



S T O R R S
C O N G R E G A T I O N A L
C H U R C H

U N I T E D C H U R C H
O F C H R I S T



The Carillon

December 2011



2 North Eagleville Rd., Storrs Mansfield, CT 06268 | 860.429.9382 | www.storrscongchurch.org

Senior Pastor	The Rev. Matthew C. Emery – matt@storrscongchurch.org Ext. 12
Faith Formation Specialist	The Rev. Nancy B. McLaren
Director of Music	Dr. Patricia Snyder – trisha@storrscongchurch.org Ext. 16
Office Administrator	Deborah Gacek – scoffice@storrscongchurch.org Ext. 10
Sexton	Antonio Aguilera

December Activities and Events

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Dec. 1 st | Fellowship Board Mtg. | 7:30 p.m.
Lounge |
| Dec. 3 rd | Christmas Bazaar | 10:00 a.m.
<i>see page 7 for more information</i> |
| Dec. 4 th | Lessons and Carols | 7:00 p.m.
<i>see page 5 for more information</i> |
| Dec. 6 th | Council Meeting | 7:00 p.m.
Lounge |
| Dec. 7 th | Church Growth Mtg. | 7:00 p.m.
Library |
| Dec. 10 th | SPF Rock-A-Thon | 7:00 p.m. |
| Dec. 11 th | Annual Budget Mtg. | Lounge |
| | Take Note! Concert | 3:00 p.m. |
| Dec. 12 th | Properties Meeting | 7:00 p.m.
Room 201 |
| | Finance Board Mtg. | 7:30 p.m.
Library |
| Dec. 13 th | Music Board Meeting | 7:00 p.m.
Library |
| | Outreach Board Mtg. | 7:00 p.m.
Lounge |
| Dec. 17 th | Holiday Food Packing | 10:00 a.m.
Lounge |
| Dec. 19 th | Carol Sing @ Juniper Hills | 6:00 p.m.
<i>see page mailing page for more information</i> |
| Dec. 22 nd | Prayer Shawl Ministry | 10:00 a.m.
Library |
| Dec. 27 th | Deacons Meeting | 6:30 p.m.
Library |

Worship at Storrs Congregational Church: December

Dec 4: The 2nd Sunday of Advent – Holy Communion Joint Worship Service with Storrs Korean Church

On December 4th, we'll share in worship together with our sisters and brothers from the Storrs Korean Church, United Church of Christ. Pastor Chang will preach.

Dec 4 @ 7:00 pm: A Festival of Lessons and Carols

Join us for a Storrs Congregational tradition, the annual *Festival of Lessons and Carols*, modeled after the famous service from King's College, Cambridge. Music of choir, handbell, and carillon, interwoven with scripture and prayer—a rich and delightful celebration of the season!

Dec 11: The 3rd Sunday of Advent

"Pointing to the Light" – Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 & John 1:6-8, 19-28

Dec 18: The 4th Sunday of Advent

"Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary" – Scripture: Luke 1:26-38, 46-55. We will also bless prayer shawls at this service.

Dec 24 @ 5:30 pm: The Birth of Our Lord - Christmas Eve

A family-friendly and intergenerationally-accessible service including many favorite carols of the season, scripture readings, and a tableau-style 'pageant' with children and youth sharing in worship leadership.

Dec 24 @ 9:00 pm: The Birth of Our Lord - Christmas Eve

A festive traditional Christmas Eve service featuring Pastor Matt's Christmas Sermon, joyful carols of the season, candlelight, and joining around Christ's feast table as Jesus comes into our world yet again in the sacrament.

Dec 25 @ 10:00 am: The Birth of Our Lord - Christmas Day

A more relaxed alternative celebration of Christ's birth through an interweaving of scripture, carols, and reflections on the theme "What if God was one of us?"

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CORNER



Holiday Greetings from the Christian Education Board!!

On December 4, Rev. Chang will be preaching to our congregation. Our friends from the Korean church will also be joining us for worship and we will be welcoming their children to join our Sunday school classes. We hope you can join us for this special service.

Calling all kids! It's time to start planning our Christmas Eve program. If you would like to participate in the program, watch and listen for more details to come in the next couple of weeks. There will be one or two rehearsals with a dress rehearsal during the one room school house on Dec. 18.

Calling all directors! We are also looking for a talented person or two to direct the Christmas Eve Children's program. If you are interested, please contact a CE board member.

