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December Newsletter

Editor – Carol Harvey

RHCC e-mail address – office@rhccucc.org

Website: www.rhccucc.org

Office Hours – 8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday

8:00am-noon Friday

Sunday Worship Services – 10:00 a.m.

Childcare Available/Handicap Accessible



A Service of Nine



Presented by the choirs of the
Rocky Hill Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

Sunday, December 5 at 4pm

Free will offering benefits the
Rocky Hill Department of Social Services



Advent Greetings, dear friends!

These are busy, chaotic days of preparation, perhaps the busiest days of the year! It is ever so easy (even for pastors!) to rush around breathless and forget the call to slow down and prepare for the mystery and love that is Jesus.

Advent is our opportunity to awaken to the

hope, peace, joy, and love that are coming to birth around us. Instead of all the “to dos” on our list, how about adding a few “not to dos”? Here are a few of my favorites:

- Do not forget your rituals. Don't treat Advent as just another busy time of the year. Stay connected with the important rituals in your life – family dinners, the early morning cup of coffee and quiet, lunch with a friend, weekly exercise. These rituals remind us to slow down and ponder the gift of Jesus, born among us and who knew our human struggles and longings. Take time daily to rest in God's grace; mediate on your blessings, and pray for an open heart and mind to receive Christ in a new way this year.
- Do not try to be perfect for the holidays. Believe it or not, it's not the end of the world if the house is not perfectly clean and decorated, if the cookies don't look (or taste!) like Martha Stewart made them, or if you cannot find just the right gift for Cousin Sally. Remember – God calls us to be perfectly human!
- Do not overdo your schedule. Learn to say “no” to some event or activity, however enjoyable or fun it might be. Know your limits. Remember the saying, “Too much of a good thing is still too much.”
- Do not go into debt. Gifts exchanged at Christmas come from gratitude, and are a sign of the love of God who gives us the greatest gift in Jesus. Consider giving smaller, more thoughtful items rather than large, expensive gifts. This is decidedly against the messages we receive in our culture, where bigger always seems to be better. Decide how you will talk to your family and children about these realities.
- Do not forget the less fortunate. The real Christmas story is not set in a lavishly decorated home with a roaring fire and an abundant feast on the table. The real Christmas miracle came among poverty and danger, uncertainty and homelessness. What loving witness of time, talent, and treasure can you offer to identify with the lost and the least, just as God did in Jesus Christ?



BOARD of DEACONS

The autumn of 2010 has been a time of celebration for our church family at Rocky Hill Congregational Church. Donna's call and subsequent installation, Meghan's acceptance of her dual roles, the enthusiastic Friendship Sunday and the success and fellowship of our Church Fair and dinner are reasons to be thankful to God. He has blessed us.

Now we enter the watchful, waiting of the Advent season and the many events that will make Christ's birth, again, meaningful to our lives as individuals and as a community of faith.

The Diaconate is asked to assist in the spiritual welfare of our church; to encourage membership vitality; to participate in ministering. These are awesome challenges for the ten of us. Your ideas and suggestions are vital to us and to the entire membership.

Every year brings changes; some are anticipated, others will surprise, but together, with God's grace, we will meet them all and move forward in love.

In faith,

Your Board of Deacons

Judy Graham

Gail Tine

Bill Hoffman

Stephanie Heneghan

Candy Smith

Julie Dostie

Valerie Triplets

Deb Copes

Don Pagnucco

Tom Fulda

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays, 12:30 to 1:30 PM in Fiorilli Room

Each week, we gather to read and explore the Scriptures to be used in an upcoming worship service. All are welcome. No experience necessary. Bring your favorite translation or pick one up from the shelf. Brown bag lunch is optional.



A "Welcome Table" has been established in Chapin Hall by the Board of Deacons to provide information and conversation to any visitor or prospective new member. The table includes a WELCOME banner quilted by Deacon Stephanie Heneghan. Recently, a visitor commented that she felt a wonderful, positive spirit within our congregation. Please help us by warmly acknowledging visitors in the sanctuary and inviting newcomers downstairs to Chapin Hall.





Board of Missions

Big Enough to Change the World

We have entered the Advent Season, after a long and busy year on the Board for Missions. Thanks to an energized and generous congregation, we have achieved so much this calendar year!

Advent is a time of expectant waiting and preparation, historically a reminder of the waiting of the Hebrews for the coming of their Messiah, and a promise that our Savior, Jesus Christ, is to come again.

When Jesus came to be among us, the Savior did not arrive on a golden chariot, or float down from the clouds on some majestic throne, as one would expect from a long awaited leader.

Jesus came to be among us as a tiny, vulnerable infant, to parents of no import, with hardly any money to bring on their journey to Bethlehem. And yet, this tiny child came into the world amid much rejoicing. Angels from on high, shepherds coming in from the fields, kings and astrologers traveling great distances to honor a carpenter's child who would one day perform miracles, heal the sick, speak of peace and justice, call for love to be the law of the land. Indeed, this tiny child was just big enough to change the world.

To me, this provides a perfect reminder that all God's children are just big enough to change the world. Someday my daughter could perform miracles in someone's life; she can heal the sick, speak out for social justice, and live according to Jesus' call to love one another. Each of us can live up to that same potential!

There are many among us living in poverty, hunger and need in our own community, and in our larger global village. Each one of those souls has great potential in God's eyes. Our help and assistance in their lives is not just a boon to their finances, a meal in time of hunger, or a place to sleep. It's also a sign that they are not forgotten. That each of these people is important to us, and loved by God. We are saying, "You matter!"

