



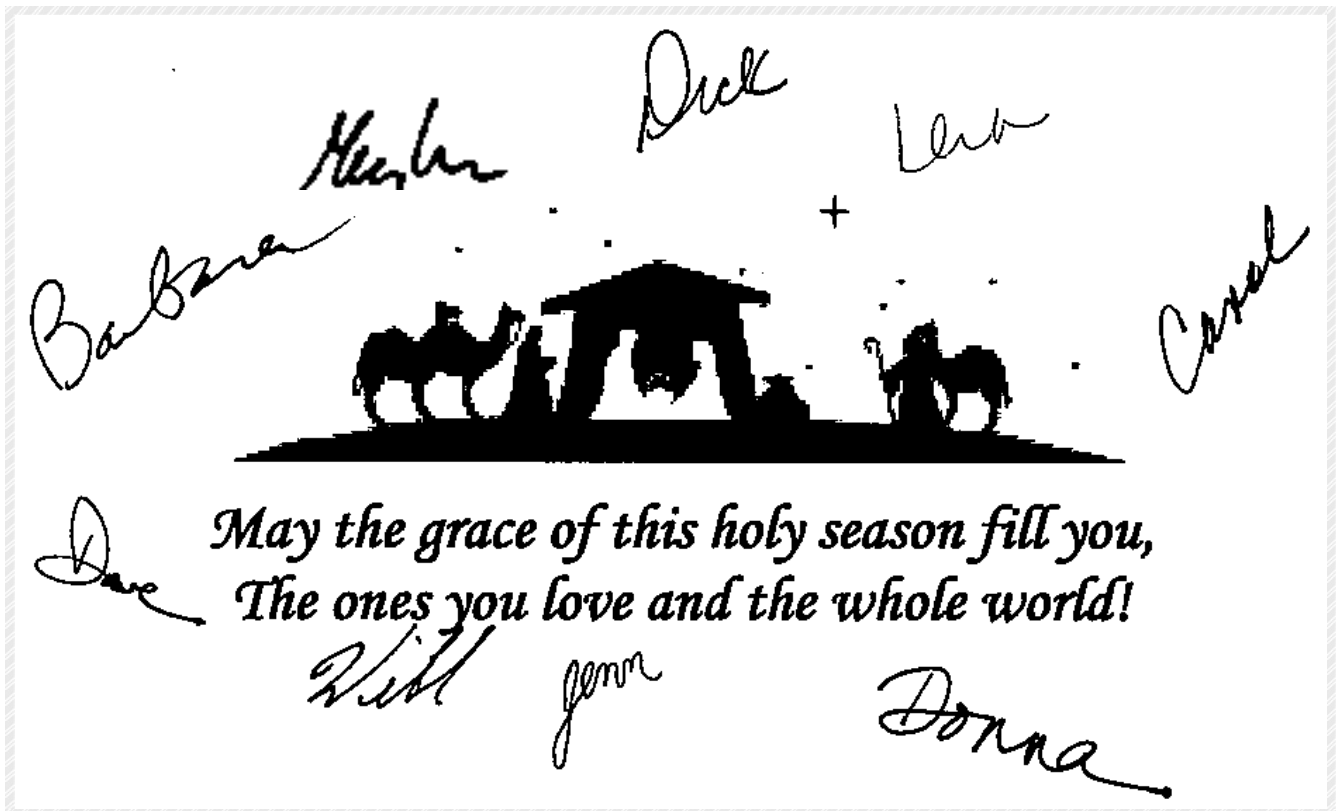
The Reverend Barbara Libby, Interim Pastor  
 203 389-8946 – [barlibby@rhccucc.org](mailto:barlibby@rhccucc.org)  
 The Reverend Donna K. Manocchio, Assoc. Pastor  
 860 529-3013 – [associate@rhccucc.org](mailto:associate@rhccucc.org)  
 Meghan Davis Young, Acting Director Christian Education  
 860 966-2432 – [christianed@rhccucc.org](mailto:christianed@rhccucc.org)  
 Will Kanute, Director of Music  
 860 233-1704 – [music@rhccucc.org](mailto:music@rhccucc.org)  
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 Vol. 23 No. 11 – December 1, 2009



### December Newsletter

Editor – Carol Harvey  
 RHCC e-mail address – [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org)  
 Website: [www.rhccucc.org](http://www.rhccucc.org)  
 Office Hours – 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. M-F  
 Sunday Worship Services – 10:00 a.m.

