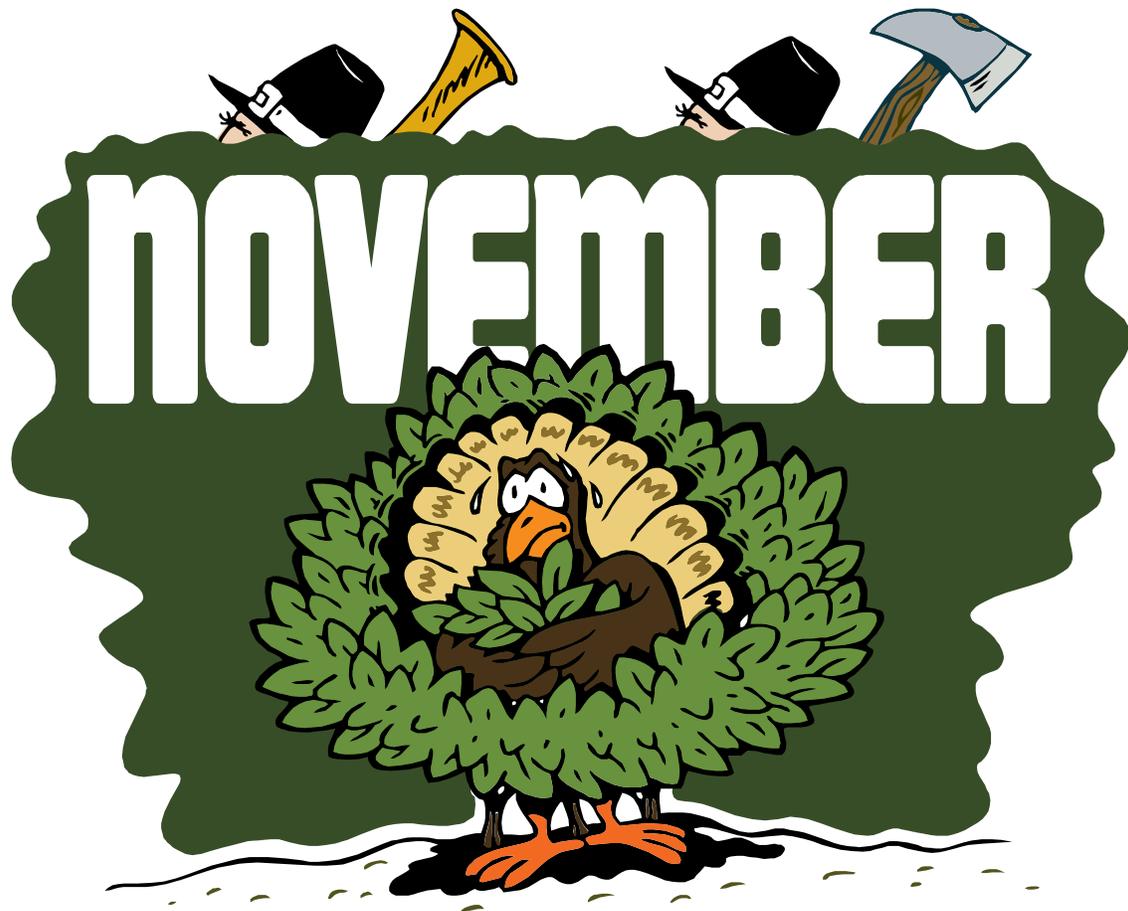


The Carillon

The First Congregational Church
of Vernon, UCC



Vol. 48 No. 3

November 2011

Pub. Oct. 26, 2011

CHURCH STAFF

Interim Senior Pastor	The Rev. David Minnick
Associate Pastor	Rev. Cynthia J. Carr
Minister of Christian Education	Linda Shivers
Field Placement Student	Joseph Tobin
Church Secretary	Nancy Young
Sanctuary Choir Director	Mary Jo Simonds-Huneger
Organist	James Burr
Custodian	Kaylani Foster
Phone	(860) 875-7580
Fax	(860) 875-2436
Email	fccv@snet.net
Website	firstchurchofvernon.org

Sunday Worship 10 AM (Announcements 9:50 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, U.C.C
695 Hartford Turnpike
Vernon, CT 06066

CELEBRATING 250 YEARS!!!!

Get Ready to Celebrate!

First Congregational Church of Vernon is about to launch a YEAR of celebration to honor the 250th anniversary of the gathering of our church.

There will be plenty of opportunities to express our gratitude, pride and joy ...that our church has been a place where countless people have shared worship, fellowship and service since **well before** the Revolutionary War was fought and the thirteen original colonies became the United States of America. That is an amazing thought... almost too much to imagine in this year 2011.

