

# THE CARILLON

The First Congregational Church  
of Vernon, UCC



Vol. 47 No. 5

January 2011  
Pub. Dec. 28, 2010

## 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
Sanctuary Choir Director	Mary Jo Simonds-Huneger
Organist	James Burr
Custodian	Earl Friedrich
Phone	(860) 875-7580
Fax	(860) 875-2436
Email	fccv@snet.net
Website	firstchurchofvernon.org

Sunday Worship	10 AM
Sunday School	10 AM

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



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**"Connect Through Christ ~ Connect With Us"**

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

## PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

I am still "old school" enough of a "tech dinosaur" to continue using a pocket calendar to organize my daily schedule. If you ask me about an upcoming meeting, you'll see me fish in my shirt pocket to pull out my "At-a-Glance" pocket calendar in order to check my schedule. At the end of the year, I store my pocket calendar in my desk drawer at home, a simple testament to a year of my life.

Each year in December, I find it necessary to carry two calendars, one for the current year, the other for the year soon to come. One of my simple joys is writing for the first few times in a new calendar each December. There is something very satisfying about logging in upcoming meetings and appointments, the upcoming opportunities in the year to come.

Reviewing the old calendar and taking time to write in birthdays and anniversaries of those close to me always brings a smile. And from time to time, when I come on the birth date of someone who is no longer sharing life's journey with me, a sigh, a prayer and a tear are the response.

In a very simple way, cracking open and entering dates into a new calendar is a moment of grace. Scribbling down letters and words which set aside, make a priority, for a day in the new year is one way we acknowledge the fragile blessing of each new day. It is a way in which we look ahead in faith, trusting in God's goodness and blessing in the time between now and then. As we write, we are confident we will be alive to be part of that day upcoming and we look forward with hope to the event we are scheduling.

As you look ahead to 2011, may it be with hope-filled hearts, ever eager to respond to God's abundant grace.

See you in church.

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### **Guest Preacher on January 9**

On January 9, Ms. Leanne Connolly will be guest preaching at our morning worship. Leanne is a long time and very faithful member of First Church, who usually sits on the other side of the chancel during worship, as a member of the Senior Choir. In addition to her full time career as a teacher and her commitments to her family, Leanne is also completing her studies at the Andover Newton Theological School. She anticipates completing her Masters of Divinity degree in May and pursuing ordination to ministry.

After two and half years of seminary study, Leanne is eager to share some of the many ideas she has learned in her studies. Let's make a special effort to welcome an old and dear friend as she brings to us some new perspectives on God's Word.

1

**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

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### **Sunday School News**

Our Joyful Carillon Ringers (open to any child in Sunday School grades 3 years-5<sup>th</sup>) did a great job their first time playing for the congregation on December 12. Under the direction of Victoria Madden and assisted by Emily Gottier, the children practice the first Sunday of the month. Victoria has done a fantastic job with the children teaching them to "read" the music (done by colors) and getting them to listen to the beat and play the correct bell with the music. Led by Emily Gottier, the children played a second time at the Christmas Eve Family Service. I hope we can continue to incorporate these enthusiastic ringers in our worship services throughout the year.

Thank you to all the children who participated in the Family Christmas Eve Service. Over the years, we have thought about adding, changing or doing something different at our Family Christmas Service – but when you see the children participating in our live nativity, all those thoughts disappear.

Our thanks to the Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students who collected hats, gloves, scarves and mittens for those in need. All children's items (including coats) went to Kid Safe in Rockville. The coats were dropped off at the Tri-Town Shelter in Rockville.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School Class would like to say "Thanks for all the pants!" We collected 118 pairs of men's pants, 15 pairs of women's pants, 15 men's tops, 12 women's tops, 5 pairs of boys' pants, some socks and underwear and 2 big bags of winter coats. We delivered them to the very thankful clients at the Cornerstone Shelter on December 6. "Ask and it shall be given!" Thanks again!

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### **Sunday School Schedule**

**Jan. 3** Start downstairs in Kellogg Hall for a group lesson



2

### **Confirmation Class News**

At this point, all Confirmands needing service hours should have at least half of them done. Another reminder: You need to attend either a Baptism or Communion service and fill out the question sheet in your Confirmation packet. This service needs to be done before June.

Please check your email by Friday of every week. We will have several opportunities coming up with a Synagogue (I cannot control date and time) and with a Funeral Home.