Christian Education and Faith Formation activities will continue through the season of Advent. Please, join us for all the wonderful events we have planned during this time of anticipation. Advent packets are available in the narthex for ANYONE who would like to take one.

The following is the Sunday school schedule for December through January:

December 4 - Sunday School	January 1 - Family Worship
December 11 - Sunday School	January 8 - Sunday School
December 18 - One Room School house/ Christmas Eve Rehearsal	January 15 - Sunday School
December 25 - Family Worship	January 22 - Sunday School
	January 29 - Sunday School

Nancy McLaren, Sue Irvine, Carolyn Holmy, Julie Klimkiewicz, Barbara Chilinski, Phil Gibbs, Kate Alexander

JPF News...

At the November 13th JPF gathering, twelve enthusiastic youth and the tri-leaders used their time together making Turkey Centerpieces. All the participants had fun doing this meaningful activity to contribute to the Outreach Board's Thanksgiving Food distribution to 20 local families in need.

Upcoming JPF dates: **12/4, 12/18, 1/15, 1/29**

JPF meets on Sundays from 4:30 to 6pm.

All 5th to 8th graders and friends are welcome.

Kate Alexander, Elaine Greer, and Susan Dione



HAVE A MINUTE?

Thoughts from Pastor Matt...

"The season of Advent, more than any other time of the church year, invites us to embrace the spiritual discipline of waiting. The season of Advent will not be rushed. The Advent carols must be sung, the Advent candles must be lighted week by week, and the doors of the Advent Calendar must be opened day by day. Christmas will finally come when all the expectant Scriptures have been read and when the baby has finally been born.

"If we consciously allow waiting to be our teacher, we can accommodate waiting more peacefully. If we welcome waiting as a spiritual discipline, waiting will present its spiritual gifts. Waiting contains some of our richest spiritual opportunities if we are conscious enough and courageous enough to name them and live into them." (*from the book Seven Spiritual Gifts of Waiting by UCC pastor and spiritual director Holly W. Whitcomb*)

Indeed, the season of Advent is upon us once again, my friends. Advent, at least in the way that the Christian liturgical cycle and common lectionary invites us to celebrate it, really is counter-cultural. On that weekend when many will be wearing down the strip on their credit cards and darting about under speakers blaring Christmas tunes, our Advent begins with a rather unsettling speech from a very adult Jesus:

"But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ...

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come." (Mark 13:24-29, 32-33)

Not exactly the sort of thing you're going to see on the Hallmark channel, now is it? But that's o.k.! In fact, I think it is a good thing. We need the unsettledness and the waiting. We need them both for the "spiritual gifts" and "spiritual opportunities" that Pastor Whitcomb lifts up and for the counter-cultural witness that they offer to a world that is going to be so wrapped up in Christmas frenzy.

This counter-cultural witness, this counter-story to the story that we are going to see 'out in the world' is important because, I believe, it is more honest, authentic, and closer to reality. As one pastor and scholar Beth Tanner points out, "On any given Sunday, there will be parents in the congregation who are wondering how to tell the children there will be few presents this year and children who are praying for their mom or dad to be able to find a job. The hurt is real and the pain is evident. Another group will suffer through the holidays in new sites far from home and feeling alone. For other families, this will be the last Christmas together because one of them has a terminal diagnosis that no amount of spending or partying can alter." (*from New Proclamation Year B – 2012: Advent through Holy Week*, Fortress Press, 2011). Certainly the unsettled, waiting Advent is more honest to these realities than the shiny, sugary, secularized Christmas of our culture.

I also think, though, that the unsettled, waiting Advent speaks in its own profound way to hope, as well. Even with the darkness and clouds of Jesus' second coming and the fiery invective of John the Baptist, there is also a deep longing and hope grounded in the promise and trust that God is coming among us again. An old hymn from the Pilgrim Hymnal that we sang a few weeks ago, titled "The Day of the Lord is at Hand", puts it well: "The night is darkest before the morn; when the pain is sorest the child is born, and the day of the Lord is at hand."

So, this is all well and good, you may be thinking, but how do we practice Advent? How do we live into it, as individuals and as a congregation together? Well, I'm hoping that's a journey we can have together over these next few weeks, and then again each year when advent rolls around, but here are a couple initial thoughts... Are we invited to work on our attentiveness to the places where "the tree ... puts forth its leaves" in order to find hope amidst the unsettledness?—in other words, seeking and becoming more aware of the places where God's work and Spirit are active already, rather than solely focusing on what may be lacking. Or, as another, what would truly living into the spirituality of *waiting*? Not the delayed satisfaction kind of waiting, but the hopeful and at-peace sort of waiting. Not the kind of waiting where you keep yourself busy in order to be distracted, but the kind of waiting that you truly *wait* during.