The Anniversary Committee hopes to provide glimpses of what has gone before us...through many generations...to help us feel connected to those who had the first vision...who built a place of worship in what was a completely different time and setting. Different and yet the same...those who worshiped in colonial times prayed to God as do we. They had cares and sorrows, hopes and dreams, as do we. They were the First Congregational Church in Vernon, as are we!

Let's explore some of these times together by participating in activities that will bring us together to celebrate. Watch Carillons, Sunday Bulletins and special emails to keep track of our 250th celebrations. Watch for the 250th logo!

Anniversary Committee,

Daryl Gottier, Russ Kunz, Betty Ann Wurst, Phyllis Chase, Geraldine Strong, Joan Apel (Historian), Carol Slicer, Lynn Sweet

PS. WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE MORE MEMBERS AND MORE IDEAS. PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE OR ANY OF THE ABOVE TO SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2011...LET THE CELEBRATION BEGIN!

November 24, 1762 was the date when The Rev. Ebenezer Kellogg was ordained to lead the 2nd Church of Bolton (which became First Congregational Church of Vernon in 1808 as the Town of Vernon was incorporated). *Our church was already in Vernon...it just wasn't Vernon yet!*

On **November 20, 2011** we will begin a year of celebration, culminating November 2012 when our church completes its 250th year.

WORSHIP: We have much to celebrate. Let's fill the pews on November 20. We will begin with a joy-filled worship service...praising God for leading FCCV to this year and praying for strength and His guidance as our congregation heads into our third century. A HIGHLIGHT of the service will be hearing the words of the late Norman Strong, emeritus Deacon and strong supporter of FCCV his whole life. Twenty-five years ago, when an earlier anniversary year was celebrated, Norman seized the occasion to write a letter to the congregation as it would be configured at the time of our 250th Anniversary. It will be moving to all who knew Norman to hear what he has to say. If you did not have the honor of knowing Norman Strong, you will get an idea of who he was...and how he felt about our church.

LUNCH AND...: Since you will already be at church, please plan to stay for a soup and salad lunch after worship in Fellowship Hall! Thanks to Women's Fellowship, there will be no charge and reservations are not needed. We just want a big crowd...a "loaves and fishes" kind of crowd. There will be scrapbooks filled with pictures to see, and a walk/ride is planned for those who wish to view the Sunnyview Drive site of our first Meeting House (FYI: At the time, Sunnyview Drive was known as Meeting House Hill).

DISPLAY CASE HAS MOVED!

In honor of our 250th year, we will be highlighting some of the MANY treasures of our church history found in the "vault" (room in the basement where important papers and items harking back to the beginnings of FCCV are preserved). The display case, formerly tucked in a corner, has been moved to a more prominent spot in Fellowship Hall, and items it holds will be changed frequently! Please check the display case often to view artifacts, photographs and ephemera that gives a peak into the history of our church...**250 years of Counted Blessings!**



2012 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

REMINDER! All pledges must be in by November 13, Stewardship Sunday. This is vital to the planning of the 2012 budget. If you need a pledge packet, please contact the Church Office. If you have questions regarding Stewardship, please contact any member of the Stewardship Committee.

Count Yourself Blessed

Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.

Luke 6:38

FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions about the Stewardship Campaign and Pledge Drive for the 2012 Budget Year

Q. What is the Annual Stewardship Campaign and Pledge Drive?

A. The Stewardship Campaign and Pledge Drive is our church's annual effort to gather financial support for the year ahead. Members and friends of the First Congregational Church of Vernon are invited and encouraged to make a pledge, a financial commitment, for the following year. Pledges for the year to come allow the church's leaders to plan for the programs and missions we want to support.

Q. Why do I need to pledge?

A. Pledges are important for two reasons. The first one is practical; they help the church leaders to measure the financial support and to plan accordingly. The second one is spiritual; a pledge is one way to put your faith into action. By making a pledge, you are making a commitment to share the resources and blessings you have known by empowering the church to move ahead.

Q. What is the pledge goal for 2012?

A. The 2012 pledge goal is \$241,700. This figure represents a 2% increase over the 2011 budget. The annual budget total is \$349,416.

Q. How do I make a pledge?

A. Pledge packets, which include information and a pledge card, are available before and after worship each Sunday between now and November 13. During worship on November 13, pledges will be received and dedicated. Pledge cards may be returned to the Church Office before that date.

Q. Who will know the amount of my pledge?

A. We recognize that making a pledge can be a very private and personal decision. At the same time, record keeping regarding pledges is very important in our efforts to live up to the high accounting standards we hold ourselves to. Consequently, the only person who is aware of your annual pledge is the Assistant Treasurer Steve Morse. Neither of the pastors has access to this information.

