

From: FCCV (fccv@snet.net)
To: fccv@snet.net;
Date: Fri, December 9, 2011 1:36:19 PM
Cc:
Subject: Pastor's Weekly Email

"The Advent promises are persistently, insistently communal. The child is born to *us* for *our* salvation, and not for 'me' or 'mine.' They address us as a family, a people, kindred, a commonwealth of peoples, and in so doing teach us once again that if we know the blessings of this looking-forward season, if we would ever taste the promised joy that is to be, then we must shift the focus of our thinking, acting, even praying from our devotion to self to this communion in which we stand in God's bright creation.

J. Barrie Shepherd from [A Child is Born](#)

Barrie Shepherd's poem is an eloquent reminder that the good news of this holy season comes to US, not ME.

This is indeed the season for family; the families of origin we are born into, the families of choice we create among friends; and for the faithful, the church family. The church family is a sacred community, the one we choose to be a part of in our pursuit of the holy and sacred in our midst.

Last Sunday when we gathered, the Condry family led us in lighting the first two candles on our Advent wreath and as we gathered around the communion table, we were invited to remember that the meal we share is one we are welcome to bring our whole selves to, especially the vulnerable parts of our hearts which can ache in a special way in this holiday season.

This coming Sunday, the third Sunday in Advent, four of our young people will lead us further along our Advent journey as they lead us in lighting three candles in the Advent wreath. The Senior Choir will blend their gifts in a special anthem for Advent and Pastor Cindy will share her thoughts on Isaiah 40: 1-5.

Come and find your place in the First Church family.

Pastor David Minnick

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On this Sunday, December 11, Women's Fellowship will be hosting their annual Cookie Sale after church. For \$5, you can get an assortment of home made cookies to enjoy or to share with others as a gift.

Also, this Sunday is the deadline for ordering poinsettias which will be displayed in the chancel beginning Dec 18 and continuing through Christmas. Poinsettias certainly bring a special beauty to the Sanctuary at this time of the year.

Poinsettias are \$11 and Pam Lyons will be available after worship to take orders for these.

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This weekly email is an effort to keep everyone informed of the activities of the church. It is something that Pastor Cindy and I thought was worth trying for a few weeks to see if it has appeal. Please let us know, over the next few weeks, if this is something you enjoy getting and find helpful or not.

For now, we are using the Carillon email list to send this out. Please let us know if you'd prefer not to receive these weekly and we will amend the list to see that you only receive the Carillon in the future.