I won't claim that I have all the answers to what any of this looks like concretely. I will say that we as a congregation are probably a bit better with the keeping-busy sort of waiting than the truly emptying and peace-finding sort of waiting. But just as the beginning of every Advent is like a 'New Year's Day' for the liturgical cycle, so too do we have the opportunity again to rediscover the spiritual gifts that Advent—or any of the other seasons—have to offer us.

As a shameless plug, I would invite any and all of you to join me for short, 4-week Advent spirituality series I'm leading called "Behold! Cultivating Attentiveness in the Season of Advent". Making use of a book by the same title by United Methodist pastor and spirituality writer Pamela Hawkins, the series will share in some group discussion and reflection during our sessions as well as invite you into some daily time on your own around the matters of "Expectancy", "Preparation", "Faith", and "Promise". We'll meet Sunday early evenings, 5:00 – 6:30 pm, on November 27th, and December 4th, 11th, and 18th, and this is open to any and all adults—including college students—as well as youth in grades 9 and above. Even if you missed the first session on November 27th, you're invited to still join us; please let me know, as you'll need a copy of the book (which I can get for you, or it can be ordered through the UConn Co-op, Amazon.com, or your other favorite source).

Yours in the journey,
Matt

OTHER NOTES FROM MATT...

A brief note about the process leading to the Minister for Faith Formation and Discipleship position

By now, you hopefully are aware of the recommendation of our Staffing Discernment Group that we move in the direction of having a full-time Minister for Faith Formation and Discipleship, a second (associate-level) pastoral position for our congregation, to be focused on our ministries in faith formation / CE and our ministries of outreach, justice, and helping members engage with their own gifts and journeys of discipleship.

I want to share a brief outline of how the process moving forward will look. Because of the very positive impressions of how the process worked with the recent senior pastor search, the desire is to work in a similar fashion.

The Church Council unanimously endorsed the recommendation at its meeting on November 1st. At a special congregational meeting on November 20th, the congregation was asked to approve this 'new' position, as is required by our bylaws. Assuming that motion is approved (I'm writing this *before* that meeting), then the next steps are...

- Between November 20th and December 6th, a panel of *search committee nominators*, from among the members of the Church Council, will be put together for approval at the December 6th meeting of Church Council.
- Between December 6th and approximately the middle of January, those nominators will work to put together a *single slate of search committee members* for adoption (or not) by the congregation. The nominators will engage in the same sort of methods for recruiting persons and/or accepting nominations (nominations by others and self-nominations will both be considered), and deciding among individuals as happened with the senior pastor search.
- By mid-January, the slate of proposed search committee members will be approved by the Church Council and announced to the congregation, and ample opportunity to interact with the nominees will be ensured.
- The call for the January 29th annual meeting will include a vote up or down by the congregation on that single slate; remember this is the sort of voting process used for the most recent senior pastor search, but it is a different kind of voting process than was used in this congregation prior to that.
- The search committee will begin its work as soon as possible after the annual meeting, with its first meeting being convened by the Rev. Tom Clough, our new interim Regional Minister for the eastern region of the Connecticut Conference, who will orient the committee to its work.



A FESTIVAL OF
Lessons
&
Carols

Sunday, Dec. 4
7:00pm

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
2 N. EAGLEVILLE RD., STORRS
860-429-9382

ADULT CHOIR • HANDBELLS
CARILLON

In October the members of the Library Committee along with Marietta Johnson took a field trip to the John P. Webster Library at First Church in West Hartford. This library has enjoyed a fine reputation among church libraries for years. The main purpose for the trip was to explore the automation system that they are using and talk about their program and procedures. This is an endowed program with a paid full time librarian and a part time employee. We are not anticipating that SCC will reach that stature but the exposure to another program has given us much to think about.



New books are arriving on the shelves. We acquired some new titles in late spring and if you haven't stopped by to see them you should do that real soon. Your suggestions for new books are taken seriously by the committee. We have rearranged the furniture in the library hoping to make it more comfortable for the larger size meetings that are held there. It is working for us and we hope it is for the many people who enjoy meeting in the room.