And does it take a huge commitment to change someone's life? Sometimes it does, but sometimes it takes only a few dollars more, a home cooked meal, a toy, a donation of non-perishable goods or personal care items, a blanket or a set of agricultural tools, a little help cleaning out a garden or helping build a ramp. And prayers and more prayers!! One act, however large or small, could be big enough to change the world! Especially if we put all those acts together, pool our kindness, gather our donations, link arms and pray as one. Can you imagine if you had a day where every single person you encountered had a kind word for you? Some people

would find a day like that unimaginable!! And yet it's such a simple thing. Not a big idea at all.

As your Board for Missions continues to look for opportunities to help those among us, we are keenly aware of the burden that more requests for help may pose. We know that the generosity of this congregation is a wonderful gift, and that all of us give what we can and when we can. We also see the need around us, and are compelled to help in whatever way we can, and so we must always bring forward opportunities to help as they arise. Please remember that each time you give of your time and treasure, no matter how large or small the amount, that you are honoring the One who has come before and will one day come again, one who was just big enough to change the world.

Yours in Faith,
Michael H. Bower, Board for Missions, Chair

Best Gift Catalogs

A gift idea for the person who has everything! Best Gift Catalogs from Church World Service will be available in Chapin Hall and across from the office. A Best Gift helps bring genuine and lasting change to those who need it most. All the gifts are examples of how Church World Service works in partnership to assist people in the world's poorest countries to find effective ways of tackling poverty and injustice. Whatever gift you buy, your money will fund one of the program areas related to your gift: agriculture and livestock, emergency and disaster preparedness, care for vulnerable children, water and environment, or women's empowerment. For example, if you buy a goat, rabbits, or a beehive, your money will go to agriculture or livestock programs that can boost people's income. These gifts are tax-deductible, and a card is sent to the person you buy the gift in honor of.

Church World Service Blanket Cards

We are selling Church World Service Blanket Cards for Christmas. Cards are \$5.00 each and will be available in Chapin Hall on the following Sundays after during coffee hour: **December 5, December 12 and December 19**. Church World Service was able to rush blankets and CWS Kits to the people of Haiti within the first 24 hours thanks to pre-positioned supplies in neighboring Dominican Republic. Medical supplies, food, water and tents have also been provided as part of the CWS and ACT Alliance combined effort. Your purchase of these beautiful cards helps make that kind of swift response possible.

Project Toy Drive – Sunday, December 12

Help us give a gift of love to more than 2000 children in Connecticut whose moms will not be home for Christmas. Children of women incarcerated in Niantic miss their mothers. A lot. Especially at Christmas. Our goal is to send each child a gift with a tag that reads, "love, Mom." The gifts will be mailed from Niantic. Gifts matched to the child's gender and age will be lovingly wrapped and mailed by volunteers from the community, as has been done each Christmas for the past 27 years, because of the generosity of people like you! Please bring unwrapped toys to service on Sunday, December 12, or leave them in the Narthex anytime before, and we will deliver them to the Hartford Seminary that afternoon for sorting and wrapping. Gifts can be for any child up to the age of 16.

Back Bay Mission Trip – September 4-11, 2011

Sign Me Up! We are beginning to plan the next trip to Biloxi! There will be more information coming soon. This is a wonderful opportunity to help our neighbors on the Gulf Coast and to be part of the amazing ministry of Back Bay Mission. See Michael Bower, Lynne Lataille, or Pastor Donna for more information. Or talk to someone who has gone before! Or check out <http://www.thebackbaymission.org/>

Where did your Benevolence Donations go in November?

- Special Missions funds of \$517.41 were used to buy supplies for the Hands on Hartford Day of Service.
- Special Missions funds of \$66.23 were used to put up our booth for the Church Fair.
- Pakistan Relief Matching Contribution - \$85
- Interval House - \$400
- Rocky Hill Volunteer Care Teams - \$500
- Families in Crisis - \$600
- The Board for Missions raised \$72.77 during the Church Fair, and those funds were designated for the next trip to Biloxi.

Turkey and a Twenty Update

As of November 22, we collected 103 turkeys and just over \$2100 for Foodshare!! We not only met our goal, but actually went over!! Thanks so much to all who donated and all who helped spread the word! We could not have helped Foodshare without your continued generosity!! Thanks also to Rich Pawlich and Stephanie Kelley for organizing the event, and especially to our Confirmands for helping to collect the turkeys!

Your Board for Missions are: Michael H. Bower – Chair, Linda Calcagni, Bob Carberry, Dave Edwards, Tom Kainamura, Stephanie Kelley, Meghan Kelly, Marge Murk - Secretary, Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio

Accessibility... a status report from the Trustees and Diaconate.



For many years our Church has been concerned about handicapped accessibility. The most visible effort, our addition of the elevator almost 20 years ago has helped many, many people gain access to worship and programs that they would have likely missed without the elevator. Most recently you may have noticed the new door on the Center Street side. The door now will automatically open for those unable to push or pull it open. A remote control switch is available inside and outside. The upgrade was made possible through the generous donation of the Clark family. This, along with the automated door at the entrance to the elevator makes it much easier to enter and exit the building.

The Trustees and Diaconate have turned their attention to areas inside the Church. As previously announced in Church and in the Churchmouse, a joint subcommittee is examining how we might adjust seating in the sanctuary be more accommodating to all people. Through the great efforts of the Pew Crew we have removed the shelving at the back of the sanctuary previously used by the ushers as work area and seating. Extra pews have been placed against the wall for the ushers. There is now more space for wheelchairs or for people to use the chairs available when sitting in pews is not feasible or comfortable.