Q. How much should I pledge?

A. Again, this is a very personal decision. We request that you prayerfully consider all that you have been blessed with in life and all that our church seeks to do to proclaim and share God's love in a variety of ways. Our hope is that by giving thought to all these blessings, your support of our church will be generous and gladly given. All pledges are greatly appreciated and respected. While some members *tithe*, the Stewardship and Evangelism Committee is urging church members to consider *proportional giving*.

Q. What does "tithe" and "proportional giving" mean?

A. In the Bible, those who chose to "tithe" committed themselves to giving 10% of what they received to God. That might mean 10% of their crops to be offered in sacrifice or 10% of their salaries given to the church. For many people, 10% is an amount that would create financial distress rather than being a cheerful gift to God. "Proportional giving" refers to committing yourself to giving a specific proportion of your income as your pledge. While some members are capable of giving 10% (and joyfully do), others are asked to compute a percentage that is manageable and to make their pledge based on that number. Perhaps it's 5% or 2%. The important thing is to make a commitment and also to give joyfully.

Q. Why can't I just give what I feel capable of each week when the offering is taken?

A. While these gifts are always gratefully received, the church leaders need to have an idea of anticipated financial support in order to plan for the year to come. Pledges allow us to do that.

Q. Are pledges the only sources of income for the church?

A. Our operating budget consists of income from pledges, investment income, rental incomes, loose plate offering and fundraisers. Currently, 70% of our annual budget comes from pledges.

Q. Why should I increase my pledge when the church has an endowment fund?

A. Endowed monies are made up of a number of bequests which the church has received over the years. Many of these bequests specifically state that these endowed funds should not be used to support annual budgets. Money derived from the income of some of the endowed funds are included in the annual budget. In 2012, it is anticipated that the church budget will receive \$25,000 throughout the year from investments. Over the last several years, it has been necessary to draw on the principle in order to balance the budget. We cannot continue to draw on the endowment budget in this way. It is critical that we find ways to use our facilities in ways that generate revenue AND that members, who are able, increase their financial support of the church budget. The generosity of those who have provided these endowed funds is commendable. At

the same time, the fiscally responsible approach is to establish an annual budget that the current church members can support without relying on these endowed funds.

Q. Does the United Church of Christ support First Church financially?

A. No, we are members of the United Church of Christ and support the denomination in several ways. Our financial support of the UCC allows us to be a part of numerous missions here in the US and throughout the world. Our mission dollars to the UCC also support the work of the CT Conference.

Q. Can non-members of First Church pledge?

A. Absolutely. All pledges and gifts are signs that people wish to respond to God's love and grace by supporting the work of First Church in so many ways.

Q. Are there any line items unique to this year's budget?

A. Yes, it is worth noting the line for "Search Committee Expenses." \$8,000 is designated for the expenses of searching for and relocating a new settled Senior Pastor. This figure is a guess-timate as we are uncertain what the relocation costs for a new pastor might be at this time.

Q. What happens if I can't give the amount of my pledge?

A. Your pledge can be changed or cancelled at any time merely by contacting the Assistant Treasurer Steve Morse. There is no legal liability to your pledge and the church will not pursue unfulfilled pledges through any means except for a reminder letter for those whose pledges have not been cancelled.

Q. Who do I approach with questions not answered in this list of FAQs?

A. Any member of the Board of Finance or the Stewardship and Evangelism Committee as well as the pastors should be able to answer any remaining questions.



2012 Informational Budget

If you were unable to attend the 2012 Informational Budget meeting on October 16 and would like a copy of the informational budget, please contact Milt Doremus or Bill Boutwell. A copy of this budget is also posted on the bulletin board across from the Church Office. As presented, the 2012 budget projects an approximate \$20,000 deficit. For 2011, the congregation approved a budget with a deficit of \$29,000. Approval of the 2012 budget will take place at the Annual Fiscal Meeting in January.

**December Carillon
DEADLINE
Tuesday, November 15**

OPERATING BUDGET SUMMARY

Year-to-Date 9/30/11

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Pledges and Unrestricted Giving Received vs. Budgeted Amount	71.3%	70.1%
Pledges and Unrestricted Giving Income	\$169,092	\$163,430
Total Income	\$243,939	\$232,478
Total Expenses	\$243,939	\$232,478
Net Income	(\$26,262)	(\$946)

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

MUSIC NOTES

by Joe Connolly, Board of Music Chair

As part of our Music @ First Concert Series, the Board of Music has many special guests coming to FCCV over the next few months. Our deepest, heartfelt thanks to organist James Burr for his Kick-off Concert in September. See the review below.



