

The Carillon

The First Congregational Church
of Vernon, UCC



DECEMBER

Vol. 49 No. 4

December 2012
Pub. November 28, 2012

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
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. – 12:30 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



GATHERING of GRATITUDE

for Pastor Cindy
Saturday, December 1
3-6 PM in Fellowship Hall

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Minister of Christian Education

Linda Shivers, necsvga@aol.com

Sunday School Superintendent*

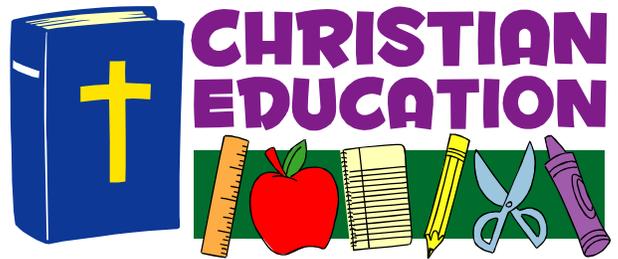
Cindy Madden, cindymadden@msn.com

Assistant Sunday School Superintendent

Jen Condry, jbcondry@aol.com

Child Care Coordinator

Christa Hockenberry, wildonehock6@att.net



Sunday School News

**We are in need of a Sunday School Superintendent for the 2012-2013 program year. If interested in a job description, please contact Linda Shivers or Cindy Madden.*

Sunday School Schedule

- Dec 2** Family Communion - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL but the Toddler Room will be open to children in 3rd grade and under. We want to give everyone the opportunity to worship with Pastor Carr.
- Dec 9** Angels Among Us – grades 3-5. Children’s Message upstairs followed by regular Sunday School classes
- Dec 16** Children’s Message upstairs followed by regular Sunday School classes
- Dec 23** Group Sunday School for 3 years- 5th grade. Cupcakes, juice for Jesus' birthday. The 6-8th grade will meet in their classroom. Rehearsal after church for those who are participating in the 5:30 PM Christmas Eve Service.
- Dec 24** Christmas Eve Family Service, 5:30 PM. Children are needed to play the part of angels, shepherds, guardian angels, wisemen and star. If interested, please contact Cindy Madden or Linda Shivers.



ADVENT WORKSHOP

December 9

after the worship service in Fellowship Hall

All are welcome to participate.

Cost: mittens, gloves or hats for our Mission Tree

December Missions

December 2 and 9 The 1st and 2nd grades are collecting hats, mittens and gloves (child and adult sizes). Drop them off at the Christmas tree in Fellowship Hall.

December 24 At the 5:30 PM Christmas Eve Family Service the Board of Christian Education will be collecting socks for children, men and women. Place in the basket at the back of the Sanctuary.



Our **Toddler Room** is open every Sunday from 9:45 AM until after the Worship Service for toddlers ages 12 months to 3 years. It is staffed by two high school students, GloryAnna Hockenberry and Jaclyn Leonard who have worked with toddlers for a couple of years and are members of our congregation. Christa Hockenberry is our Toddler Room Coordinator and can answer any questions or concerns you might have. 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.

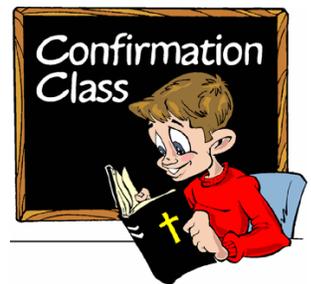
Confirmation Class Schedule

Dec 2 Two volunteers are needed to read and light the Advent Wreath at the worship service

Dec 9 Advent Workshop AFTER church. Everyone will be assigned a craft to do with the Sunday school kids. Invite your sponsor to join you at your craft table. Due to the Advent Workshop being changed from December 2 (Pastor Cindy's last day) the mini retreat has been postponed. Date to be determined.

Dec 23 Class and rehearsal for the Christmas Eve Family Service

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Family Service, 5:30 PM - Scripture reading



Youth Fellowship (grades 6-12)

Advisors: Helene Fujimoto, Beth Fowler, Dave and Debi Hockenberry, Sadie Burnett-Pollack

Dec 2 Preparing dinner at Peter's Retreat. We will meet at FCCV at 3 PM and return around 7 PM.

Youth Fellowship is in need of personal items (deodorant, razors, soap, tooth brushes, etc) for our monthly mission service to Peter's retreat. Please place items in bag in Breezeway.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

presented by Music at First

Sunday, December 9

4 pm

in the Sanctuary

Refreshments to follow

Suggested donation: \$7 adults/\$5 seniors and students. Proceeds benefit the Les Childs Music Scholarship.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Cookie Sale

Sunday, December 16

during Coffee Hour

Fill a box with homemade Christmas cookies for only \$5. There is always a huge demand for cookies, so if you could possibly donate a few dozen of your favorite creations, it would be greatly appreciated. If willing to bake, please sign up on the sheet posted in Fellowship Hall.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawl Group

We invite you to join us on the **second Wednesday of the month at 1 PM in the Library** or feel free to make one at home. Questions? Contact Joan Apel, 860-875-7239 or Nancy Parker, quiltblockcreations@yahoo.com. or 860-872-9069.