The subcommittee is also looking at the rest of the pews to see if changes can be made without significantly affecting the beauty and symmetry of the sanctuary. Some of you have been able to see one of their ideas on the church website. These ideas are also available for viewing in Chapin Hall. These initial ideas would call for removing one pew in the front of the Church on the right hand side near the amen pews, making more room in the front for movement or placement of wheelchairs. In addition we would remove a portion of one pew more in the center of the sanctuary, again making us able to accommodate people with disabilities. At this point in the project there is no specific timeframe and neither of these ideas are finalized. The subcommittee is looking for feedback and ideas from the congregation. Please feel free to express your ideas and feedback to the Trustees and Diaconate, Donna, or your Council members "At large".

Thank you.

Stephanie Heneghan - Diaconate

Steve Ware - Trustees



A Request from the Trustees...

In keeping with our desire to be more accessible the Church is looking for the donation of a new or used (working well) wheelchair. Lately we have noticed an increase in the demand for wheelchairs on Sunday morning. If you have one or are willing to acquire one to donate please consider this request. Please contact Steve Ware or any Trustee. Thank you!

New Chairs!

A word of THANKS to all those who contributed to the new stacking chairs for Chapin Hall. Additional funds were contributed from 2009 Church Fair proceeds and the Inreach Committee. A crew of volunteers helped unload the truck and unwrap each of the 100 new chairs. Finally, to make room for the new chairs, most of the old folding chairs were sold during the recent fair. The new chairs are comfortable, clean, easy-to-stack, and look great. **Have a Seat, and Stay a While!**

"Warm Heart Tree"



For the 36th year, the Warm Heart Tree will be returning to the narthex on November 29th. Continuing through January 2nd, we will once again be collecting donations of warm hats, gloves, packages of white athletic socks, and scarves to decorate the tree. Men's hats should be black, brown, or gray without decoration. 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.

Confirmation

Confirmation class is now well underway. We've made a covenant with one another, started this journey of getting to know the church and each other, jumped into learning about the bible and worship, collected turkeys, and attended an interfaith learning opportunity. With the season of Advent starting of the new Church year, we're looking forward to meeting our confirmation mentors who will be joining us throughout the year.

December Schedule:

Here's what we're learning and doing this month...

Date	Class/Event	Times
Sunday, December 12	CLASS: Prayer *Meet your Mentors	2:00 PM - 3:45 PM

If you would like more information about confirmation please contact Meghan Young at Meghan@rhccucc.org.



S.P.I.R.I.T. Corner Check-in

The S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School has been on a journey with Joseph (of the coat of many colors fame) and his family. We have walked with him through dark times and through the joyous moments of being reunited with his family. From Joseph we have learned about the courage and wisdom God gives us, how we can use our own gifts with God's help, and how we can forgive and say thank you even when it is unexpected.

November was also a journey for the S.P.I.R.I.T. Youth as we started our new schedule of more frequent meetings with Lunch Bunch (6th-8th graders) meeting Sundays from 11:30 AM – 1 PM, and the High School Crew (9th-12th graders), meeting Sundays from 4 pm - 6 pm. Both groups also spent a night at the church for our fall overnight camp-in, taking time to get to know each other and compete in an Amazing Race all throughout the church building.

Christian Education continued next page...

Now with the arrival of Advent, which we are kicking off with our Advent Church Family Night on November 28th, we're looking forward to a new journey, as we travel the road to Bethlehem, with excited expectation as we await the birth of Jesus Christ. During December the S.P.I.R.I.T. church school will be learning about Advent and the Christmas Story, the youth group will have a special Christmas Party, we will start rehearsals for our Christmas Pageant, and we are extending a special invitation to ALL children, including those throughout the greater community, to join us for Jingle Bell Rock: A Children's Christmas Carol Workshop.

Here's What's Happening This Month:

Be sure to check the church website for details about events, as well as updates and changes to the calendars.

SPECIAL EVENTS: *You do not want to miss these!*

Date	Scripture/Lesson
Sunday, December 12	Pageant Kick-Off: <i>Immediately Following Worship.</i> Interested in being part of the pageant? Join us in the Chapel, for a brief 30 minute meeting, as we introduce the 2010 Christmas Pageant: "How Far Is It To Bethlehem?" and assign parts.
Saturday, December 18	Jingle Bell Rock: 9 AM – 12 PM A Children's Christmas Carol Workshop. <i>See flier for more information. RSVP requested.</i>
Saturday, December 18	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal: 2 PM – 4 PM Come meet in the Sanctuary for the 1 st rehearsal.

S.P.I.R.I.T Church School Calendar: *What we're learning this month.*

Date	Scripture/Lesson
Sunday, December 5	Second Sunday of Advent Communion Sunday, Family Worship
Sunday, December 12	Third Sunday of Advent <i>Focus: Advent</i> Isaiah 2:1-5 → "Walk in the light of the Lord"
Sunday, December 19	Fourth Sunday of Advent <i>Focus: The Christmas Story</i> Luke 2:1-20 → "Jesus is born"
Sunday, December 26	Family Worship

Christian Education continued...

S.P.I.R.I.T. Youth Calendar: December

Open to grades 6th-8th

Date	Event
Sunday, December 3	Youth Group Christmas Party (6th-8th Grade) Join us from 6 PM – 10 PM at the church for dinner, hot cocoa, holiday games, a movie, and cookie baking. As always, friends are welcome.
Sunday, December 12	Lunch Bunch → 11:30 AM-1 PM Youth Group → 4 PM – 6 PM
Sunday, December 19	Lunch Bunch → 11:30 AM-1 PM Youth Group → 4 PM – 6 PM

December Schedule:

Here's what we're learning and doing this month...

Date	Class/Event	Times
Sunday, December 12	CLASS: Prayer *Meet your Mentors	2:00 PM - 3:45 PM

If you would like more information about confirmation please contact Meghan Young at Meghan@rhccucc.org.



"Guess who got voted to be a sheep
in the Christmas Pageant for
the fifth year in a row?!!"