The Top Ten Things I Learned about 750 Years of Music in a Concert by James Burr

10. **MEDIEVAL PERIOD:** In the Byzantine Empire, churches let people know that the service was beginning by blasting their musical organ.
9. To this day, the Eastern Orthodox faith does NOT use the organ in their church, only acappella voices.
8. James was able to track down a religious and a secular song from each of the periods
7. From the **EARLY BAROQUE PERIOD**, I was almost able to have “Vater Unser in Himmeireich” roll off my tongue by the end of the concert, because James found so many variations of it. Rumor has it that Martin Luther’s first draft of the text includes a melody line subsequently rejected by Luther himself! Check it out at bach-cantatas.com.
6. The English minor in me perked up when James explained the “Tokkata,” which I had never seen spelled that way. It HAD to be spelled in that way because the writing utensils at that time could not curve the letters.
5. The **LATE BAROQUE PERIOD** included a piece played by James from Bach called, “Chorale Prelude to ‘Vater Unser’.” This Vater song travels through the centuries well. Bach did a beautiful job with it!
4. During the **CLASSICAL PERIOD** composers stopped working for the church and instrumental organs. The organ seemed to be left behind, which I found very strange for the “Classical” period, until James, starting Act Two, introduced the one who led the “rebirth of organ music.” Born in 1809, his name is a Jeopardy-type question, because I won’t give you the answer until the end of this piece.
3. James shared songs created by Brahms and Dubois to cover the **ROMANTIC PERIOD**. The Dubois piece really stood out showing Mr. Burr’s amazing talent at the keys and pedals. To top it off, it was a Toccata with two “c’s” in the middle!
2. James closed with the **MODERN PERIOD**, one from Messiaen, which, if this is modern, it didn’t work for me. James explained the dissonant chord structure and WHY it was, allowing me to appreciate the

pain of the soul's journey to be with the Father in heaven. He finished with Dupre, the CORTEGE ET LITANIE, one of my favorite pieces. Like everything else, James played it beautifully - this time for a well-deserved standing ovation for his work!

1. And the #1 thing I learned from being at the concert is that James Burr is an AWESOME talent and we're lucky to have him...but I already knew that! You can hear him every Sunday morning at our 10 AM worship service. These services, on a one-week delay, also air on cable Community Voice Channel 5 on Sundays at 10 AM and Mondays at 6 PM

P.S. The Final Jeopardy answer is Mendelssohn.



Our next Music @ First Concert brings back the sounds of **THE RIVERBOAT RAMBLERS** on Sunday, **November 20** at 4 PM. They present an engaging mix of New Orleans jazz, Cajun, calypso, ragtime, zydeco, swing, gospel and Mardi Gras party music. The group's versatile performances feature an aggressive rhythmic style, audience participation and outrageous humor. Tickets will be available at the door. For more information, contact Joe Connolly, joseph_m_connolly@sbcglobal.net.

Our **SANCTUARY CHOIR**, under the leadership of Mary Jo Simonds-Huneger, started its season on Rally Sunday and will continue spreading the Good Word musically on Sundays as part of our worship service. In September, they teamed up with our **CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN CHOIR**, led by volunteer Leanne Connolly, during the worship service that acknowledged Rev. Cynthia Carr's 20th anniversary serving as our Associate Pastor.

The **TRANSFORMERS** (grades 1-5) participated in the worship service on October 23. This new group is also led by Leanne Connolly and is scheduled to participate about once a month. Their next performance will be on November 20.

The **CARILLON SINGERS** (grades 6-12) led by Mary Jo Simonds-Huneger will be singing for the first time this year on Sunday, November 13.

Thanksgiving Sunday will be our first chance to hear the **YOUTHFUL BELLS**, under the direction of volunteer Kevin Maki. If you have not heard what Christian Education has created with this program, you are in for a real treat!

Christian Education News

Minister of Christian Education

Linda Shivers, necsvga@aol.com

Sunday School Superintendent

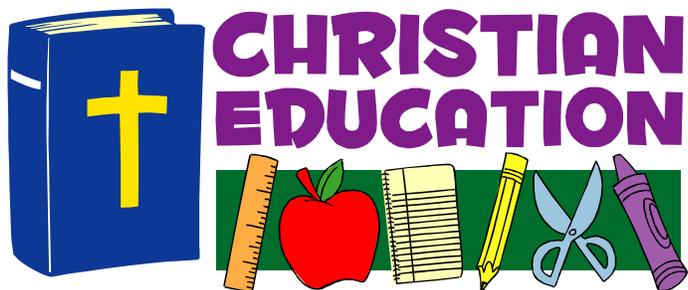
Cindy Madden, cindymadden@msn.com

Assistant Sunday School Superintendent

Jen Condry, jbcondry@aol.com

Assistant Sunday School Superintendent and Toddler Room Coordinator

Christa Hockenberry, wildonehock6@att.net



Sunday School News

The months of November and December tend to bring out the giving in everyone, our Sunday School children included. Several mission projects have been scheduled for the next two months. Parents, please talk with the teachers to find out how you can help support these mission projects.