Childcare Available/Handicap Accessible





*A View from the  
Interim Pastor's Seat*

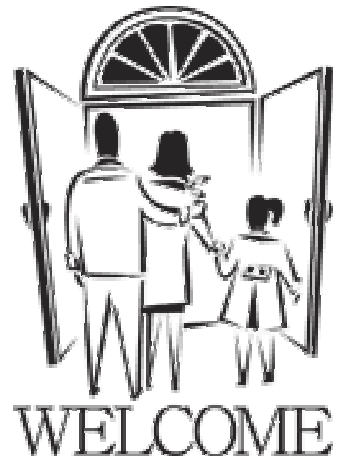
Did you ever consider the similarities between the season of Advent and the Interim time here at Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ? As we prepare to enter another Advent season (4 Sundays preceding Christmas which are this year: November 29, December 6, 13, and 20) we enter into a season of some tension, a season when our concerns are focused on the hope and expectation of both the first and the second comings of Christ. Advent is a season of both threat and promise, a season of waiting and awaiting, a season when we anticipate something new while also recognizing something quite old. Like Mary and all pregnant women we wait not knowing exactly when it will happen but knowing that eventually something amazing will happen. We wait expectantly and sometimes impatiently; we experience both highs and lows along the way; it's not all easy this waiting time...

And so much of this word about Advent is also true of our waiting time during the Interim season. We live with some degree of tension as we wait on the Senior Pastor Search Committee - we have both hopes and high expectations of the "someone" who will come to this church and provide new leadership and vision. The Interim time reminds us that there is both threat and promise as we lean into the reality of change and see that any change asks each of us to adapt and change too. Unlike the nine months of a human pregnancy we wait in this Interim time not knowing exactly how long the gestation period will be. Yet we can rest assured that eventually a new Senior Minister will arrive - all in God's good time. In Advent we await the coming of the incarnate God. And one thing is sure about our Interim waiting - no matter what candidate the Search Committee presents, he or she will definitely not be the Messiah, no matter how hard we pray... Let's remember to keep the Search Committee in our regular prayers as they begin their process together. Let's ask God to continue to guide and direct candidates to apply to this church in the future. Let's keep in mind that, like Advent, this Interim season is a productive and growing time full of hope and promise.

Yours in Christ,

*Barbara J. Libby,*

*Interim Pastor*





## From the Council:

We are delighted that our Search Committee is up and running. They will be reporting to all of us regularly during the course of their research and deliberation. It seems particularly fitting to begin this process as we move into the Advent season. Advent is a time of eager anticipation and preparation for the birth of Christ. Our search process is also a time of anticipation and preparation, as this is when we await the recommendations of the Search Committee and prepare ourselves for a new settled pastor.

The Council is very grateful to the twelve people who have taken on the challenge of engaging in an intensive effort to find a new senior pastor, and we will do our best to provide whatever support the Search Committee needs as they go about their work.

We anticipate that the work that so many of our congregation engaged in last year during our visioning process will be very helpful to the Search Committee. The Vision Summary on the following page contains the prevalent comments that we received during that visioning process. The statements in the Vision Summary were those mentioned most often and by many members when they were asked the following:

What do we love about our church and want to preserve?

What would we like to leave behind?

I want to be part of a church (where) (which).....

In December, the Council will turn its attention to some brainstorming on what steps we need to take to achieve our vision. We know what we want to be; the \$64,000 question is "how do we get there". While we may have much discernment ahead of us, we hope to keep doing our best to move forward toward that vision. As Anne Frank wrote in her diary, "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world".

As we each individually enter this time of anticipation and preparation for the birth of Christ in our lives, let us also be mindful of our own role in preparing our church for the future by moving toward that vision of who we want to be as a Christian community—a place of wholeness, deep connection, service and love.

Ruth Fitzgerald for the Council

### What do we love and want to preserve???

1. We love it here because we feel as if we belong to something good.
2. We feel welcomed and surrounded by "family."
3. We love the worship experience and the music.
4. We appreciate the children and youth and love having them be part of our church family.
5. We value the relationships we have with others in our church family and enjoy the fellowship opportunities. Again, we feel this is a place of belonging.
6. We love the tradition and heritage of our church—its history and the beautiful building and location.

### What would we like to "leave behind"???

1. We feel that we sometimes act in a bit of a dysfunctional or "indirect" way, rather than a more open and direct way....such as talking behind backs, "parking lot conversations", gossiping, etc.
2. Many of us would like to shorten the time spent in prayer concerns and announcements.
3. We'd like the vitality of more members. We worry about declining membership.
4. We also feel that we would like a higher activity level of our members—that we engage many members in the day-to-day work that needs to be done.
5. We also worry about our long term financial health. We are concerned about the difficulties of raising pledges to cover our operating budget and see this as a big challenge.
6. We feel we are not as welcoming as we MIGHT be to others.
7. We feel that we are a bit resistant to change.