We will be working in coordination with the Christian Education Committee's plans for Christmas activities for families. There are many books available for all the holidays for everyone.

A quiet read during Advent might just be in order for you.



All-Church FUNd-raising Update

The Pasta Dinner & Silent Auction was a **FUN** event with approximately 85 diners and approximately \$1500. raised. Thanks to all who came for the food and fellowship. Unfortunately, the unexpected snow in October forced the cancellation of the All Church Talent Show. Thanks to Stacy Malecki for organizing the event. **Please consider ways you can help or encourage others to join in the FUN and fellowship of our church family while we gain visibility and the participation of our friends and neighbors in the community. How can you help to assure we can meet or exceed the**

FUNd-raising 2011 budget income target of \$6,500? Ideas? Contact Janice Castle at jycastle@earthlink.net or call 860-429-1214.

FUNd-raising Events	Date	Key Leadership	Estimated Range Projected		Funds Raised
WF/ All Church Bazaar	Dec 4 2010	Eileen Metzger and Team	\$400	\$ 600	\$1,000
WF/ All Church Spring Fair	May 14	Dianne Sprague and Team	\$600	\$800	\$645
Concerts on the Lawn Picnic Supper Fundraiser	June 13 July 18	Janice Castle	\$200	\$250	\$375
Pasta Dinner & Auction	Oct. 22	"Chefs" (Castles, Kapinos, McCabes & team) Auction Team (Dulcie Vannais & team)	\$ 2,000	\$3,000	\$1500
All Church Talent Show	Oct. 29	Stacy Malecki Cancelled due to Snow	\$250	\$400	0
WF/All Church Bazaar	Dec. 3	Dianne Sprague and Team	\$400	\$600	
Other??					
			MIN	MAX	GOAL
		Potential Totals	\$3,850	\$5,650	\$6,500

A Request from Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship is looking for donations of evergreens, holly, arborvitae, blue spruce, white pine and boxwood to be used for holiday baskets and swags at the Bazaar. On Thursday, December 1st, we will come and pick up any greens you have to offer! We would like to invite folks to come and make arrangements on Friday, December 2nd from 9:00 to 12:00 in the Christian Ed building. If you'd like to help, please bring gloves and clippers/shears that can cut the greens. We are also looking to collect small baskets. Any donations would be greatly appreciated! Please call the office to arrange for pickup.





DON'T FORGET!

*Storrs Congregational Church
Women's Fellowship*

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR & GOURMET LUNCHEON

**Saturday, December 3rd
10:00 am til 2:00 pm**

LUNCHEON -11:00-1:00

- **CORN CHOWDER, CHILI, PANINIS, DESSERTS**
- **POINSETTIAS, GREENS AND CENTERPIECES**
- **LUSCIOUS BAKED GOODS, GEORGIA PECANS**
- **HOLIDAY TAG SALE, CRAFTS, SMALL GIFTS**
- **HANDMADE ITEMS BY THE PARISH PIECERS**
- **INTERNATIONAL GIFTS FROM SERRV**
- *Mansfield Middle School Chamber Choir – 11:00*

SEE YOU THERE!



Seasons of Stewardship

Advent: Expectation

Stewardship is about managing the abundance that God has made ours—and not just “ours”, but everyone’s. This abundance is no less than life itself, the gift of God in which all share. How do we understand this gift? That abundance? In Christian understanding this is expressed in terms of the Advent, or coming, of Christ—the expectation that in everything we know and face, goodness and mercy are waiting to be born anew, made real again in and for us and others. This is the “light that was in the world but which the world knew not,” according to John (1:10). Amid the deepest shadows of evil and suffering, we expect that God’s light shall pierce the gloom, revealing love and justice to which we had been oblivious or “blind”.

Is this what we expect? The quality of our expectations determines the quality of our action. So do we fear the worst or expect the best? The quality of giving hangs in the balance, awaiting our answer to the question of Advent: Do we believe that in the spirit of the coming Christ, even amid the most challenging circumstances, hope and assurance, power and possibility are on the way, waiting to happen again? Nothing squelches good giving more than misgivings about what we face. Nothing blocks generosity so well as anxiety about what lies before us. Nothing checks the discernment of abundance better than a fear of scarcity—worry about not having enough.

During the season of Advent, what is sowed is anticipation of goodness and mercy. What is reaped is morale and trust: the ‘blessed assurance’ that overcomes common fears of scarcity. Gifted by God with the expectation of abundance, we offer ourselves in praise, living out this expectation in our own giving.