November

1st/2nd grade - **Centerpieces** for the Thanksgiving morning breakfast

3rd/4th grade - **Collecting gently-used coats** for children, teens, women and men (please make sure to check pockets and clean before dropping off)

5th, 6th, 7th/8th grades - **"Adopting a family"** by providing a Thanksgiving dinner through the Board of Missions

December

3/4 year olds and Kindergarten - **Scarves, Hats, Gloves and Mitten Tree.** We will be collecting gently-Used and clean or new mittens, gloves, hats, scarves to be donated to the shelter and organizations that help support children of low income families.

Advent Workshop

Sunday, November 27

during Sunday School

Please bring a snack to share

Our **Toddler Room** is open every Sunday from 9:55 a.m. until after the Worship Service for toddlers ages 12 months to 3 years. It is staffed by two high school students who have experience working with toddlers and are members of our congregation. Christa Hockenberry is our Toddler Room Coordinator and can answer any questions or concerns you might have. You can contact her in the Toddler Room on Sunday mornings. We also offer a **Crib Room** for infants up to 12 months and their parents that is located upstairs near the balcony. This offers you an opportunity to be with your infant if you need to leave the worship service for any reason and still be able to hear the service. An usher will be happy to direct you if you are in need of assistance.

Confirmation Class Schedule

Nov. 13 Trip to First Cathedral, 9:15 AM-1 PM. Meet in the Breezeway with your sponsor

Nov. 27 Advent Workshop with sponsor, 9:30- 11:30 AM

Youth Fellowship (Grades 6-12)

Youth Advisors

Dave and Deb Hockenberry, davendebihock@att.net

Helene Fujimoto

Bruce and Kathleen McClure

Beth Fowler

Youth Mission Sunday was a chance for our youth and children to give a visual of the off-site mission groups we have in our church. We do mission work, not because we have to, but because as Christians and members of the community we are called to help others as we are able



(Hebrews 13:16, Luke 6:38, Philippians 2; 4, 1 John 3:17, Matthew 25:35-40, James 2:14-17). Mission work also provides the children and youth an opportunity to give something back; a chance to view a different way of life; a chance for personal growth; and a sense of accomplishment.

For more than 6 years, our **Vacation Bible School (VBS)** 4th and 5th graders have gone off-site to do mission work. This past summer, our VBS students cleaned and weeded the grounds of Maple Street School in Vernon; weeded and hoed the gardens of Varney Farm in South Windsor where all vegetables are donated to Food Share; helped clean up Henry Park in Vernon after the fireworks; and organized and cleaned the Tri-Town Shelter in Vernon. **Total number of people benefiting from these services - 2,000+**

The **Giv2** program started in 2010 and will continue this year. It is open to those in the 6th-12th grade. We meet every other month with youth from several other churches in the community to help where needed. Last year we sang for, visited and made crafts with residents of four nursing/assisted living homes in South Windsor and Vernon; raked, weeded, mulched and planted the grounds of Bennet Academy Middle School in Manchester; raked, weeded and filled potholes to get the Channel 3 Country Camp in Andover ready for summer camp; painted, cleaned and organized M.A.R.C. in Manchester; and stocked, cleaned and organized shelves for the Manchester Area Conference of Churches (MACC). **Total number of people benefiting from these services - 2,500+**

Youth Services Opportunity Project (YSOP) is a mandatory requirement of the Confirmation Class. It is a 36-hour mission that takes you out of your comfort zone. The only people you know are those you came with. We're out of state, feeding many in a short period of time. This year we fed people, cooked, played games, assembled food bags, and cleaned places in the Bronx, Manhattan, Brooklyn, New York. **Total number of people benefiting from these services - 1,200+**

Summer Mission Week was a week-long opportunity for youth in 6th-12th grade to engage in projects local, in state or out of state, depending on where help was needed. This year our youth worked for the Christian Activities Council, helping at two different sites - Grace Lutheran Church and North United Methodist Church. They worked with children ages 3-5th grade, helping them with school work, physical activities, reading and providing one-on-one friendship and mentoring. **Total number of people benefiting from these services - 80 children and more than 160 family members!**

Giv2 (part of Youth Fellowship) News

We had a FANTASTIC turnout for our **Kick-Off Event** on September 25, led by Rev. Da Vita McCallister. FCCV and Center Congregational Church in Manchester will make up the Eastern Chapter so far this year. Unfortunately, a lack of youth in some of the other churches and scheduling conflicts caused us to lose several of the churches involved last year, but we are reaching out to others to join us.