### What kind of church do we WANT to be???

1. We want to feel *welcomed* and *accepted* and feel as if we *belong* to a church family.
2. We want a church where many are *active and engaged* in church business (members, children, youth).
3. We want to be a church of *service*, where we reach out to help others as Jesus calls us to do. For some, this means locally, for others it means other places also.

*(Council continued from previous page)*

4. We want to have fellow church members who ***understand and meet financial obligations*** of belonging to a vital and active church.
5. We want to be part of a church that is ***active and growing*** in membership and in programs.

**Comfort and Joy:  
A Service of Reflection and Healing  
Saturday, December 12, 2009  
Weil Chapel  
5:00 PM**

The Advent and Christmas seasons are so busy, and we don't always take the time to reflect on the true meaning of the coming of Christ. Whether you are looking for a moment of peace and reflection or struggling with personal or spiritual challenges in the tumultuous times, this service of healing and reflection will be a gift for you.

The service is an opportunity for comfort and for community, for healing and for hope. It will include songs and silence, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and individual prayers of healings. Please come and join us for some moments of peace amid the busyness and chaotic holiday season. If you have any questions, please talk with any of the deacons or ministers.

## ***INTERFAITH CANDLELIGHT VIGIL***

***Habitat for Humanity – House of Abraham  
Sunday, December 13  
2:00 PM  
34 Guilford Street, Hartford***

This is a season of light for Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. You are invited to join sisters and brothers in faith to pray in gratitude, in hope, and for peace. Please let Donna know if you are interested; we can car pool from the church.



## *Emmanuel*

*...a Hebrew name meaning "God with Us"*

As I have been looking ahead to the Advent and Christmas season, I have spent some time reflecting on a familiar excerpt, taken from the poetic prologue to the Gospel of John (JOHN 1:14). The words are simply stated, though equally complex:

**“And the Word became flesh and lived among us...”**

The American investor and philanthropist Warren Buffet referred to executives investing money to buy stock in the company they’re running as putting “skin in the game.” God, in becoming a first-century Jew, put skin in the game. Our individual investments in our faith require that each of us put skin in the game.

**“And the Word became flesh and lived among us...”**

The Board of Deacons recently gathered for a retreat. During our time together, we shared stories...faith stories. We spoke about our experiences at Rocky Hill Congregational Church—experiences that affirmed in us that this faith community would be our spiritual home. *Can you remember an experience that gave you clarity that this community would be your spiritual home?* I imagine the reasons are unique to each of us: a deeply meaningful worship experience; music that resonated within you; a program you attended; a person you met; a meal you shared.

**“And the Word became flesh and lived among us...”**

The rest of John’s Gospel introduction reads like a testament of faith: an invitation to believe in a God that became flesh and dwelt among us; an invitation to find meaning in God’s purpose for each of us through Jesus Christ. As we journey together through these Advent weeks, I invite you into a time of prayer and searching, that each of us may find meaning in...the Word that became flesh...God with Us...Emmanuel.

Peace be with you,  
Bob Inderbitzen, Senior Deacon  
[bobmike@cox.net](mailto:bobmike@cox.net)

**Wishing you the Blessings of this Season!**

Your Sisters and Brothers of the Diaconate: Laurel Cole, Deb Copes, Julie Dostie, Tom Fulda, Stephanie Heneghan, Bill Hoffman, Cheryl Hummel, Bob Inderbitzen, Julia Pickett and Gail Tine

## **Diaconate News and Notes:**

- **Sunday Announcements.** In the interest of beginning worship closer to 10 AM, the deacons have asked the pastors to make all Sunday morning announcements. We encourage all announcements to be printed in the bulletin (please provide announcements to Carol Harvey in the church office before Wednesday). If there is something that must be announced, please write it out and give it to the preaching pastor or an usher before the start of worship. Recent bulletins are also published on the church web site, [www.rhccucc.org](http://www.rhccucc.org).
- **Please Wear Your Name Tag.** We want to get to you know you...each of you. Please do your part by wearing a name tag on Sunday. Visitors (or if you've forgotten your name tag) can use the stickers provided in each of the pew pads. If you need a replacement name tag, please contact the church office or one of the deacons.
- **ONA Group Needs Volunteers.** The Board of Deacons has established a working group to help with the next phase of our commitment as an Open and Affirming Christian community. This group is tasked with helping us LIVE OUT our promise of inclusion and diversity. **Please contact Deacons Stephanie Heneghan (860) 529-4672 or Cheryl Hummel (860) 508-2070 for more information.**
- **Parish Care.** Please let the deacons or our ministers know if there is someone who would like a visit from our parish care volunteers or would like a ride to and from church. And, let us know if you're interested in volunteering.