**Confirmation Class Schedule**

**Jan. 9 and 23** Class, 11:30 AM-1 PM in the Library. Bring lunch if you want.

**Youth Fellowship (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grades)**

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

**Basketball**

Due to the poor response from our youth and the youth of Wapping Church in South Windsor, basketball has been put on hold for now. Based on the response from the youth, we may look at holding it again in a month or so.

**Sleepover**: January 14-15. Drop off at 7 PM. Pick up at 9 AM. This is a fun activity, so bring games, movies or any activities you want to do and a snack and beverage to share with everyone. Don't forget your sleeping bags, pillow, pj's and tooth brushes.

**OPERATING BUDGET SUMMARY**

**Year-to-Date 11/30/10**

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
<b>Pledges &amp; Unrestricted Giving Received vs. Budgeted Amount</b>	91.1%	90.8%
<b>Pledges &amp; Unrestricted Giving Income</b>	\$212,456	\$214,965
<b>Total Income</b>	\$294,400	\$294,892
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$268,499	\$280,833
<b>Net Income</b>	\$25,901	\$14,059

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

A series of classes for prospective members will be held after church on Sundays in the upcoming weeks. Led by the pastors, these classes are an opportunity to learn more about what church membership at First Church of Vernon involves.

There is no obligation to join. We see these as opportunities to talk, share, ask questions and learn more about church membership as an important part of making the covenant commitment to formally join a local church. If you have been worshipping with us and are interested in learning more about this or if you would like to be part of the next class of prospective members, please contact one of the pastors or call the church office, 860-875-7580.

**STEWARDSHIP & EVANGELISM NEWS**

**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*

**Did You Forget Your Pledge?**

All pledges were due by November 14.

This is vital to planning our 2011 budget.

If you did not receive a pledge packet or need one, please contact the Church Office.

**Thank You For Your Support!**

**2011 PLEDGE GOAL - \$240,000**

**“Let Your Light Shine”**

**“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven.”** Matthew 5:16 (NIV)

**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.

**PAY IT FORWARD**

What began as a two-week journey back in October has now extended to over nine weeks. Thanks to the generous contributions of the members and friends of the First Congregational Church of Vernon this is expected to continue

through the first 6-8 weeks of 2011. We are so grateful to the donors whose contributions are allowing this program to continue. Thank you!

4

**Celebrate GOD and each other,  
as you “Let Your Light Shine” with “Pay It Forward”**

Following is a summary of the way “Pay It Forward” has contributed to the community in which we live.

**John Koziol** asked a neighborhood elementary school teacher if she could use \$50 for the benefit of her class. Her first thought was to buy resource materials for several students who were not able to read at grade level. As she gave this project more thought, she felt she was being selfish to keep it in her own classroom. She enlisted help from the school nurse who suggested augmenting the school’s Thanksgiving basket mission for 20 needy families in their school population. Attached to the baskets would be a pay-it-forward note asking the recipients to show their appreciation for this gift by doing three nice things for others in need. This approach not only broadens the gift from one classroom to the whole school; it also promotes good deeds throughout the community. Stimulated by this pay-it-forward concept, the teacher plans to have her students make greeting cards for our servicemen during the holidays. The students’ cards will include materials for the recipients to make cards to send to others. Thus this \$50 could encourage others to give thoughts for paying it forward from a classroom to the school to the community and to the world.

**Sean O’Gara** assisted a neighborhood child who has one leg longer than the other, inhibiting him from doing things a normal child can do, such as walking in the snow. Sean put the gift towards a special snow shoe that will enable him to walk and play in the snow for the first time. The gift was matched by the vendor who covered the remaining cost of the special shoes.

An **anonymous church member** reported that her niece who is out of state heard about our “Pay It Forward” program. She donated \$50 to the program which in turn was given to a family in need in the Vernon community.

**Pat Lazeren** purchased two bags from Hockanum Valley for the “Pack a Sack – Bring it Back” program. This program is designed to furnish groceries for families in need in the local community. Others in turn paid it forward to fill the bags.

**Madeline Condry** paid it forward to the “Kid Safe” program in Vernon. The money was used to purchase essentials (toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, etc.) for families needing assistance.