Nov. 6 Mission 1 - Working with UCC on the Mission 1 project, collecting food for area food pantries with the goal for UCC (national) to collect 1 million pounds of food between 11-1-11 and 11-11-11.

Mission: 1

November 1-11...ONE UNITED CHURCH on a shared mission for 11 powerful days to feed the hungry and confront food-related injustice.

This Is Mission: 1

In 11 days, the United Church of Christ will collect more than **1 million items of healthy food and other household items** for local food banks and outreach services.

In 11 days, the United Church of Christ will make an extra special push to gather online contributions of more than \$111,111 for Neighbors in Need, offerings that will be shared for hunger–action purposes with agencies of justice and compassion throughout the United States and \$111,111 for East Africa Famine Relief that will be shared through the UCC’s disaster relief ministries.

Our youth, here at FCCV, are joining in this effort with Center Congregational Church, Manchester to collect as much food and other items as possible to donate to Hockanum Valley Food Pantry and Manchester Area Conference of Churches. Please donate what you can from now until November 11. Place items in white mission boxes in the Breezeway. Help us win with the most poundage of items, but in the end everyone is a winner!

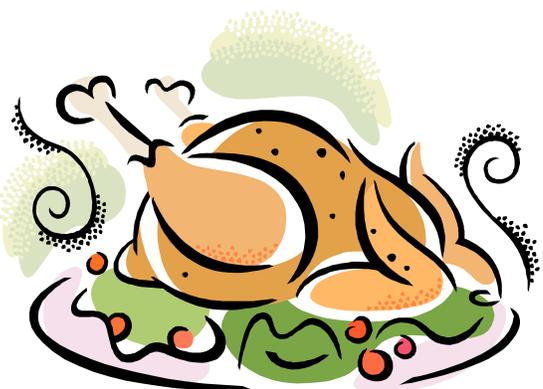
Requested Items

Bottles of Apple or Cranberry Juice, Canned Soup, Canned Gravy, Boxes of Stuffing, Cake Mixes and Frosting, Boxes of Instant Potatoes, Canned Vegetables, Boxes of Cereal, Pancake Mix and Pancake Syrup, Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Mustard, Applesauce, Pasta and Sauce, Rice, Beverages including Juice Boxes, Powdered Milk, Drink Mixes, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Plastic Wrap, Hand Soap and Laundry Detergent, Toothpaste, Shampoo, Conditioner

December - Give us an idea of an activity we can do with our youth group. Do you want something fun? Mission oriented? A sleepover? Let us know.

BOARD of MISSIONS NEWS

Adopt-a-Family for Thanksgiving Dinners



While we will spend November 24 with family and friends, grateful for all we have and do, there are families in our community who might not be able to celebrate with a Thanksgiving dinner.

The Board of Missions is again working with the Hockanum Valley Community Council to sponsor local families, so they can enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal. Last year, we were blessed with great support and generosity and sponsored 100 area families! This year we would like to surpass that number!

Due to an over-whelming need to provide meals to everyone, HVCC is suggesting that we NOT be elaborate with our dinners. Please just provide the basics. This will allow more families to have the necessities they need to enjoy their dinner.

Suggested donations

Family of 1 or 2: a small turkey, turkey breast or chicken and disposable roasting pan, 2-3 lbs. potatoes, 1 can gravy, 1 box/bag stuffing, 1 can yams or sweet potatoes, 1 can vegetables, 1 can fruit, 1 can cranberry sauce, 1 pkg. rolls, 1 pie shell and pie filling or cake mix and icing.

Family of 3 or 4: a 10 lb. turkey and disposable roasting pan, 5 lbs. potatoes, 2 cans gravy, 1 box/bag stuffing, 2 cans yams or sweet potatoes, 2 cans vegetables, 2 cans fruit, 1 can cranberry sauce, 1 pkg. rolls, 1 pie shell and pie filling or cake mix and icing

If you would like to include extras, we suggest pancake mix, syrup, breakfast bread mix and a bottle of apple or cranberry juice for the family to have for breakfast. They are asking for canned vegetables instead of frozen or fresh. Refrigerated space is limited, and, of course, the fresh vegetables are perishable. They receive donations of eggs and milk, so instead of frozen or fresh pies, please provide graham cracker pie crusts and pudding or cake mixes. Items can be packed in cardboard boxes or bags.