*Thank  
You*

A special "Thank You!!!" goes out to our church family for several months of ongoing prayers for Nancy's mom, Pat (and the rest of her family) as they deal with all that comes with the Dementia diagnosis of a parent. Thanks again for being there before and after Nancy's surgeries in September to help with meals, encouragement and more prayers. We feel blessed to be part of such a supportive faith group. With much appreciation,

Nancy and Barry Wilcock

## Advent and Monthly Activities At a Glance



November was a month to truly give thanks for! Two big highlights were:

- A **youth group camp-in** at church filled with much fun and fellowship. Many thanks to the parents and chaperones who made it a success!
- The entire Sunday school celebrating the **Festival of Sukkot**. The children donated 35 cans and non-perishable food items, and gave thanks for the many blessings in their lives. A huge thanks to Nancy Edwards for organizing the celebration and working so hard to bring our curriculum to life!

As Advent & Christmas kick off, church school will be very busy continuing to lift up the SPIRIT of the season with an advent gathering and the Christmas pageant. Make sure to put the following events on you calendar:



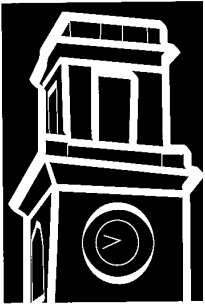
**ADVENT GATHERING on November 29<sup>th</sup>, 5 PM – 7 PM:** Families and persons of all ages are invited to attend as we kick off the advent season with a pot-luck supper, crafts, singing, and some holiday decorating in the chapel!



**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT on December 20<sup>th</sup>:** Sign-ups to be in the Christmas pageant start on November 29<sup>th</sup>. Rehearsals will be held December 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> during Sunday School. Children of all ages are invited to participate. Make sure you're there on December 20<sup>th</sup> for "Not The Last Straw."

Peace & Blessings during your holiday season!

The Christian Education Board.



**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**  
**Sunday Morning Worship**  
**10:00 a.m. with childcare**

**2009**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
		<b>1</b> 8:00am Community Mtg 7:00pm <b>Board and Committee Mtgs</b>	<b>2 *See Below</b> 9:00am <b>Quilters</b> 12:30pm <b>Bible Study</b> 5:30pm <b>Advent Retreat</b> 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 7:00pm <b>Lessons &amp; Carols</b> 7:30pm <b>Adult Choir</b>
<b>6 Advent 2</b> 11:30am <b>Advent Origami Star Workshop **</b> 4:00pm <b>Lessons and Carols Concert</b>	<b>7</b> 5:30pm Yoga with Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm <b>Bell Choir</b>	<b>8</b> 7:00pm <b>Council Mtg</b>	<b>9 *See Below</b> 9:00am <b>Quilters</b> 12:30pm <b>Bible Study</b> 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 6:30pm <b>Book Study</b> 7:30pm <b>Adult Choir</b>
<b>13 Advent 3</b> <b>Toy Project Collection</b> 11:15am <b>Cookie Walk</b> 2:00pm <b>Interfaith Vigil in Hfd</b> 4:00pm <b>Snow Date for Lessons and Carols</b>	<b>14</b> 5:30pm Yoga with Lynn 7:00pm <b>RHCCNS Mtg</b> 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm <b>Bell Choir</b>	<b>15</b> 7:30pm <b>Baby Quilters</b>	<b>16 *See Below</b> 9:00am <b>Quilters</b> 12:30pm <b>Bible Study</b> 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 7:30pm <b>Adult Choir</b>
<b>20 Advent 4</b> <b>Christmas Pageant in Worship</b> <b>Snow Date for Cookie Walk</b> 2:00pm <b>Christmas Caroling</b>	<b>21</b> 5:30pm Yoga with Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm <b>Bell Choir</b>	<b>22</b> 10:30am <b>Genesis Health</b>	<b>23</b> 9:00am <b>Quilters</b> 12:30pm <b>Bible Study</b> 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 7:30pm <b>Adult Choir</b>
<b>27</b> <b>Carol Sing in Worship</b>	<b>28</b> 5:30pm Yoga with Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm <b>Bell Choir</b>	<b>29</b> 8:00 Community Event	<b>30</b> 9:00am <b>Quilters</b> 12:30pm <b>Bible Study</b> 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 7:30pm <b>Adult Choir</b>

**\*Meditation and Quiet time**

**Wednesdays – December 2, 9, and 16**

**9:00am – 11:00am and 6:30pm – 8:00 pm in the Chapel**

Are you seeking “time away” during a busy, sometimes hectic season? Drop-in for awhile...Come to sit, to pray, to wait, to listen, or to reflect...Come make an origami star...Resources will be available.

# ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

805 Old Main Street – Rocky Hill, CT 06067

(860)529-4167 office • (860)257-9637 fax

office @ rhcucc.org • website: rhcucc.org

Office Hours 8 am – 2 pm – Monday – Friday

The Reverend Barbara J. Libby, Interim Pastor

The Reverend Donna K. Manocchio, Associate Pastor

The Reverend Arthur C. Weil, Minister Emeritus

Will Kanute, Director of Music

## Church Directory Addendum

Please make the following additions and changes to your Church Directory

Hazel Gibbons  
Hackett Hill  
Healthcare  
191 Hackett Hill Rd  
Room 31  
Manchester NH 03102

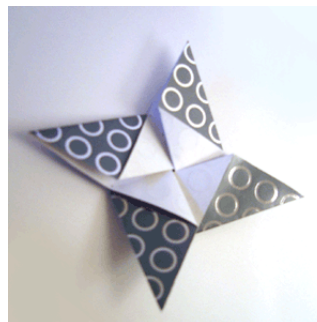
John and Karen  
Hoffman  
PO Box 171  
Rocky Hill CT 06067  
860 529-5686

William M. Kanute  
2 Willow La  
Farmington CT 06032  
860 614-2176

Melvin and Mary  
Smith  
355 River Hill Dr.  
Atlanta GA 30328  
860 913-0295

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>3</b> 9:30am Yoga with Lynn 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 8:30am Yoga with Lynn
<b>10</b> 9:30am Yoga with Lynn 11:00am <b>Cookie Walk Baking</b> 8:00pm Men's AA	<b>11</b> 10:00am <b>Cookie Walk Baking</b>	<b>12</b> 8:30am <b>Men's Bible Study</b> 8:30am Yoga with Lynn 11:00am <b>Cookie Walk Setup</b> 5:00pm <b>Svc of Reflection and Healing</b>
<b>17</b> 9:30am Yoga with Lynn 10:00am <b>Mapleview Svc</b> 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 8:30am Yoga with Lynn
<b>24 Christmas Eve!</b> 5:00pm <b>Family Service</b> 8:00pm Men's AA 11:00pm <b>Candlelight Communion Service</b>	<b>25 Christmas!</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 9:00am <b>Christmas Day Worship</b>	<b>26</b> 8:30am <b>Men's Bible Study</b> 8:30am Yoga with Lynn
<b>31</b> 9:30am Yoga with Lynn 8:00pm Men's AA		

**\*\*An Advent Origami Event**  
**Help us fold Origami Stars**  
**to decorate the sanctuary**  
**Workshop: Sunday, December 6**  
**11:30am – 12:30pm in the Fiorilli room**  
**or pick up directions to make at home**





- |                          |                                 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 01 John Hoffman          | 16 Eva Shen                     |
| Aaron Vann               | 19 Midge Sword                  |
| Billie Charamut          | Carolyn Scheirey                |
| 02 Arthur Weil           | 20 Alan Cunningham              |
| Anita Watson             | Julia Stewart                   |
| Joseph Kunzelman         | Nicholas Jokl                   |
| Tamara Connor            | 21 Holly Peterson               |
| 03 Jennifer Courtemanche | Christina Santiago              |
| 04 John Hummel           | 24 Nancy Edwards                |
| 05 Debbie Schreier       | 25 <b>Happy Birthday Jesus!</b> |
| 06 Bob Tangarone         | Jonathan Rutigliano             |
| 07 Robert Mullins        | 26 Janet Kunzelman              |
| Christina Jensen         | Aaron Moore                     |
| 08 Lawrence Siembab      | 27 Donald Stedman               |
| Andrew O'Brien           | 28 Nathan Vann                  |
| 09 Kendres Lally         | 30 Krista Pender                |
| Amy Murk                 | Karen Meszaros                  |
| Julie Fell               |                                 |
| 11 Gary Nicholson        |                                 |
| Will Knight              |                                 |
| 12 Nathan Friday         |                                 |
| 13 Ralph Ahlberg         |                                 |
| Thelma Somes             |                                 |
| 14 Dave Hall             |                                 |
| 15 Linda Grillo          |                                 |
| Chloe Bellizzi           |                                 |



**Sock-Hop Dance**  
**Save the Date!**  
**Saturday, February 6,**  
**2010**

Sponsored by InReach  
 Sounds by  
 Jim Hogan's Music Mix!



**Rudy and Barbara  
 Burgess**  
 were married on  
**December 29, 1956**

**Congratulations!**



**Kenzie Reese Gardner,**  
 great granddaughter of  
 Myrtle Furman,  
 baptized on **November 10**



Board of Missions

### **Christmas Toy Project – Sunday, December 13**

All are welcome and encouraged to participate in our Annual Toy Collection for the children of women who are incarcerated at Niantic Prison. Bring unwrapped toys for infants thru teens on Sunday, December 13. Christmas is a difficult time for families to be separated for any reason, and this program helps to ease the burden, and bring joy to these women and their children.