(Reprinted from *Seasons of Stewardship – Year-round Stewardship: A resource for reflection* by William C. Green, produced by the Stewardship and Finances Ministry of Local Church Ministries, a covenanted ministry of the United Church of Christ; alt.)



Annual Report Timeline Heads Up

Start thinking “Annual Report” timeline for preparation, production, distribution and use of the reports that reflect the past year of SCC ministries and outcomes giving us a foundation for prayerful discernment and decisions at our Annual Meeting to guide the programming and financial responsibilities for the coming year. As 2011 winds down and we experience the waiting of Advent and the Joy of Christ’s Birth please build the preparation of your contribution to the “Annual Report” into your reflection on 2011 and plans for 2012. Contact Pam Roberts email: (drpamptSCC@charter.net) or 860 429-8751 or chat in person if you have questions or would like to volunteer to help collate and bind.

Monday	January 9	Reports due to Deborah with formatting and printing as office tasks
Thursday	January 19	Lay volunteer assistance scheduled as needed (collating and binding)
Friday	January 20	Lay volunteer assistance scheduled as needed (collating and binding)
Sunday	January 22	Distribution of Annual Report Booklet in Narthex and Lounge
Sunday	January 29	Annual Meeting of the Storrs Congregational Church
Sunday	February 5	Annual Leadership Retreat for officers, Boards and Committees
Snow Dates	February 5	Annual Meeting
	February 12	Annual Leadership Retreat

OUR 275th ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF CELEBRATION BEGINS IN JANUARY

For nearly 275 years, the people of Storrs Congregational Church have gathered as a community of faith and shaped a spiritual legacy. We have much to celebrate, and since last April, the Church Council-appointed 275th Anniversary Committee has been developing programs for the year 2012 to involve people of all ages and interests.

The celebration begins Sunday, January 22, 2012 with a church service based on a text from Genesis followed by a potluck luncheon and short program on our church's history and heritage and some fun interactive, intergenerational activities. Wrap-up activities will take place the weekend of October 27-28. A "Cookbook Supper" on Saturday, October 27 will provide an opportunity to try out and sample recipes from old SCC cookbooks, and the church service on October 28 will be based on a passage from the Book of Revelation. In between, there will be special programs including opportunities to help identify SCC members and activities in photographs in the SCC Archives and Records collection, how to preserve your own family records, a book discussion group, and a concert premiering a special commissioned musical piece.

In the next few weeks we'll be finalizing the calendar of 275th events for distribution with the January *Carillon*. Activities will also be featured on the bulletin board outside the newly renamed "Archives and History Room" (formerly the Church School Office) in the Education Building.

We continue to encourage the participation of individuals and groups able to assist with 275th Anniversary events. Can YOU help? To volunteer or to get additional information, talk with Janet Atkins, Jamie Lang-Rodean, Dick Roberts, or Mark Roy.

Gifts to Outreach and Mission Organizations

As reported in the November issue of the *Carillon*, we have begun to distribute funds from the *Welcoming All* project that are over and above the costs of construction of the elevator and other accessibility improvements. Three gifts were announced in November, and the imminent distribution of a fourth. *The Welcoming All Committee* is pleased to report that as of late November, a total of five gifts, amounting to a total of \$35,000.00, have now been given by the church to outreach and mission organizations. Through the generosity of the congregation and other donors in the community, the most recent gifts were:



WELCOMING ALL

- **\$5,000 to the scholarship fund of Church Women United (CWU).** Women of the Storrs Congregational Church have actively participated for many years in the local affiliate of Church Women United, a national Christian ecumenical women's movement founded in 1941. For over twenty years the Greater Willimantic CWU has provided scholarships for training in health care professions to provide people with the opportunity to obtain jobs that will enable them to earn a living wage. The program currently gives grants for training in licensed practical nursing and radiology.
- **\$5,000 to the Silver Lake Conference Center.** The Silver Lake Conference Center in Sharon, Connecticut, is the home of the Outdoor Ministries of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ. In addition to its summer church camp programs, it has been welcoming church groups, youth groups, schools, non-profits and businesses, during the fall, winter, and spring since 1957. Church members from SCC have attended as campers and volunteers and have used the site for retreats and meetings.

The previously announced gifts were: \$10,000 to the Covenant Soup Kitchen in Willimantic; \$10,000 to the Windham Area Interfaith Ministry; and \$5,000 to Heifer International.