**Pat Aldrich**, with a love for music and the music ministry of FCCV, enriched the Les Childs Scholarship by paying it forward with her gift of \$50. This scholarship is awarded annually to an applicant for the pursuit of excellence in music.

5

**Irene Pinkham**, sharing her joy of music and love of children, paid it forward to our Youth Choir to enhance their program and the music they provide.

**Judy Ramsdell** had a special guest, Summit from DAWGS. Summit is an Australian Shepherd specially trained in disaster and wilderness ground searches. Judy’s “Pay It Forward” gift provided funds for training in this valuable life saving program.

**Linda Shivers**, using a charity close to her heart and one she has generously contributed valuable time to over the years, paid it forward to the Cornerstone Soup Kitchen located in Rockville. This gift will provide additional food supplies to those in need in the local community.

**Don Melander** works for an engineering firm. He and his company have provided services and volunteered their time to the Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity, an organization that builds affordable housing to strengthen the community it serves. Don’s “Pay It Forward” gift provided materials and supplies to this organization.

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**Ways & Means News**

The Ways & Means Committee will be selling pumpkin soup during Coffee Hour on Sunday, January 9. Cost is \$6 per container and is available on a first come, first serve basis.

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**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS**

**“WARM YOUR SOUL”** Tuesday, January 18, 6 PM

An evening of fun and food as we enjoy 3 different soup “comfort foods.” Get some new ideas for your recipe box while we feed our souls and our appetites. Look for the sign-up sheet on the Women's Fellowship bulletin board. Snow date - January 25

**February Carillon  
DEADLINE  
Tuesday, January 8**

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.

## Parish Nurse News

The Parish Nurses sponsored a CPR/AED Class on October 30 given by instructors from CPR O HEART, LLC. Fourteen members of the congregation attended the class and were awarded a 2-year certification. Based on the response and feedback provided by the participants, CPR O HEART has offered to provide classes to those within the congregation at no charge. They will also allow anyone who is certified to audit any of the classes, if they feel that skills need to be reviewed. If interested, you can contact them at [www.cproheart.com](http://www.cproheart.com) or notify Delythe Kracke at [delythek@yahoo.com](mailto:delythek@yahoo.com). This company provides a great service to the community and is dedicated to educating lay people to be better able to assist those in case of emergency. In the spring, a less formal review session will be scheduled, to be held in the church.

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**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.

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

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## 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.



The **Care Network** is offered by the Deacons as a helping hand during difficult times. If you are in need of a ride to church, the doctor, hospital, grocery store, etc., in need of meals or a visit, would like more information or would like to join the Care Network, please contact the Church Office.

## THANK YOU!

### Thanks and an Encouraging Word

Many thanks to so many members and friends here at First Church for all your help, concern and support to Maggie and me in recent days. At this point, we believe we have weathered the worst of the storm. Maggie had her surgery on November 16, was home after dinner on the next day, and hosted Thanksgiving dinner at our home for her family. You can't keep a good woman down! Follow-up appointments with her surgeon and oncologist have brought more good and encouraging news. Maggie intends to begin a post operation protocol early next year which we are very hopeful will prevent a reoccurrence of her cancer. The surgeon has indicated that because these tumors were found early and acted on aggressively, the outcome and prognosis is quite favorable. The encouraging word for you all is that Maggie self-diagnosed her cancer by doing a breast self exam. A month later, we are still understanding how important and what a blessing this was for her. So I want to encourage the women who read this to do what you have to do to take care of yourselves. Information about self exams is available from a wide number of sources, including our Parish Nurses. And to the men who read this, please encourage the women in your family to take this very important pro-active effort at self-care. The difference it can make to quality living is immeasurable.

David Minnick

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## BOARD OF MISSIONS NEWS

On behalf of the Board of Missions and Outreach, thank you so much for your incredible generosity to the HVCC Adopt-a-Family Thanksgiving Dinner program. We (FCCV) donated **98** dinners and several grocery bags of "extras." As the last vehicle was unloaded, HVCC staff said they were truly amazed and very thankful for our support. Thank you all for making it possible! It took 12 vehicles to deliver the bountiful baskets--many thanks to the "muscle" and drivers!

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



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

The family and friends of Sam Frost on his death  
 The Oliphant family on the death of Joan Oliphant, wife of  
 C. David and mother of William  
Pam Lyons and family on the death of her brother-in-law,  
 Leonard Horn

**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

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