### **Holiday Tool and Blanket Cards on Sale**

In support of Church World Service, we will be selling Tool and Blanket Cards in Chapin Hall on the following Sundays: December 6, December 13, and December 20. The cards are \$5.00 each and the funds go directly to Church World Service's Tool and Blanket program, which provides blankets and agricultural tools to families throughout the world. Give the cards as a gift in honor of someone special on your Christmas list this year. Also, copies of "The Best Gift Catalog" will be available at no charge. This catalog has lots of wonderful gift ideas. Look for us in Chapin Hall and check it out!

### **Ongoing Missions Projects**

In the near future, we will be asking church members to participate in a survey concerning future mission trips and hands-on volunteer work. Look for this opportunity to let us know what you would be willing to do to help further our mission work. We look forward to hearing your comments, ideas, etc.

### **Foodshare "Turkey and a Twenty" Drive**

God is good! The Board for Missions is happy to report that we collected 96 turkeys from church members and Rocky Hill residents, and with a Board for Missions contribution, 100 turkeys were dropped off to West Side Market for pick up by Foodshare. Monetary donations totaled \$2,215, surpassing the \$2,000 goal! Foodshare was delighted with the contribution and we are grateful to have had the opportunity to support this effort for those who are hungry in our region. Thank you to everyone who contributed time, turkeys, funds, and encouragement to make this drive a success. Many hands make light work and many hearts make love work!

### **Where Did Your Money Go?**

In November, your Missions Board decided not to disperse any funds, as we are up to date on our budgeted items.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, December 1, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m.

Peace be with you,

Your Board for Missions are Dave Bell (Treasurer), Michael Bower, Linda Calcagni, Bob Carberry, Dave Edwards, Diana Gengenbach, Marge Murk (Secretary), Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio, Chris Palazzolo, Steve Smith (Chair)

## Musical Notes ♪ ♫ ♬

The hectic time of year is coming and amid the hubbub of the holidays, the Music Committee would like to invite you to join us in our Annual Celebration of Nine Lessons and Carols to be presented on Sunday, December 6 at 4 PM in the Sanctuary. This annual concert tells the story of the Nativity through readings and music. Our readers will span the generations and the community. This is the 9<sup>th</sup> year we have been performing and marks Will's last holiday season with us. . A free will donation will be collected for the Rocky Hill Department of Social Services. Please join us in this time of reflection.

On another note, the following Sunday, December 13 will be our annual Cookie Walk. Please consider supporting us through baking, decorating, and, of course, buying our wares. We are looking for another year of over 100 kinds of cookies and a total sell out. There are sign up sheets in Chapin Hall. Cookies can be dropped off on Friday, December 12 and Saturday, December 13 in the kitchen.

Your Music Committee

Will Kanute, Music Director

Linda Tokarski   Gail Hall   Ellie Mahar   Chris Mosure   Lee Durgin  
Bill Pirre   Tom Fulda (Diaconate rep)

### "Warm Heart Tree"

For the 35th year, the Warm Heart Tree will be returning to the narthex on November 29th. Continuing through January 3rd, we will once again be collecting donations of warm hats, gloves, and scarves to decorate the tree. Please place your donations directly on the tree. Donations can be hand-made, bought, or even a new re-gifted item (let someone benefit from 'Mom, What were you thinking, I will NOT wear that!'). The donations will be distributed to some of Hartford's neediest.





## **COOKIE WALK FAQ'S**

### **What's a Cookie Walk?**

A cookie walk is an event where you purchase a cookie tin of your choosing and then fill it from 100's of different cookies. We set up in Chapin Hall during coffee hour after church. This year it will be December 13. Last year we had over 100 kinds of cookies and despite the snow sold out in 30 mins.

### **What if it snows?**

The snow date for the event will be Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>

### **Who sponsors/runs it?**

The walk is sponsored and run by the choirs and Music Committee. It is our major fundraiser.

### **How can I help?**

Please consider signing up to bake cookies (3-4 dozen please), decorate cookies, help set up, serve, or clean up. We will have containers available for you to help you transport your goodies. We will also be cooking at the Church on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

### **How About food allergies?**

We separate the nuts from the no nuts (cookies only - not people!). We also offer gluten free choices and diabetic choices. If you have a special allergy we will try to accommodate you.

### **Now that I've baked - what do I do?**

Cookies can be dropped off on Friday and Saturday in the kitchen area. We would appreciate it if all cookies could be delivered by 5PM on Saturday.

### **Can I Pre-order Tins?**

Of course, let us know the size you want and we will have it waiting for you on the day. Please let us know if it is mixed, nuts or no nuts.

### **Sounds Like Fun-who do I talk to?**

You can call Linda Tokarski at 860 633-8413; see her after church, or e-mail her at [LTokarski1947@aol.com](mailto:LTokarski1947@aol.com).