You can Adopt-a-Family during Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall on Sundays, October 23, 30 and November 6 and 13.

Dinners will be collected on Thursday, November 17 from 7-9 AM in the FCCV parking lot.

If this time is not convenient or if you are able to help out that morning, please contact Sandra O’Gara, 872-6649.

Looking for an Opportunity to Volunteer?

Hockanum Valley Community Council is looking for people to help with the distribution of food on the following days:

Saturday, November 19, 10:30 AM-2 PM

Monday, November 21, 8:45 AM-8 PM

Tuesday, November 22, 8:45 AM-8 PM

They also need help collecting food for their Food Drives from 9 AM-5 PM on the following days:

Thursday, November 17

Friday, November 18



You will be sorting through donated items, stocking shelves and various other jobs assisting in the distribution of foods to local families. The Food Drive involves standing at Stop & Shop collecting food donations.

Any amount of time that you are willing to donate is appreciated - you do NOT have to work the full shift. In order to make sure we have enough people to help and that all the hours are covered, please let us know when you are able to volunteer. Contact Sandra O’Gara, 872-6649 or sign up during Coffee Hour near the Adopt-a-Family for Thanksgiving sign-ups.

THANKSGIVING DAY BREAKFAST/SERVICE

On Thanksgiving morning, join us for a hot buffet breakfast with your family and friends. Breakfast will be served in Fellowship Hall at 7:30 AM followed by a brief service in the Sanctuary at 8:20 AM. If you are interested in attending, please sign up on the sheet posted in Fellowship Hall with the number of people attending so we can prepare the right amount of food. If you are interested in helping that morning, please contact Michelle Bower, 872-7274.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Prayer Squares... A new Women's Fellowship circle, meets on the **first Tuesday** of each month at **7 PM** and on the **third Tuesday** at **1 PM**

The idea behind these prayer quilts is simple. A heavy thread is used to take stitches through the quilt layers, with the ends left free to be tied with a square knot. As each knot is tied, a silent prayer is said for someone in special need, who then receives the finished quilt. If you can iron, sort fabric, lay out patterns or sew a seam, consider joining us.

Lunch Bunch... Thursday, November 17, 11:30 AM. We'll meet at the church before heading to lunch.

Craft Group... Meets on November 14 and 28 at 7 PM. Bring craft ideas to share. Crafters of all ability levels joyfully welcomed!

Basket Circle... Meets every Thursday morning at 10 AM. Call or e-mail Daryl for more information, 871-8594, or edengott@sbcglobal.net



Holiday Appetizers – Tuesday, November 1, 6:30 PM

Help prepare, and taste test 3-4 recipes for holiday appetizers to add to your repertoire this coming season. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the Women's Fellowship bulletin board.



THANKSGIVING PIES
\$10

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

Orders will be taken during Coffee Hour
Sundays, November 6 and 13

or

Use the order form below

Pies (frozen) will be available for **pickup** during Coffee Hour on **Sunday, November 20.**

THANKSGIVING PIES ORDER FORM
\$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.



The First Congregational Church of Vernon Memorial Garden Committee is pleased to announce that the **4th Annual Memory Tree** will again be lit this Christmas season in the Memorial Garden.

This is an opportunity to honor and remember loved ones, both living and deceased.

The sparkling white lights will announce the Christmas season and serve as a beacon for those we wish to honor and remember during the holidays.

The lights will shine from November 27 through January 6.

If you would like to honor loved ones on the Memory Tree this year, please write their name(s) on the form below and return it with a \$5 donation per light to the FCCV Memorial Garden Committee, 695 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon, CT 06066 or return the form at Coffee Hour on November 13 or 20.

Proceeds will be used by the Memorial Garden Committee for up-keep and to purchase annuals in the spring.

The Memory Tree Honor Roll will be published in the January 2012 Carillon.
The names of your loved ones being remembered will be included in this listing if your donation is received by December 6.

Honoree	Donor

Name _____ Total donation \$ _____

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.



A **CPR/AED Class** provided by CPROHeart has been planned for **Saturday, November 5** from 9 AM- noon. This class is open to the congregation and is sponsored by the Parish Nurses to help defray the cost. Since we have made the commitment to have an AED on church property, it's mandatory that the skill level be maintained and that enough church members are certified or trained. The AED has been upgraded with new software and is in compliance. Please contact Delythe Kracke @delythek@yahoo.com for more information.

