

THE CARILLON

The First Congregational Church
of Vernon, UCC



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November 2010
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CHURCH STAFF

Interim Senior Pastor	The Rev. David Minnick
Associate Pastor	Rev. Cynthia J. Carr
Minister of Christian Education	Linda Shivers
Church Secretary	Nancy Young
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Organist	James Burr
Custodian	Earl Friedrich
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Website	firstchurchofvernon.org

Sunday Worship 10 AM
Sunday School 10 AM

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Monday ~ Friday
8:30 a.m. ~ 3:30 p.m.



"Connect THROUGH CHRIST ~ Connect WITH US"

The *Carillon* is published monthly, except for July/August, by
First Congregational Church of Vernon
695 Hartford Turnpike
Vernon, CT 0606

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

"Now thank we all our God, with hearts and hands and voices,

Who wondrous things hath done, In whom the world rejoices,
Who from our mother's arms, Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, And still is ours today."

For many of us, hearing the word "November" leads us to smack our lips. We easily associate November with Thanksgiving, our national feast day. Thanksgiving is a special holiday in our nation, crossing all our ethnic, cultural and faith backgrounds as we are united in setting a day aside to remember all we've been blessed with and to give thanks.

A favorite Thanksgiving hymn of many is "Now Thank We All our God," written in 1637 by Martin Rinkart. Rinkart was pastor of the Lutheran church in Eilenberg, Germany. Eilenberg was a walled city, whose walls protected the residents from the many armies that crossed Germany during the Thirty Years War (1618-1648). Being a walled city, Eilenberg was a popular refuge for many who sought sanctuary. However, while those walls provided safety from enemy armies, they also served to contain disease. When the plague came to that part of Germany, it reached epidemic proportions in 1637. At that time, Rinkart, the only remaining minister in Eilenberg, often conducted as many as fifty funerals a day. In that time of such great suffering, Rinkart grew spiritually, writing seven different dramas and sixty-six hymns.

Reading recently of the history of this beloved hymn, I was reminded of how often it is those facing the toughest of times and struggling the most in life, who are often the most grateful people I meet. Time and again, whether in churches I've served or in hearing the stories that others tell of their time spent on mission trips to places of great poverty, it is so often the rich spirit of gratitude from others that touches us the most.

The story that inspired Rinkart to write "Now Thank We All Our God" is a story that reinforces, for me, the theme of this year's Stewardship Campaign - "Let your light shine!" In the midst of overwhelming suffering, Rinkhart found the faith and inspiration to create songs of hope and praise. As we each prayerfully give thought to how we might "let our light shine," may we draw on this inspiration as we live our lives. May the light that shines from each of us spring from thankful hearts, eager to share the blessings we know with others so that they may know blessings in their lives.

As we look forward to the joy of the Thanksgiving holiday this year, may our hearts grow full with gratitude as the wonders of God's love continue to surround and fulfill our lives, over and over.

David

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Interim Ministry Conversations

As we move ahead in this time of interim ministry, I hope to schedule some times over the next few weeks where, in a variety of settings, we can begin to look at the specialty of interim ministry and the value of this special time of transition in the long history of First Church. The specialty of interim ministry is a relatively new calling in church history, but one that has many precedents in history.

In the weeks to come, there will be a series of meetings and conversations focusing on the special calling of interim ministry, the unique challenges and rewards of this transition time at First Church, the role and responsibility of the pastoral search committee, and church history and future. Please be on the lookout for any and all of these discussions which interest you or which might otherwise be helpful.

Christian Education News

Minister of Christian Education

Linda Shivers, necsvga@aol.com

Sunday School Superintendents

Cindy Madden, cindymadden@msn.com

Jen Condry, jbcondry@aol.com

Victoria Madden, vickimadden@msn.com

Youth Advisors

Dave and Deb Hockenberry, davendebihock@att.net

Fred and Jayne Gunther, jayne.gunther@snet.net



Sunday School News

The months of November and December tend to bring out the giving in everyone, our Sunday School children included. We have several mission projects scheduled over the next two months. Parents, please check with our teachers about how you can help support our Sunday School mission projects.

November

2nd/3rd grade

Centerpieces for Thanksgiving Day breakfast

4th/5th grade

Collecting gently-used coats for children, teens, women and men

(please check pockets and wash before dropping off)

6th grade

Collecting gently-used men's pants for the Cornerstone shelter. All sizes needed. Please wash before dropping off in the marked box in the Library.

7th/8th grade

"Adopting" a family from Missions and Outreach and providing a Thanksgiving dinner

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December
K/1st grade

Collecting gently-used or new scarves, hats, gloves for our Mitten Tree, to be donated to the shelter and organizations that help support children of low income families

ADVENT WORKSHOP
November 28 during Sunday School
Please bring in a snack to share.