**“Scrip” Fundraising Update** – The November Scrip ordering period was highly successful, with orders for 400 scrip cards valued at \$13,000+, resulting in a church profit of more than \$900. Thanks to everyone who supported this initial effort! Cards should be available for pickup on Sunday, December 6. The next ordering period will be in January. Details will be in the January newsletter and on the church website.

**Birthings and Blessings**  
**An Ecumenical Women’s Advent Night of Reflection**  
**Wednesday, December 2 - 5:30 – 9:00 PM**

St. Elizabeth Seton Church  
280 Brook Street Rocky Hill, CT

Facilitators: Janet Bristow, St. Patrick St. Anthony, Donna Manocchio, Rocky Hill Congregational, Elaine Paresi, St. Elizabeth Seton, Noreen Reilly, Asylum Hill Congregational – Come together with the women from Asylum Hill Congregational Church, St. Patrick St. Anthony Church, Rocky Hill Congregational Church and St. Elizabeth Seton Church to prepare for the birth of Christ in our hearts and in our world. Our time together will include prayer, conversation, creative expression and a shared meal. Cost for the evening is \$15 and includes a light supper. Please register by November 25<sup>th</sup>. Registration forms are available in Chapin Hall or in the office.

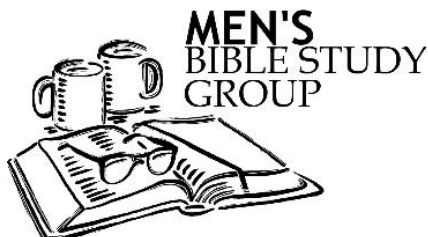
**Quilters/Crafters**

Women meet once a month on Tuesdays at 7:30 pm to work on baby quilts and/or your own project of choice. This is a great fellowship time for all. I even hear sometimes there is dessert!! If you have not been attending, please come and leave your name and email address on the sign up sheet provided and Kim will send you reminders each month.

**Always Welcome!**



Hunger never takes a holiday... Food Pantries need our help to meet the food demands...Please consider bringing a non-perishable food item to worship every time you come. The large basket in the front foyer of the church welcomes all food donations.



**The Saturday Men’s Bible Study Group** As always they are seeking additional members. If you are interested in studying scripture, discussing how it relates to our daily lives, engaging in open religious and spiritual discussions, the Men’s Bible Study Group may be just what you have been looking for. The group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. in the church parlor.



A decision was made recently by our Executive Director, Rev. Don Steinle, the Board of Directors, and the Long Range Planning Committee, to implement the following goals in year-one of our five year strategic plan:

- **Goal One:** Be an empowering presence and a catalytic force committed to addressing the ravages of poverty and **improving the lives of the poor** and downtrodden in Greater Hartford.
- **Goal Two:** Expand efforts to address disparities in and **remove systemic barriers** to housing, health care, education, and employment in the Greater Hartford region.
- **Goal Three:** Leverage existing and build new strategic alliances to advance goals relating to **community stabilization and neighborhood revitalization**.
- **Goal Four:** Expand and fortify the CAC's **reputation for leadership** in urban ministry as an advocate for the poor, a prophetic voice for social justice, and a builder of coalitions to address issues of common concern.
- **Goal Five:** Build sustainable **organizational capacity** – human, financial, and physical resources – that supports attainment of the CAC's goals and enhances its value-adding impact in the community.

Faithfully,

Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio

Delegate and Member of the Board of Directors



RHCC Search Committee met twice in November. At their first meeting they met with Rev. Barbara Libby and Ineke Mitchell, Regional Minister, for an overview of the search process. At their second meeting, the committee members took time to get to know each member a little more.

They have also selected Officers for their committee. The positions filled are as follows:

Chairman - Bill Hoffman

Secretary - Dave Sageman

Corresponding Secretary - Gail Hall

Chaplain - Barry Wilcock

Public Relations - Laura Pawlich

The next Search Committee meeting is set for December.



## Snowy Sundays

In the event of winter weather on a Sunday morning, our first priority is to ensure the safety of church members. Some winters the snow and ice are a real danger, and so worship is cancelled for the day. If such a storm happens, please know that a system is in place to make as many of our members and friends aware as possible. If and when worship is canceled, notice will be posted on Channel 3 WFSB-TV, and the voice mail greeting on the church phone will be updated with the cancellation if you choose to phone the main number. Additionally, an email and phone tree will alert church leaders to the same information. It takes a real storm to disrupt our worship, but if that happens, we want to be ready. Cancellations will be posted on the church website: [www.rhccucc.org](http://www.rhccucc.org)



## A note from Inreach...

*“Around the world coffee and fellowship come together where we share community. A warm pot of coffee is often the centerpiece of fellowship hour and other gatherings.”*