HERITAGE SUNDAY CELEBRATION ~ OCTOBER 16TH, 2011



On Sunday, October 16, 2011, our congregation celebrated Heritage Sunday. This special Sunday is set aside to honor and recognize members with 40 or more years of continuous membership. This year nearly 30 honorees participated in worship and attended a luncheon in the auditorium in their honor.

This year we also paid tribute to Louise Wright for her dedication and service to the missions and programs of Storrs Congregational Church. Within this article is the text that was shared to honor Louise.



It was a wonderful celebration!
We are blessed to have these members
among us!



“It is more blessed to give than to receive.” ACTS, Chapter 20, Verse 35.

Based on this passage, our Heritage Sunday honoree is one very blessed individual.

Giving seems second nature to Louise Wright. She gives her time and talent, her laughter and humor, her support and advice, her love and compassion, her dependability and responsibility. And this church has been a major recipient of that giving nature.

She is forthright, yet humble: she lets you know where she stands – but she stands out of the limelight.

Louise began her association with the Storrs Congregational Church while a student at the University of Connecticut, where she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in animal science. After graduation she briefly was manager of a horse farm in Madison, but her interests ultimately lead her in a different direction and she devoted her life to police work.

She served on the police force at Eastern Connecticut State University for 20 years, going through the ranks from officer to Sergeant and then as the first Detective in the history of the ECSU Police Department. More recently she was the assistant coach of the Field Hockey Team. Her work with students made her acutely aware of the many challenges and decisions with which students are confronted. She looked for creative and effective ways to help students make mature decisions.

While at Eastern, she developed a Community Police Program known as Open Rec Night. This program, originally held on Thursday night (party night) gave students a venue for fun and fellowship in a safe environment in Geissler Gym. Aimed at decreasing underage drinking on campus, this program won the M.A.D.D. Award for alternative programming. That program continues today. Louise went on to develop programs on personal safety, prevention of date rape, and sexual assault prevention programs for both men and women. Spanning the complete spectrum of problems, she developed the first University Police program in New England geared to assist police officers in their work with individuals who have mental illness. Louise continues to be an integral part of the Board of Directors of ECSU’s Campus Ministry Foundation.

True to her nature of giving and serving, Louise was a first responder to the fateful events of 9/11, working to help the people of New York City following a tragedy that stunned the nation. It was there, working in the rubble that had been the World Trade Center, that Louise contracted a lung condition that has challenged her for a decade. Challenged, but not stopped. You see, the giving does not stop for Louise Wright.

Since her days as a UConn student, Louise has given countless hours as an active, very active, member of this church. She has served on many committees and projects. She served as the chair for the church council in 2010; she was producer of our productions of *Godspell* and *Oliver*; is advisor to and leader for the Senior Pilgrim Fellowship. For 10 years, she has led our high school youth on mission trips, retreats and worship, creating a model program in our state. She has been an advisor to the UCC/UConn student group’s mission trips to help with rebuilding following Katrina. To become as effective as possible in her work with our children and youth, Louise completed the Associate in Christian Education program at Hartford Seminary several years ago. She has been an almost continuous presence and leader for the Christian Education program and initiated the Children’s bulletin program for use during worship and is responsible for the creative curriculum the children enjoy in church school.

Raised in New England, one of four siblings, Louise has a particular interest with children and youth. She has been an active godmother to Zach for his entire life and is his legal guardian. Her impact on the lives of countless young people in college, church and the community has been significant.

She continues to do this daily, challenging young people with learning and ideas, urging them to be the best they can be.

And we of the Storrs Congregational Church are also recipients of her giving. Today, we recognize Louise Wright for the blessing that she is, and the significant effect she has on us, our church and its heritage.



Storrs Congregational Church
Council Meeting
November 1, 2011
Minutes

Present:

The Rev Matt Emery (Senior Pastor)	Bob Malecki (Vice Chair)
Pam Roberts (Chair)	Dave Jordan (Treasurer)
Betty Robinson (Christian Outreach Rep)	Sue Schur (Deacons Rep)
Trudy Lamb (Women's Fellowship Rep)	Suzanne Hathaway (Music Rep)
Carolyn Holmy (Christian Ed Rep)	Dick Roberts (Properties Rep)
Jan Castle (At Large)	Kathy LaJoie (Finance Rep)
Chuck Vinsonhaler (Clerk)	Rev Nancy McLaren (Associate Pastor)
Nancy Rucker (Call to Care Rep)	Liz Cowles (Growth Rep)

1. Called to Order by Pam Roberts at 7:10 P.M. with Welcome

2. Pam lit the Spirit Candles while offering prayers of gratitude.

At this point, Council agreed to move up item 9b of the agenda so Allison Burchell-Robinson and Louise Wright could immediately present a proposal for another musical production. They have a working group that has chosen *Scrooge*, based on *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. They propose five performances: Dec 7,8,9,14,15 in 2012

Cooperation of all boards and committees is earnestly requested. After substantial discussion, the following was moved by Chuck, second by Marsha.