Jingle Bell Rock!

A Children's Christmas Carol Workshop



Come join us for a fun-filled morning of learning and singing everyone's favorite Christmas Carols, making crafts, and decorating tasty cookies.

Saturday, December 18th

9 AM - 12 PM

(Adult supervision provided.)

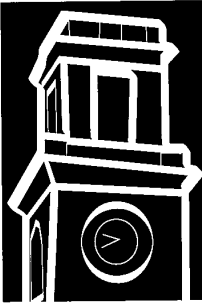
At Rocky Hill Congregational Church, UCC
805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill, CT

Open to ALL children in PreK - 5th Grade

Bring a non-perishable food item or new toy for those in need in our community.

RSVP Appreciated:

Please Call 860-529-4167, ext 204 or email meghan@rhccucc.org to let us know you're coming!



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Morning Worship
Communion 1st Sunday
10:00 a.m. with childcare



December
2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
			1 9:00am Quilters 12:00pm YOGA w/Lynn 12:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 7:30pm Adult Choir
5 Scrip Pickup 4:00pm Lessons & Carols 4:00pm Confirmation	6 10:00am Cookie Baking 5:30pm Yoga with Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCCNS Mtg 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	7 8:30am Breakfast Club 10:00am Cookie Baking 7:00pm Boards and Committees	8 9:00am Quilters 10:00am Cookie Baking 12:00pm YOGA w/Lynn 12:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 7:30pm Adult Choir
12 New Members Project Toy Drive Cookie Walk 11:30am Lunch Bunch 3:00pm Confirmation 4:00pm High School Group Lessons and Carols Snow Date	13 5:30pm Yoga with Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	14 10:30am Mapleview Svc 7:00pm Council	15 9:00am Quilters 12:00pm YOGA w/Lynn 12:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 7:30pm Adult Choir
19 11:30am Lunch Bunch 2:00pm Confirmation 2:00pm Christmas Caroling 4:00pm High School Group Cookie Walk Snow Date	20 5:30pm Yoga with Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm RHCC Bowling 7:30pm Bell Choir	21	22 9:00am Quilters 12:00pm YOGA w/Lynn 12:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 7:30pm Adult Choir
26	27 NO RHCC Bowling 5:30pm Yoga with Lynn 7:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm Bell Choir	28	29 9:00am Quilters 12:00pm YOGA w/Lynn 6:00pm Yoga with Pam 7:30pm Adult Choir

VOICE MAIL INSTRUCTIONS – If you call the church and the Voice Mail answers, you do not have to listen to the entire message. Anytime during the message you can have the call transferred directly to the person you are trying to reach by simply keying in the following numbers:

Donna Manocchio, Senior Pastor	202	Meghan Young, Acting Dir CE	204
Meghan Young, Acting Assoc. Pastor	203	Will Kanute, Dir. of Music	207
Carol Harvey, Office Secretary	201	Dick Webster, Sexton	205

ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
805 Old Main Street – Rocky Hill, CT 06067

(860)529-4167 office • (860)257-9637 fax
office@rhccucc.org • website: rhccucc.org
Office Hours 8 am – 2 pm – Monday – Friday

The Reverend Donna K. Manocchio, Associate Pastor
Meghan Young, Acting Director of Christian Education
The Reverend Arthur C. Weil, Minister Emeritus
Will Kanute, Director of Music

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 8:30am Yoga with Lynn 5:30pm TOPS 7:00pm Women of the Bible 8:00pm Men's AA	3 6:00pm High School Grp Youth Grp Holiday Party	4 8:30am Yoga w/Lynn
9 8:30am Yoga with Lynn 10:00am Cookie Baking 5:30pm TOPS 7:00pm Fair Meeting 7:00pm Theology on Tap 8:00pm Men's AA	10 10:00am Cookie Baking	11 8:30am Yoga with Lynn 10:00am Cookie Baking 6:30pm Dinner & Movie
16 8:30am Yoga with Lynn 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	17 5:00pm Community Event	18 8:30am Yoga with Lynn 10:45am Yoga with Lynn
23 8:30am Yoga with Lynn 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	24 OFFICE CLOSED 5:00pm Family Svc 11:00pm Candlelight Svc	25 8:30am Yoga with Lynn 9:00am Family Worship
30 8:30am Yoga with Lynn 5:30pm TOPS 8:00pm Men's AA	31 OFFICE CLOSED	



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

Congratulations!

SCRIP-SURE – Hopefully, many of you ordered scrip before the end of November. Those cards will be available for delivery by December 5. Because of Christmas vacations, the next SCRIP-SURE order deadline will be deferred until Sunday, January 2nd. Orders placed by that date will be available for delivery on January 9th. Cards for Big Y, Westside Market, and Stop & Shop are usually available every Sunday, however, as we keep an inventory of these popular cards. See Gail Hall after church if you want any of these grocery cards.



- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|----|---------------------|
| 01 | John Hoffman | 13 | Thelma Somes |
| | Billie Charamut | 14 | Dave Hall |
| 02 | Arthur Weil | 15 | Linda Grillo |
| | Anita Watson | | Chloe Bellizzi |
| | Joseph Kunzelman | 16 | Eva Shen |
| 03 | Jennifer Courtemanche | 17 | Alex Siembab |
| 04 | John Hummel | | Jacob Engel |
| 05 | Debbie Schreier | 19 | Midge Sword |
| 06 | Bob Tangarone | | Carolyn Scheirey |
| | Marty Rowe | 20 | Alan Cunningham |
| 07 | Robert Mullins | | Nicholas Jokl |
| | Christina Jensen | 21 | Holly Peterson |
| 08 | Lawrence Siembab | | Christina Santiago |
| | Andrew O'Brien | 24 | Nancy Edwards |
| 09 | Kendres Lally | 25 | Jonathan Rutigliano |
| | Amy Murk | 26 | Janet Rutigliano |
| | Julie Fell | | Aaron Moore |
| 11 | Gary Nicholson | 27 | Donald Stedman |
| | Will Knight | | Nicholas Lizotte |
| 12 | Nathan Friday | 30 | Krista Pender |
| 13 | Ralph Ahlberg | | Karen Mescaros |