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

TPC News

As we do each year, we have worked with our student, Joseph Tobin, to complete his learning contract. He will focus on 4 areas:

1. Preaching
Joseph has preached once already in October and will preach again on the first Sunday in Advent.
2. Participate in worship services and plan additional worship opportunities
He worked with the Laity Committee in preparation for Laity Sunday, October 23.
3. Work with confirmation class and provide adult programs
4. Attend and observe Church meetings and follow the pastoral search process
Part of Joseph's requirements from Hartford Seminary are to prepare a thesis on the interim process. Our Church offers the perfect place for him to complete this task.

Please feel free to offer comments to Joseph and your Teaching Parish Committee about his work among us.

Your TPC Committee,

Karen Prewo, Chairperson, Larry Bates, Betsy Gerakaris, Marilyn Newton, Mike Swan



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

Ginny Zemek on the death of her father, Leonard Newborn

Gaile Dembeck and family on the loss of her nephew, Kevin Pitcole



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.

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 **Margaret Klukas** (643-0710) or **Jan Muro** (872-1757 or jmoze@hotmail.com).



CARING and SHARING SUPPORT GROUP

Anyone interested in attending this 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 run by members of our congregation. Please feel free to come alone or bring a family member or friend. Any questions? Contact the Church Office, 860-875-7580.

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 Ibby Cummings, at Fort Bliss, TX

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

Steven Beimler, son of Nancy Beimler in the National Guard

FCCV ON CABLE TV

Our Sunday morning worship services (one week delay) are available for viewing on Comcast Community Voice Channel 5 Sunday mornings at 10 AM and Monday evenings at 6 PM. Uncut DVD's (DVD's submitted for viewing on Comcast have to be edited to fit a 60 minute format) of the services from the chimes to the postlude are also available for borrowing in the Library. Check your local listings or go to CVCCCT.org for the dates and times of showings of other FCCV concerts and events.



Many thanks and blessing to my Church Family for your cards and prayers. I am blessed to be a part of this church family of so many caring people. God has granted me the blessing of another chance at life. I am improving each day and miss the wonderful services and friendship. Looking forward to seeing you all soon,

Joyce Smith

ABIG "thank you" to all who helped with our recent Blood Drive – the donors, workers and bakers! Per the American Red Cross, we saved 123 lives.

The Parish Nurses

Dear Church Family and Friends,

As many of you know, on 15 September I experienced a freak fall in my kitchen that resulted in a broken nose, broken cheek bones, and a skin tear on my leg. My entire extended family was in Arizona at the time to celebrate Ron's Mom's 100th birthday. But I was NOT alone. I called Vernon EMTs and Ron called Daryl Gottier to come check on me. Daryl and Phyllis Chase arrived with the EMTs and accompanied me to the ER. From 5:30 pm UNTIL 1 am, Daryl and Phyllis were my only steadfast caregivers, while physicians and nurses attended other trauma cases flown in by Lifestar. At 1 am Carol Slicer was called out of bed to come to Hartford to be with me. When the bleeding was finally stopped, my face sewn, and my leg treated, Carol drove me home and stayed the night. All the while Ron was gone, the same three friends, plus Cheryl Purnell, Delythe Kracke, Jan Peacock and Millie Oliphant came to care for me, to bring me flowers, to decorate my porch with fall mums, to haul my papers to the The Shred Event, drive me to and from dialysis, and to encourage my return to health in every way. The entire congregation prayed for my well-being and sent encouraging messages. And The Rev. David Minnick called several times to offer any help that might be needed. Ron and I are eternally grateful for such an out-pouring of Christian Love!

Lovingly,

Ron and Becky Burr

My sincere and heartfelt thanks to my Carillon Volunteers – Ann Garrison, Barbara Evensen, Margaret Klukas and Joan Apel for their many years of devoted service and time spent each month collating the Carillon in preparation for mailing. Our recent switch to an electronic version means their services are no longer required. Their dedication to this task has certainly made my job easier and I am deeply grateful.

Nancy Young



Anyone interested in serving on the Search Committee for our settled Senior Pastor should contact Tony Muro at 860-872-1757 or tonymuro@sbcglobal.net.

Our Library is self-serve and open when the Church is open.

"Books for Soldiers" is a website (www.booksforsoldiers.com) that connects volunteers with lists/addresses of service men and women stationed throughout the world who have posted requests for books, CDs, DVDs, magazines, etc. It also includes posts from thoughtful members who have identified a fellow service member who receives very little mail, who they feel might benefit from a "care package."

Interested individuals may check out the website for information on how to sign up to be a volunteer. If you don't wish to volunteer, but would like to be involved in some way, Kate Boutwell will be collecting donations to send. Donations include books (new and used in good condition), DVDs and CDs, individually store-packed snacks/food/beverage mixes, and hygiene products. Any questions, contact Kate at 860-716-0494.