Motion. Approve the production plans for *Scrooge* and allow Louise, as producer, to sign off on the \$1500 seed money already in an off-budget Council account.

Passed with one abstention.

3. Conversation: The scheduled conversation continuing around the theme, "IMAGINE: Conversations about our Passion," was postponed again, until the December Council meeting. The Council agreed to read Chapters 8 and 9 in preparation.

4. Additions to the Agenda or Present to Speak: Mark Roy will report for the Memorial Room Working Group.

5. Minutes: The minutes of Oct 4, 2011 were approved by email.

6. Correspondence:

- Elaine Greer sends thanks for her Whitney Scholarship.
- WAIM sends thanks for our Welcoming All donation, which will be added to their winter fuel fund.

7. Formal Reports

a. Senior Minister Report

- Still in midst of pledge campaign - plenty of booklets available.
- Consecration Sunday is November 7 - lead by example
- Matt has been asked to become a Mentor in the Connecticut Conference's "Thinking About Working For God" initiative, which reaches out to youth and young adults under 21 to ask if they have considered working for God as a vocational path.
- Associate Pastor Nancy McLaren is with us tonight, but will not always attend Council Meetings.
- Vacation days were helpful to Matt. He will take a day here and there, as well as the week following Christmas, to use the rest of his vacation time
- The Windham Association is meeting with the Tolland Association on this coming Thursday, November 3.
- Trisha will be attending a conference at the Eastman school November 10-13.

- Matt joined about 35 clergy in visiting the Occupy Hartford encampment. They listened for a couple hours to the stories.
- Nancy reported that she is in her 3rd week, spending time getting to know people. She is here Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and works at home on Tuesday. At last week's CE meeting, she helped put together a calendar of events. It will be expanded and she will meet with CE again on November 13th.

b. Treasurer's Report. Dave Jordan calculates that the 2011 budget will generate a small surplus, even though some significant expenditures have not been paid. Investments did well for October.

At this point, Mark Roy joined the meeting and was allowed to speak for the Memorial Room Working Group (MRWG).

The MRWG goal is to restore the Memorial Room as a tribute to the late Louise Beach. They expect to finish this month. In order to insure proper care of the room, it will be locked when not in use. On a one-page handout the MRWG listed 12 recommendations for stewardship of the Memorial Room, leading to the following motion by Dave, second by Liz.

Motion Adopt the 12 recommendations of the Memorial Room Working Group.

Passed without dissent.

A brief deviation from the agenda produced the following from Properties made by Dick Roberts (no second needed).

Motion. Change room name in the Education Building from CE Superintendent to Archives and Records

Passed without dissent.

Pam noted that the approved Document on Use of the Memorial Room will be incorporated into the policies and procedures for scheduled use of church rooms.

c. Council Leadership

(i) Fundraising.

- Thanks from Jan Castle for those who helped with the pasta dinner and silent auction; Profit around \$1800
- Talent show cancelled due to storm
- Women's Fellowship Bazaar distributed a one-page handout on plans. Dianne Sprague is coordinating the December 3 event.

(ii) Ad Hoc Committee on Antenna Facilities met on October 25th. Signing bonus has still not been received. Construction will start sometime in 2012. We will get notified of date by certified letter. MOU between SCC and UConn has been forwarded to the School of fine Arts for final revisions before signing.

(iii) Personnel Staff evaluations continue

(iv) Collaboration on water charges. A meeting with the other North Eagleville religious communities is scheduled for November 3. A bill due Nov 11 for prorated 3rd quarter fee was sent to SCC from UConn without any advance notice. Quarterly billing will begin in 2012.