NEW WORSHIP ELEMENTS – The season of Advent marks the beginning of another Christian year, and in the spirit of new beginnings, the Deacons have made some changes to the opening elements of our worship service. We now will begin with a welcome, using the Biblical word to call us and invite us into God's house in joy and thanksgiving. That is followed by the prelude, giving us the opportunity to center ourselves to light the candles, reminding us of the light of Christ in our midst. Announcements will then be shared, focusing on how we live out the mission and ministry of God's church in this particular time and place. Announcements are followed by an introit (meaning "entrance") that calls us deeper into encountering the living God. May this new order lead and guide us deeper into the mystery and power of worship and the Divine presence.

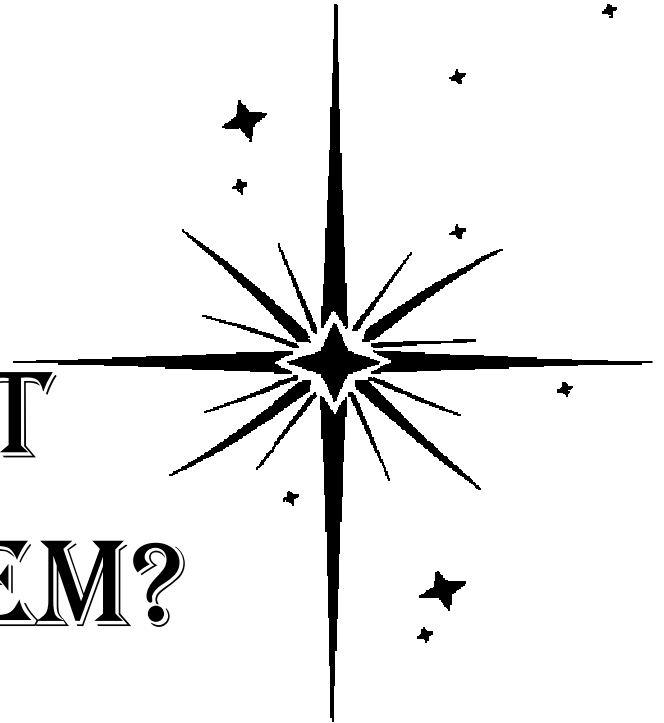
2010-2011

S.P.I.R.I.T.

Christmas/Epiphany

Pageant

HOW FAR IS IT TO BETHLEHEM?



Pageant Schedule

Come join us as we share the journey to Bethlehem!

Rehearsals

Pageant Kick-Off, Saturday, December 12

Join us in the chapel immediately following worship as we learn about this year's pageant, and assign parts.

Rehearsal, Saturday, December 18 from 2-3:30 PM

Meet in the Sanctuary.

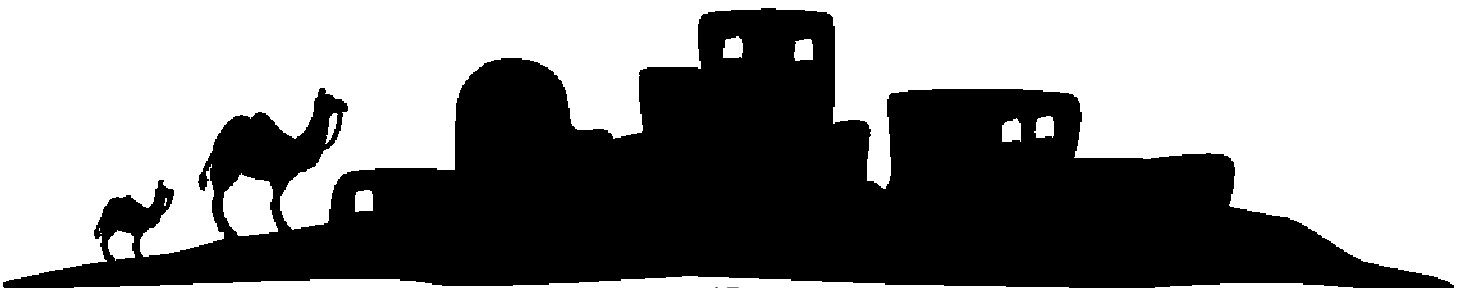
Dress Rehearsal, Saturday, January 8 from 10 AM – 12 PM

Meet in the Sanctuary.

Pageant

Sunday, January 9th at 10 AM

for more information contact
Meghan Young at meghan@rhccucc.org



Musical Notes 🎵 🎶 🎷

December begins the rushing and stressful time of the year. We would like to help you find some space by offering 2 programs to help you reflect on the season.

- On December 5 at 4 PM the 10th annual service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be presented by the choirs of RHCC under the direction of Will Kanute and Liz Reed-Swale. Join us as we prepare for the season and celebrate the story of Jesus' birth through words and music. A reception will follow in Chapin Hall. Free will offering will go to the Rocky Hill Department of Social Services.
- On December 12 at 11am the music program will be sponsoring the 10th Annual Cookie Walk. Here's your chance to let someone else do the baking and still get delicious homemade baked goods. In past years we have sold out in less than an hour! Preorders will be accepted- sign up in Chapin Hall.

For further information on either of these programs please see Linda Tokarski after church or call her at 860-633-8413 in the evening or e-mail her at: ltokarski64@gmail.com.