Equal Exchange Coffee, Tea or Hot Cocoa would make an excellent gift! Why not pick some up after church this Sunday? During fellowship time in Chapin Hall, the Inreach Committee has available for purchase:

Gourmet Coffee - \$6.25/bag    Tea - \$3/box    Hot Cocoa Mix \$5/can

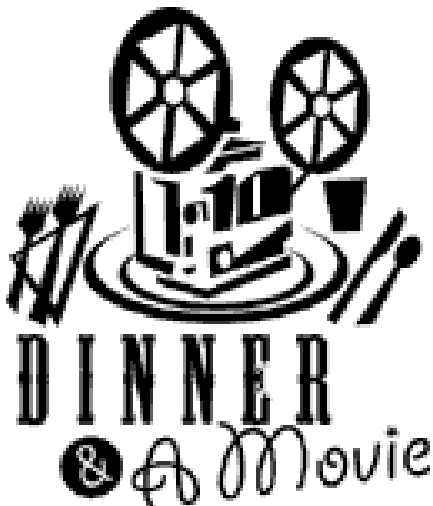
For more information about the UCC Coffee Project: [www.ucc.org/justice/coffee-project](http://www.ucc.org/justice/coffee-project)

## SAVE THE DATE!!

### **Inreach is sponsoring a Dinner and a Movie Nite**

**on January 10th at 6:00 p.m.**

Our feature that nite will be *"Chocolat"* a film starring Juliet Binoche and Johnny Depp and our theme will be.....Chocolate! So save the date! More info to follow!





## *Advent and Christmas at a Glance*

<i>December 2</i>	<i>5:30-9pm</i>	<i>Ecumenical Women's Retreat</i>	<i>St. Elizabeth Seton</i>
	<i>9-11:00am</i>	<i>Meditation and Quiet Time</i>	<i>Chapel</i>
	<i>6:30-8pm</i>		
	<i>7:00</i>	<i>Lessons and Carols Rehearsal</i>	<i>Choir Loft</i>
<i>December 6</i>	<i>10:00am</i>	<i>2nd Sunday of Advent Worship with Communion</i>	<i>Sanctuary Chapin Hall</i>
	<i>11:30am</i>	<i>Advent Origami Event</i>	
	<i>4:00pm</i>	<i>Lessons and Carols Service Reception to follow</i>	<i>Sanctuary Chapin Hall</i>
<i>December 9</i>	<i>9-11:00am</i>	<i>Meditation and Quiet Time</i>	<i>Chapel</i>
	<i>6:30-8pm</i>		
<i>December 12</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>Service of Reflection and Healing</i>	<i>Chapel</i>
<i>December 13</i>	<i>10:00am</i>	<i>3rd Sunday of Advent Toy Project Collection</i>	<i>Sanctuary</i>
	<i>11:15am</i>	<i>Cookie Walk</i>	<i>Chapin Hall</i>
<i>December 16</i>	<i>9-11:00am</i>	<i>Meditation and Quiet Time</i>	<i>Chapel</i>
	<i>6:30-8pm</i>		
<i>December 20</i>	<i>10:00am</i>	<i>4th Sunday of Advent Christmas Pageant</i>	<i>Sanctuary</i>
	<i>2-5:00pm</i>	<i>Christmas Caroling Refreshments and Fellowship</i>	<i>Meet at Church Chapin Hall</i>
<i>December 24</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>Christmas Eve Family Service</i>	<i>Sanctuary</i>
	<i>11:00pm</i>	<i>Candlelight Communion Service</i>	
<i>December 25</i>	<i>9:00am</i>	<i>Christmas Day Worship</i>	<i>Chapel</i>
<i>December 27</i>	<i>10:00am</i>	<i>1st Sunday after Christmas A Carol-Sing Service</i>	<i>Sanctuary</i>

**ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill CT 06067**  
**Telephone # 860 529-4167**

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Jesus didn't turn people away. Neither do we.  
The United Church of Christ:  
No matter who you are,  
Or where you are on life's journey...  
You're welcome here.

**DEADLINE FOR  
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES  
DECEMBER 15**

**The Book Study Group**  
**Wednesday, December 9, 2009 /**  
**6:30 – 7:30pm in the Fiorilli Room**

**“The Purpose of Christmas”  
by Rick Warren**

Pastor Rick Warren sounds the clarion call to "remember the reason for the season," taking readers back in time to the most wonderful story of all - the birth of the baby Jesus. When he was just a small boy, young Rick asked his parents if they could celebrate Christmas with a birthday party for Jesus - and the tradition began that the Warrens have upheld for over fifty years. Now through stirring imagery and compelling personal insights, *The Purpose of Christmas* honors the significance and promise of this cherished holiday.