Confirmation Class Schedule

- Nov 14** Class, 11:30 AM- 1 PM. Bring your lunch if you want.
- Nov 24** Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. Time and place to be announced. This can count as one of the special worship services you need to attend.
- Nov 28** Working the Advent Workshop with your sponsor, 9:30-11:30 AM

Youth Fellowship (6th-12th Grades)

Advisors: Jayne and Fred Gunther, Debi and Dave Hockenberry, Linda Shivers

The following activities have been planned:

- Nov 5** Set up for our Tag Sale fundraiser, 6-10 PM. Pizza and beverages will be provided. If you can work all or just a few hours, we need your help!! Let an advisor know if you are available.
- Nov 6** Work the Tag Sale, 8:30 AM-3 PM. If you can work all or just a few hours we need your help!! Let an advisor know if you are available.
- Nov 21** Cookie bakers needed for our Giv2 mission, 11:30 AM-3:30 PM. We will be baking cookies and freezing them to put them in holiday bags to hand out at our mission on December 5.

CHURCH FAIR
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6,
9 AM-3 PM

OPERATING BUDGET SUMMARY
Year-to-Date 9/30/10

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
Pledges & Unrestricted Giving Received vs. Budgeted Amount	70.1%	72.7%
Pledges & Unrestricted Giving Income	\$163,430	\$171,921
Total Income	\$231,532	\$235,839
Total Expenses	\$232,478	\$247,119
Net Income	(\$946)	(\$11,280)

Detailed financial information is available from Bill Boutwell, Treasurer (williamboutwell@comcast.net).

STEWARDSHIP & EVANGELISM NEWS

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
November 14



On November 14, we will “Let Our Light Shine” as we receive pledges during the worship service. We ask that all pledges be in by this date. This is vital to the planning of our 2011 Budget. If you did not receive a pledge packet or have had a change of address, please notify the Church Office.

Wear Your Nametag

Reach out in fellowship. Wear your nametag. If you need a nametag, please contact the Church Office, fccv@snet.net or (860) 875-7580.



Daylight Saving Time
ends November 7

WELCOME TO FCCV

If you bring a guest to church or know of a first time visitor, please ask them to sign our Guest Book located in the Narthex on the table beneath the Flower Chart. There they will also find a special Welcome Bag just for them.

Connect Through Christ ~ Connect With Us

MARY JO'S NOTES

by Mary Jo Simonds-Huneger

On Sunday, November 7, Veteran's Day Sunday, the men of the choir will be singing the Navy Hymn (Eternal Father, Strong to Save). We invite any interested men in the congregation to sing with us whether or not you have served in the armed services. We will begin rehearsing immediately, but if you cannot get to rehearsals, simply come on the 7th at 9 AM. You will be more than welcome.



It is hard to believe that I am not only planning the Christmas program, but actually arranging the rehearsals. Yesterday, I saw the first Christmas commercial on television! Unbelievable! And away we go! So...here *we* go too! I invite any of you who are interested, to join us in singing the Christmas program. The music is always so beautiful and lots of fun as well. It is a great way to enjoy the music of the season while enjoying the "choir experience" at the same time. For those of you who think you might like to sing with the choir, this is a wonderful way to find out. For those of you who feel you simply can't commit to choir full time, this is a perfect compromise. Rehearsals will begin Thursday November 4 at 8:15 PM. We would love to have you (you don't have to have experience or read music-you just need to be able to carry a tune), so please come if you can. I can guarantee a good time, with lots of great music, and even more laughter!

I hope many of you will be able to participate in one or both of these events. As we prepare, we await the advent of Christ with anticipation, and look forward to all the joys of the season to come.

NOVEMBER

MUSIC @ FIRST

presents

THE WEST END STRING QUARTET

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14
3 PM



WESQ strives to bring new and uncommon repertoire to their concerts, pairing these with traditional works. WESQ brings a personal perspective with each piece through spoken notes, making unfamiliar works accessible to new audiences as well as seasoned classical music-lovers. This innovative programming and the strong rapport WESQ develops with audiences have led to repeat engagements at the Universalist Church of West Hartford, the River Crossings Concert Series in Hartford and the Arts Institute of Western Maine. WESQ has also performed with Connecticut Opera and at Wesleyan University's Ives Vocal Marathon.

Suggested donation at the door: \$7

\$5 for seniors, students and groups of 10 or more

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THANKSGIVING PIES

\$10

Homemade pies without the work!
Baked by Women's Fellowship

**Orders will be taken during Coffee Hour
Sundays, November 7 and 14**

or

Use the order form below

Pies (frozen) will be available for pickup
during Coffee Hour on Sunday, November 21

THANKSGIVING PIES

\$10

- _____ Apple
- _____ Dutch Apple (crumb topping)
- _____ Pumpkin
- _____ Pecan

Name _____ Phone _____

Payment is requested at time of order. Please make checks payable to Women's Fellowship and send to FCCV, 695 Hartford Tpke., Vernon, CT, 06066, attn: Women's Fellowship Pie Sale.