Please help us keep the music alive and supported at Rocky Hill Congregational Church.



Christmas Caroling
Sunday, December 19th

2:30 p.m. - Gather at the church

4:30 p.m. - Back at the church for refreshments



Purchase a memorial plant that is placed at the pulpit on Christmas Sunday, December 19th. After the Christmas Services, you may pick up your plant or have it donated to a shut-in. (The Flower Committee and the Deacons will deliver a plant to each shut-in after worship on Christmas.) The cost is \$12.00 per plant.

Checks can be made payable to Joan Diaz at 15 Thistle Down, Cromwell, CT 06416. Questions may be directed to Joan at 860 613-2889.

ORDERING DEADLINE – MONDAY, DECEMBER 13

In Memory of:

1. _____

Given by: _____

2. _____

Given by: _____

This year plants may be ordered for pick-up, or contributed to the Board of Deacons for delivery to a shut-in or homebound church member, or used to decorate the church sanctuary through Christmas.

Please select:

I will pick-up my plant after worship on Sunday, December 19.

Use my plant to decorate the church through Christmas.

The Deacons may give my plant to a Shut-in or homebound member.



Help Deliver Christmas Plants!

Your help is needed to help deliver Christmas Plants to our shut-ins and homebound members during the week before Christmas. The church school children have made homemade Christmas Cards to include with the deliveries. Our list consists of many people who live in the Rocky Hill, Wethersfield, Cromwell and Hartford areas. If you can deliver one or two of these plants sometime during the week of December 20, we would be most grateful for your assistance. Please contact Bob Inderbitzen at **860 418-9171** or email rinderbitzen@cox.net. Thank you!!

NEWS FROM THE FAIR COMMITTEE

Some great news! Our Church Fair was a huge success. We made almost \$15,000. With the dollars from the Spring Breakfast and Memorial Day Parade, the Fair Committee will give over \$17,000 to our church.

The success of these activities are the direct result of the dedication and discipleship shown by those who worked on these events and the support of our church family.

A special thanks goes to Carol Harvey and Dick Webster whose behind the scene activities were a great help during Fair week.

As Senior Pastor Donna Manocchio preaches, we are a progressive church and we hope you noticed some of the changes in this year's Fair. Such as: the Country Store, now the Apple Barrel was the result of Mary Dean's creativity. Her booth generated over \$2,400. Hope you noticed the Silent Auction display. Deb Copes and her team did an outstanding job which generated over \$4,700. Did you know, Lynn McKenna's Holiday House items are mostly her own creations and donates all the costs to the Fair? Hilaire Leavitt's Arts & Antiques booth was so successful that we had to give her two rooms.

The success of the Roast Beef Dinner is due to the dedication and hard work of Marsha Hoffman and her dinner team. RHCC is blessed to have Marsha's discipleship. Steve Ware and the Trustees deserve a very well done for managing the Indoor Tag Sale. Candy Smith's Toy Shop was a new booth this year and we're hoping to make it bigger and better next year.

We hope everyone had a chance to visit Sue Starr's Tea Room. The soups and deserts were truly gourmet. Elaine's Somes Peace and Love Diner had everyone reminiscing about the 60's. Hope you tasted the chowder. Again, Phyllis Wilkey's Jewelry Booth was very popular and generated almost \$1,100.

Neal Cox and Steve Smith had a great day at the Tool, Camera and Electronics Booth. We need to find a better way to get people to visit this Booth. A lot of great items did not sell.

The quilters deserve a BIG thank you for the beautiful quilt they made which was raffled off at the Fair. The winning raffle ticket was held by Irene Borowski. The lucky ticket was sold by our own Myrtle Furman.

The Fair Committee wishes to thank all those who attended the Fair and especially those who worked to make this year's Fair a great success.

May God always be with you and your loved ones. Have a great Holiday season.

The RHCC Fair Committee

Jim Stevens, Co-Chair
Phyllis Wilkey, Co-Chair
Bob Simmons
Elaine Somes
Lynn McKenna
Nancy Flynn, Treasurer
Marsha Hoffman, Consultant

Neal Cox
Annie Hokans-Doll
Candy Smith
Mary Dean
Don Pagnucco
Polly Pagnucco

EPIPHANY AND BAPTISM

Sunday, January 9, 2011

In the early days of the church, the feast of Epiphany was celebrated with great joy and with great purpose. It was a time to remember the manifestation of Jesus to the three kings; it was also a day to baptize people and to renew one's baptismal vows and promises. On January 9th, our church service will include the Christian Education Epiphany pageant as well as a renewal of our baptismal promise. In addition, ANYONES WHO WISHES to be BAPTIZED is invited to do so on 9TH. If you were not baptized as a child, and would like to receive the sacrament that symbolizes God's grace in our lives, please contact Donna via phone or email.

IMAGINE!

Worship is an encounter with the living God; it is a place where we come together with others to be in the presence of divine mystery and grace. Worship is enhanced when we come prepared to meet the One who gathers us together. A new tool for your preparation is called **IMAGINE!**, and it is an invitation to spend some time with in Scripture and prayer to create an open mind and hearts. By Thursday of each week, an image and a portion from the upcoming week's Scripture lesson and a brief prayer are posted to the church's website and FACEBOOK page. You are invited to ponder and pray with the words and images. What connections arise? Is there some new wisdom for your daily living and discipleship? Just click on the large purple **IMAGINE!** button on the top of the church website or follow the link from the church FACEBOOK page.



A Reminder to all RHCC Bowlers!!

On December 20th we will have our Christmas party. Please bring snacks to enjoy while bowling. There is no bowling on December 27th. We are bowling every Monday thru 5/2/2011 EXCEPT 12/27. May 2, 2011 is our last day of bowling for the season.