Merry
Christmas!

BOARD of MISSIONS NEWS



The Christmas Giving Tree, sponsored by the Board of Missions, is once again making an appearance! We will be collecting toys for the Vernon Social Services "Toy Workshop" where a family in need can go to choose toys that best fit their children's needs and wants for Christmas. There is a specific need for games, multicultural dolls, arts/crafts, science kits, and other educational toys.

You may **choose a tag** from the Christmas Giving Tree, located in the back of the sanctuary on **December 2 and 9**. Each tag will bear the age and gender of a child in need. Place your new, **unwrapped** toy(s) under the Christmas Giving Tree by Sunday, December 16. Any questions? Contact Kenneth Morgan, 860-281-3338. Note: If (only if) inclement weather cancels church on December 16, unwrapped gifts will be collected in the church breezeway between 8-10

AM on Monday, December 17. Questions regarding inclement weather? Call Gilmay Markunas, 860-896-1930.



POINSETTIA ORDER FORM \$11 per plant

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Deadline for ordering is December 9. Please make checks payable to FCCV.

SEASON of GIVING IS CELEBRATED by "GALLERY of THANKS" on STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

On Sunday, November 11, pledges were "ingathered" during a special part of our worship service. People attending church that morning were able to offer their statement of financial commitment to our church by bringing their pledges forward and sharing in a Litany of Giving.

The final words of this shared reading were as follows: "We bring the gift of love in gratitude to you. From gift to gift, from grace to grace, **our gifts are only gifts of yours returned**. Receive them in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen."

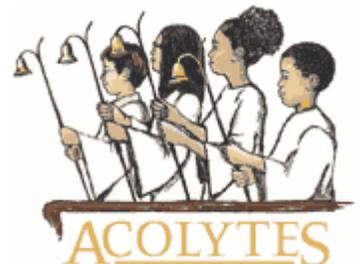
If you were unable to be in worship during this beautiful service, please know that the opportunity to pledge still exists and your support is needed and welcomed. You may place your pledge in the offering basket, mail it to or drop it off at the Church Office. If you have any questions, please contact the office (860-875-7580 or fccv@snet.net). A member of the Stewardship and Evangelism Committee will be happy to contact you.



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

ACOLYTES NEEDED!

To all parents of Sunday School children...if your child would like to be an acolyte, please contact Delythe Kracke at DelytheK@yahoo.com or (860) 872-3004. This is a great way to have your child involved in the church service and requires a minimal commitment.



T.P.C. NEWS

Congratulations to our most recent Field Placement Student, Joseph Tobin. On September 30, 2012, he met with his Ecclesiastical Council and was unanimously approved for ordination pending a call from a church. The Rev. David Minnick was in attendance and informed the T.P.C. that Joseph was full of praise for our committee and FCCV. He spoke of the support from the T.P.C., the diverse opportunities he received and the wide variety of worship and teaching ministries he was able to explore. "Clearly, his time at FCCV was both formative and enriching for him" stated The Rev. Minnick. Special thanks to FCCV for all your support for our Teaching Parish mission and ministry.

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



Congratulations to the following couples who were recently married at FCCV with Rev. Cynthia Carr officiating...

Angel Hockenberry and Steven Carr, Jr. on October 27
Kimberly Jackle and Keith Nadeau on November 10

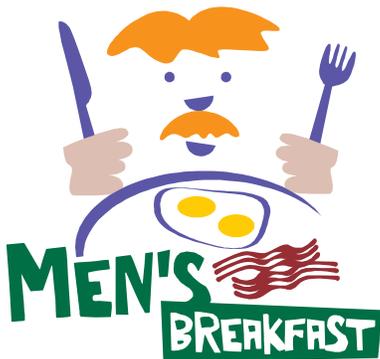


firstchurchofvernon.org

We're on Facebook, too! Check us out!

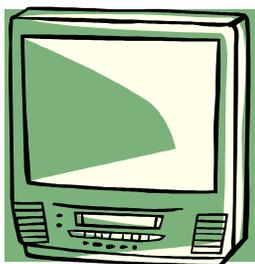
CARING and SHARING SUPPORT GROUP

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.



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.

January CARILLON Deadline
Tuesday, December 11



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.

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 **Jan Muro** (872-1757 or jmoze@hotmail.com) or **Jon Dunlap** (875-7254).



To all the parishioners who helped with Bill Harford's funeral, I want to thank you with all my heart. It truly made a difference.

Ann Harford

Joan and I would like to thank the pastors and church members for all the visits, prayers, cards, phone calls and get well wishes while I was hospitalized. Our church family knows how to care for one another. It is one of our greatest strengths !

May God's blessings be on each and every one of you,
George Apel

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

Lance Corporal Steven A. Carr, Jr., husband of Angel Hockenberry Carr, stationed in Cherry Point, NC