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BOARD OF MISSIONS NEWS

Adopt-a-Family for Thanksgiving

The Board of Missions and Outreach is again sponsoring our annual "**Adopt-a-Family for Thanksgiving**" program where our church family provides Thanksgiving dinners for families in need in the Vernon area. Those who wish to participate may **sign up** during Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall on Sundays, **November 7 and 14**. This year the need will be greater than ever, so please consider supporting this important mission.



On-going Mission Projects

Non-perishable food items are being collected in the Mission Box in the Breezeway. The items collected are delivered to the Food Pantry. They are always in need of all types of non-perishable foods, especially foods that are high in protein - peanut butter, tuna fish, soups and beans. Each month specific items are highlighted as the food of the month:

November and December - stuffing mix, instant potatoes, canned vegetables, cranberry sauce, canned fruit

There is also a need for baby diapers, baby formula and any type of personal care item (soap, deodorant and shampoo).

We are also collecting sample-size toiletries from hotels for the Tri-Town Shelter in memory of Dave and Joanna Chmielecki. Items may be left in the basket on top of the Mission Boxes in the Breezeway.

Young Adult and Adult Mission Opportunity

Silver Lake Conference Center is partnering with *Simply Smiles* to offer an **International Youth and Adult Mission Project to Oaxaca, Mexico**. You can find lots of information about the ways you will be serving by visiting www.simplysmiles.org. The cost of this trip is \$1900 per teen. Some financial assistance might be available through home churches and their Associations. There will be an informational meeting with Simply Smiles and the trip's leaders on Saturday, November 6 from 2-4 PM at the Naugatuck Congregational Church.

March 5-12, 2011: Mission for adults over 18

April 16-23, 2011: Mission for teens 16 to 18.

Any questions contact:

Josh Dufresne and Rev. Jennifer Habetz
Deans, International Youth Mission Trip to Oaxaca
Silver Lake Conference Center.
860-364-5526

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POINSETTIA ORDER FORM
\$11 per plant

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

To beautify the Sanctuary _____

Deadline for ordering is December 12.

Please make checks payable to FCCV.

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The **Men's Club Breakfast Group** meets every Tuesday at 6:30 AM at the Vernon Diner. A brief devotion and excellent conversation is served each week. We invite all men of the church to join us.

December Carillon
DEADLINE
Tuesday, November 9

Parish Nurse News

YOGA...Our Parish Nurses sponsor Yoga classes on Wednesday evenings from 5:30-6:30 PM. Classes are based on practical Hatha Yoga stretches and are geared for all levels. Donation is \$5 per class. Please bring a mat. Questions? Contact Sara Koziol, 875-0203.

Your Parish Nurses take **blood pressures** on the 4th Sunday of every month. We also offer supportive listening and provide information and referral resources.

CARING and SHARING GROUP

Anyone interested in attending this grief support group is invited to join us on **Fridays** at **10:30 AM** in the Library. This group is open to all who have experienced the loss of a loved one and is being run by members of the congregation. Please feel free to come alone or bring a family member or friend. Any questions? Contact the Church Office, 860-875-7580.



Deacons **Margaret Klukas** and **Jan Muro** are the **coordinators** for the **Care Network**. If you are in need of a ride to the doctor, hospital, grocery store, etc., meals or a visit please call the Church Office.



We extend sincere sympathy to the following individuals who have recently experienced the loss of a loved one.

Mary Wheeler on the loss of her sister, Ellie Smith

The family of Martha Perkins on her death
The family and friends of Sam Wecal on her death

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Births

Ryan Todd Jamieson, son of Jeanette Markunas and grandson of Charlie and Gilmay Markunas, born on September 12

William Ryan Newton, son of Bill Newton and his girlfriend Beth and grandson of Allan and Marilyn Newton, born on September 17

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Wedding by Rev. Cynthia Carr

Congratulations to Philip Doughty, Jr. and Kathryn Sugino who were married at FCCV on October 10. Philip is the son of Angela and Philip Doughty, Sr.

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The **Library** is self-serve and open when the church is open.

the **PRAYER SKAWL GROUP** is now meeting at the church on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 1 PM in the LIBRARY.

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Following is a list of people in our church family on active duty. We ask that you keep them and their families in your prayers. If you would like to add someone to this list, please contact the Church Office.

Maj. Joel Cummings, son of Hal and Ibbey Cummings, at Fort Bliss, TX

Michael Wilson, son of Nancy Beimler, serving in the U. S. Navy in San Diego

Steven Beimler, son of Nancy Beimler in the National Guard

David Roy, nephew of Bess and Harmon Howe and Donna and Dave Symonds, in Afghanistan

Charlie Oster, Mary Hurst's daughter's fiancée, in Afghanistan