Stewardship

In this time of giving thanks and experiencing the joy of sharing, we are all truly grateful for those quick responses to the increased pledge challenge the Stewardship Committee put forth last month. **To date, 21+ responses have been received resulting in \$6,445 toward meeting the Local Budget goal for this fiscal year. There is still time to participate in this challenge as presented in the November Churchmouse. May the spirit of the season and through the grace of our Lord Jesus, move you to join others in meeting the challenge.**

The joy and gratitude one felt especially during Thanksgiving – the sharing of food and time with family and friends – need not stop or slow down at the end of November. Now that we are entering December we anticipate the joys of this season. The younger members of our church family especially, are learning about and will be participating in the message and celebration of Advent and Christmas as part of their on-going Christian education experiences. Such programs are essential to our being within God’s grace from the tiniest baby to the most senior adult.

As a church family, we are fortunate to have the monetary means at this time to support a strong, meaningful Christian Education program under the leadership of Meghan Young, our Acting Associate Pastor and Acting Director of Christian Education.

Our church is blessed with an abundance of time, talents and treasures generously shared by its “Ministry Team” – each and every one of us individually and collectively. To paraphrase a message in one of Meghan’s sermons (Aug. 1st) ...“*we are rich in the spirit of God.*” Be glad, rejoice, and share your good news!

Faithfully, your Stewardship Committee

Hilaire Leavitt, Louise Butts (Co-Chairs); Al Diaz, William Bartley, Brian Silkowski, Deb Copes (Financial Secretary)

Electronic Giving Clarification

In the November newsletter, an electronic giving authorization form was included as an insert. Unfortunately, this was a generic form that did not list the correct RHCC fund options, and it also provided for credit card donations. While we do have the capability to process credit card donations, we have decided not to activate that option yet, due to the high fees incurred (approx 3% of the amount charged.)

Electronic Giving Clarification continued...

The correct RHCC form is provided in this newsletter, and is also available on the church web site. In fact, if you access the web site, you can set up electronic giving online without the need to complete and submit a paper form. Donations will be withdrawn directly from your checking or savings account - similar to a debit card transaction.

If you would like to use your credit card for donations and you are willing to pay an extra 3% to cover the costs, then please contact either Deb Copes or Dave Hall and they can set this up for you.

Authorization Form

Rocky Hill Congregational Church



Effective date of authorization: _____		UCC082000
Type of Authorization Form: <input type="checkbox"/> New authorization <input type="checkbox"/> Change banking/credit card information <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation amount <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue electronic donation <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation date		
Last Name _____		First Name _____
Address _____		
City _____		State _____ Zip _____
Email Address _____		
Date of first donation: ____/____/____ Date of last donation (optional): ____/____/____	Frequency of donation: (please check only one) <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly - Mondays <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Monthly - 1 st and 15 th <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 st <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 th	Church fund designations and amounts: <input type="checkbox"/> Local Operating \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Benevolence \$ _____ Total \$ _____ Please indicate the amount of the periodic donation, and not an annual amount.
Special Instructions:		
CHECKING / SAVINGS	Please debit my donation from my (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Savings Account (contact your financial institution for Routing #) <input type="checkbox"/> Checking Account (attach a voided check)	Routing Number: _____ <i>Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3</i> Account Number: _____ ⑆123456789⑆ 123 123456⑆ 0001 Routing Number Account Number Check Number
	I authorize the above church and Vanco Services, LLC to process debit entries to my account for StillspeakingMoney®. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.	
Authorized Signature: _____		Date: _____

On November 10, 2010 our Long Range Planning met to discuss and implement our year two goals of our Five Year Strategic Plan. The five goals are as follows:



- **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.

The comprehensive Community Development Committee led by our staff person, Denise Best, met on November 13, 2010. Nearly 30 residents from four neighborhoods came together for our community report back meeting. This meeting was a follow-up of the Community Visioning meeting that met this past April. The five task forces will concentrate on economic development, health, housing, and public safety. Participants were urged to recruit new and younger members of the community.

On November 15, 2010 during our regularly scheduled council and board meetings we adopted a very difficult budget for the year 2011. As we all know, economic conditions are very, very difficult but, we will work harder to reach the needy.

Lastly, 54-56 Edgewood Street housing renovations are 80% complete!

God Bless,
Rich Pawlich Pagliccio
Delegate, Member of the Board of Directors

Women of the Bible
Thursday, December 2 at 7:00 PM in the Fiorilli Room

Join with other women to explore the story of Ruth. As we seek to understand the meaning of God's word and work in our lives and in our world. Come and pray, read, talk, laugh, and eat together!

Theology on Tap
Thursday, December 9 at 7:00 PM

Chuck's Steakhouse

Are you interested in sharing questions and experiences about God and God's presence in your life? If so, come and join with other church members and friends in the "back room" of the Chuck's Steakhouse. We discuss a different topic each month, so join us whenever you can. Bring a friend and see you at Chuck's!

Contact Donna (donna@rhccucc.org or on FACEBOOK) if you have questions, want to suggest a topic, or can join us for a gathering.

A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND RENEWAL

Saturday, December 11

5:00 PM

Weil Chapel

Christmas is a season of joy and celebration, and it can also be tinged with sorrow and loss. At this service, we will remember those we love who are in need of comfort and healing, those we've lost and those who grieve, and everyone who finds it difficult to make it through a festive holiday season. We will light candles of remembrance, offer prayers, sing songs, and lean into God's healing love made real in Jesus Christ to renew our hearts and souls.

"THE BREAKFAST CLUB" – A CHANGE OF LOCATION

Tuesday, December 14 at 8:30 AM

Due to the closing of Tim Horton's we will meet this month at BOB'S COFFEE SHOP, 33 New Britain Avenue in Rocky Hill. Come join us for coffee, conversation, and community!



