.

The conference's annual budget was approved, as was a motion to have the CT Conference become a Global Mission Conference. Many churches were recognized as top givers to the Our Church's Wider Mission offering, and Second Congregational Church of Coventry was listed in the top ten churches giving according to a percentage proportional to their expense budget. Two hours around the lunch hour were spent discussing the desired characteristics of the next conference minister. Rev. Charles Wildman, the Interim Conference Minister, preached before the communion service. Rev. Silver, who solicited prayer requests throughout the day, received 47 requests and prayed with 30 people as well. You can find details concerning most of the items mentioned above on the conference website- [ctucc.org](http://ctucc.org).

Report Submitted by Ellie Hutchins and Carol North

**Your 300th Anniversary Committee** has great items for your Christmas giving: - tan and gray tee shirts, for \$15 - tote bags, for \$10 and 20 - a wonderful selection of Coventry post cards from years past for one dollar each. Note cards with envelopes, for \$5 a pack the First Church cookbook of 1950, for \$10 - and reprints of Rev. Henry Robinson's history of First Church written in 1939, for \$10. Pick up your gifts on Sundays after church or contact Carol North with your orders ([carolnorth@usa.net](mailto:carolnorth@usa.net) or 860-498-0551).

## **CHURCH FAIR NEWS**

### **Thanks from Attic Treasures**

This year's Attic Treasures was a great success thanks to the hard work of many people who donated and priced items, brought donations down two flights of stairs from the balcony (thanks Fred and the PF!), set up the room, worked during the fair, and cleaned up after the fair. Thanks to all, and especially to Walt Chambers, Crystal Snow, Doris Provost, Joann Johnson, and Betsy Sturrock, all of who gave many hours to ensure that all the work got done.....Joyce Wicks

From our Fair Treasurer, Marcia Campbell.

Total profit from the 2011 Fair was \$8,164.10

### **CHURCH FAIR LUNCHROOM**

Heartfelt thanks to all who gave so generously to our Church Fair Lunchroom donation sheets. Without your support, our Lunchroom simply would not have been possible. Our Lunchroom staff – Mike Keenan, Bob Ford, Carl Larson, Jim Bement, Mark Skripol, and Rick Boccetti were outstanding. We also appreciate our “vendor food runners” Reilly Keenan and Bobby Johnson, who got quite the workout taking orders and delivering food to Fair vendors. Kudos once again to Stu Pratt for making his wonderful Friday Night Chili, and to Papa T's Family Restaurant in Tolland and Coventry School Food Services for donating the chili ingredients. Also appreciated was Carter Sutherland's donation of soda and chips. Thanks as well to the Keenan Family for purchasing all the blank donation sign-up sheet items. Last but certainly not least – thank you Karen Bement, Betsy Sturrock and Kim Chambers who not only helped us, but worked tirelessly to make the entire 2011 Church Fair a success.

Robin Carlson/Peter Sturrock  
Church Fair Lunchroom Co-Chairs

All the ladies of the Country Kitchen committee that make our booth so successful--- with your dedication, from making the phone calls to the baking and preserving of items, and then volunteering to work the booth. THANK YOU! To all the members and friends of First Church that bountifully fill the tables with your creativity and mouth-drooling selections of holiday pies, family favorites of coffeecakes,, jams, breads, fudge, fruit cakes, cakes, cupcakes, brownies, pizelles, cookies and bars, muffins, candies and most sought after baked beans and mincemeat items. We repeatedly hear from the public that they enjoy OUR FAIR THE BEST and return year after year. OUR HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO ALL OF YOU!!! First Church is blessed to have all of your support.

Yours truly,  
Carol, Sue, Debbie, Lil, Edwina, Joyce, JoAnn, Doris and Jane

LAST BUT NOT LEAST... FROM THE CHURCH FAIR COMMITTEE:

The Church Fair Committee would like to thank everyone for their commitment and time to make our 2011 a huge success. Many compliments have come to our attention these past few days on how well we present ourselves, how pleasant it was to attend and of course, the food we serve – we are known for that in our community!!

We are so grateful for your continued commitment to the First Church Fair!

Wishing you a very, very Merry Christmas...and remember.... It's never too early to start thinking of next year!!

Karen, Betsy and Kim

## MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

December 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 AA: 7-9 in Hall	2	3 Historical Society Tour: 10:4 pm
4 Worship: 9&10:30 Teacher mtg. 8 am SS: 9:20 – 10:10 Christmas in Coventry: 12-4 pm With Choir: 2-2:30 PF: 12-3 walking	5 Seekers: 12-2	6 Staff Meeting: 7 pm	7 <i>Foodshare: 10-10:30</i> Mail Call: 9 am <i>Sr. Choir: 7 p.m.</i>	8 AA 7:30 /hall	9	10 <i>No Supper in December</i> <i>PF neighborhood caroling: 4-8 p.m.</i>
11 Worship: 9 & 10:30 SS: 9:20-10:10 Tree Lighting and Carol Sing: 5:30-7	12 Seekers: 12-2	13 Human Services 9 am Clergy Luncheon here: 12:15 pm	14 <i>Cub Scouts: 5:30-8</i> <i>Sr. Choir: 7 p.m.</i>	15 AA 7:30/ hall	16	17 <i>Hall in use</i>
18 <i>One service: 10:30</i> <i>SS: 9:20-10:10</i> <i>Conf.</i> <i>PF: 12-3 p.m.</i>	19 <i>Seekers: 12-2:00</i>	20 Friendly Circle: noon Blue Christmas Service: 7:00 p.m.	21 Foodshare: 10-10:30 CECC Staff Mtg: Hall @ 2:30 p.m. Sr. Choir: 7:00	22 AA: 7:30 pm/hall	23	24 Christmas Eve Services: <i>5:00 &amp; 11:00 pm</i>
25 <b>Merry Christmas!</b> One Service: 10:30 No Sunday School No PF	26 Seekers: 12-2	27 No Council meeting in December	28 Cub Scouts? No Choir Rehearsal	29 AA: 7:30 pm/hall <i>January Church Call deadline</i>	30 PF: Soup Kitchen TBD	31 <i>Happy New Year!</i>

### Mission Statement

**THE mission of the First Congregational Church of Coventry is to worship and serve God through word and deed. In the name of Jesus, we welcome and include all people as sisters and brothers.**

**WE pledge and dedicate our lives and resources to God, working to transform both church and society into more just and compassionate communities.**

**WE fulfill this mission by faithfully preaching the Gospel, by educating our adults and children and by living out the teachings and example of Jesus Christ.**