Light the Tower! This is a special way to honor or memorialize your loved ones. The tower lights are on overnight and add to the electric bill. Your contribution of \$10 helps defray the cost. The names of your loved ones will be noted in the bulletin. The sign up list is in Chapin Hall or you can email office@rhccucc.org or call the church office 529-4167.

"Serve God with gladness! Come into God's presence with singing!"

PSALM 100:2

Simple gifts

When the two of us headed to China for the first time, in 2006, we understood it would likely be for one year and possibly two. As it turned out, we lived and worked in China for four years, and we can say with all our hearts that we have been deeply blessed! It is our hope that we too have been a blessing.

We spent three years as visiting professors at the Nanjing Union Theological Seminary, then last year, took on new assignments, this time in the magnificent city of Shanghai at Shanghai University and at the YMCA. Our work in Shanghai had one aspect that was very different from that at the Nanjing Seminary; most of our students and the people we interacted with were non-Christians and even atheists. In most cases it was not that they had chosen to be "against" religion but only that they did not have a religion! Learning this brought immediately to my mind an old hymn we used to sing as children in Canada. Its second verse went like this.

*How kind was our savior to bid these children welcome.
But there are many thousands who have never heard His name.
The Bible they have never read. They know not that the Savior said:
"Suffer little children to come unto me."*

In Shanghai, we were living among the people, and seeing them as gentle and kind and giving – but without any religion, many never having heard the name of Jesus. We were not permitted to proselytize, as the Chinese government does not allow it. Still, there was no reason why could not talk about Christianity and, maybe even more importantly, to try to model in as simple and sincere a way as possible just how a Christian behaves. It was easy to love and serve the Chinese people, as they were always so good to us. This gave us pause to think about who we are and what we need to do as Christians in the world.

Let us pray, that in this season of giving we remember what a blessing each individual gift of service and love is to others

Doreen and Michael McFarlane served as visiting professors at the Nanjing Union Theological Seminary. Doreen taught Biblical Hebrew and Greek, and Biblical interpretation, while Michael served as choir director and taught western sacred music. Later, in Shanghai as visiting professor in the history department of the Shanghai University, teaching American Culture and American Religion, and Michael as choir director and concert coordinator of the newest branch of the Shanghai YMCA.



DOREEN AND MICHAEL
MCFARLANE



You make the difference . . .

The prayers and help you provide through your local congregations make possible the work and witness of GLOBAL MINISTRIES, which is supported by Disciples Mission Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) of the United Church of Christ.

WWW.GLOBALMINISTRIES.ORG

COMMUNITY EVENTS

FREE Pictures with Santa! – Tuesday, Dec. 7th from 3:30 to 6:30 – ENJOY getting your holiday pictures without the lines! Goodies, including making your own ornament, Christmas cookies, movies and holiday cheer! 28 Church St, Rocky Hill/Contact (860)372-4848 for more info

A Children's Christmas Carol – Choose one of three performances; **Friday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m.** – **Saturday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m.** or **Sunday, December 5 at 2:00 p.m.** at New Britain Youth Theater at Trinity-*on*-Main Performance Space, 69 Main Street in Downtown New Britain/Tickets \$12/adults and \$10/children, students & seniors/Call 860 229-2072 to reserve tickets

Experience God's Gift of Hope! – **Night of Joy! Christmas Concert** – Choose one of four concerts; **Friday, December 10 at 7pm**, **Saturday, December 11 at 4 and 7pm**, or **Sunday, December 12 at 6pm** at Wethersfield Evangelical Free Church 511 Maple Street, Wethersfield. Free concert but tickets are necessary for admission. Call (860) 563-8286 or www.wethefc.com/noj to get free tickets or ask Carol Harvey. They will be accepting monetary donations to help launch a new food pantry.

Music for Christmas XXXVI – Sunday, December 19, 2010 at 4pm. First Congregational Church at 23 South Main Street in Wallingford. Call 203 265-1691 for more information.

A course in practical ministry – Open to anyone who wishes to grow in their ability to help others through listening, understanding, supporting, and providing feedback. This course has been offered at St. Francis Hospital and the St. Francis Academy for Clinical Pastoral Training twice a year since 1999. It is partially underwritten by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). Over three thousand people have taken this course. Participants have come from diverse backgrounds of ordained ministers, priests, rabbis, Imans, and lay people, policemen, women's ministry coordinators, Sunday School teachers, church secretaries and other church staff, prison guards, cantors, beauticians, social workers, psychologists, teachers, retired people and many others all with different religious backgrounds, all with a common interest in caring for the soul. The ten week course begins on Wednesday, Feb. 2 from 9-Noon at the Mt. Sinai campus in Hfd. and continues each Wednesday through April 6. The fee is \$150. The faculty is the Rev. Dr. Mark McKinney, Director of Pastoral Counseling at St. Francis, and Rev. Dr. Robert Henderson, Pastoral Psychotherapist in Glastonbury. Other faculty include Rev. Richard Allen. To enroll or for more information, Call Dr. McKinney at (860) 714-4183

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

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Mailed November 30, 2010

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.

Something uplifting and delightful for Christmas.
Join us for a potluck dinner and a movie
Saturday, December 11 at 6:00 pm.

"Serendipity"

Jonathan (John Cusack) and Sara (Kate Beckinsale) meet unexpectedly ...then part without expectation when she decides they must let fate determine if they are meant to be together. Years later, they are both engaged to others but cannot give up the dream that-despite time, distance and the obstacles that conspire to keep them apart- they will one day meet again. You're destined to agree with audiences everywhere who fell for the surprising charms of this delightful big-screen romance. A perfect blend of comedy and romance.