8. Old Business.

a. Call for the Annual Budget Meeting to be held Dec 11, 2011. Backup date is December 18, 2011

b. Staffing Discernment Group (SDG). What does Council want to do with the SDG report delivered at the October Council Meeting? Discussion lead to the following:

Motion: (by Jan H, second by Carolyn). That the church Council endorses the recommendations of the SDG calling for the creation of a new Associate Pastor position titled Minister for Faith Formation and Discipleship.

Passed without dissent

Motion: (Dave, second Kathy) Issue Call for Congregational Special Meeting on November 20, 2011 in the lounge immediately following worship. The Budget meeting will then follow the Special Meeting.
Passed without dissent

The Council discussed a process to nominate an Associate Pastor search committee should a special congregational meeting approve

c. **Annual Reports.** By December 1, Pam will have a due date for annual reports.

8d Done earlier.

e. **The 275th Anniversary Core Committee** submitted a four page draft on the plans for celebration. They invite input.

New Business. Following recommendations from the Nominating Committee:

Motion (Dave, second by Betty). The Council accepts with thanks and regrets the resignation from Outreach by Paulla Dixon.

Passed without dissent

Motion (by Dave, second by Betty). Accept the recommendation of the Nominating Committee and appoint John Kapinos to fill a Fellowship vacancy. He will serve through 2014.

Passed without dissent

Motion (by Dave, second Marsha). Approve the recommendation to appoint Dianne Sprague to fill the vacancy on the Outreach Board for a term through 2013

Passed without dissent

b. See 9b at beginning of meeting.

10. Round-the-Room. Each Council member was given the opportunity to add a *brief* comment to the proceedings. This evening produced the following bullets:

- Thanks for Call to Care during the snow storm (Nancy R)
- Are Sunday or Wednesday evenings best for a Faith Formation group at advent (Matt)?
- Check the 275th anniversary draft and give feedback
- JPF will add a decorative centerpiece to food bags for Thanksgiving and coordinate with Outreach (Nancy M).
- November 27 - One room schoolhouse for advent wreaths
- Hanging of the Greens, November 20 after church - help needed
- December 3 is the Bazaar, help welcome
- Caroling at Juniper Hill - date will be announced by Growth.
- Pam asked all to check the December schedule, as the Carillon with this schedule will be distributed BEFORE Council next meets.

11. Closing Prayer and Adjournment at 9:52 pm.

Chuck Vinsonhaler, Clerk

Next Council Meeting
7:00 pm
December 6, 2011

(Note this is the first Tuesday of the month)

December 2011

November 2011							January 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30				29	30	31				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00AM Adult Choir (Sanctuary) 9:00AM Adult Ed. (Room 202) 10:00AM Worship 10:15AM One Room School House (Auditorium or Room...) 11:00AM Library Open & Fellowship Hour 11:15AM Chime Choir (CE Room 202) 4:30PM Storrs Korean... 5:00PM Advent Faith... 6:30PM SPF Meeting... 	Antonio Off			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:00PM Storrs Noon Group (Room 102) 1:00PM Staff Meeting (Pastor Matt's Office) 9:00PM UCC UConn (Lounge) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:00PM Storrs Noon Group (Room 102) 9:00AM Quilters (CE Bldg) 10:30AM Cafe Storrs Bible Study (Library) 12:00PM Storrs Noon Group (Room 102) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:00PM Storrs Noon Group (Room 102) 6:30PM Adult Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Meeting House) 7:30PM AA Meeting (Room 201) 7:30PM Adult Choir Rehearsal (Meeting House) 7:30PM Fellowship Board Meeting (Lounge) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:30AM Storrs Noon Group (Room 102) 6:00PM Storrs Korean Church (Lounge & Classrooms) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM Christmas Bazaar (All Locations)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00AM Adult Choir (Sanctuary) 9:00AM Adult Ed. (Room 202) 9:00AM Junior Choir (CE Room 201) 10:00AM Worship (Communion) 11:00AM Library Ope... 11:15AM Chime Choir... 4:30PM JPF Meeting (...) 4:30PM Storrs Korean... 5:00PM Advent Faith... 7:00PM Lessons & Ca... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:00PM Storrs Noon Group (Room 102) 1:00PM Staff Meeting (Pastor Matt's Office) 9:00PM UCC UConn (Lounge) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30AM Library Open (Library) 12:00PM Storrs Noon Group (Room 102) 7:00PM Council Meeting (Lounge) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00AM Quilters (CE Bldg) 10:30AM Cafe Storrs Bible Study (Library) 12:00PM Storrs Noon Group (Room 102) 7:00PM Church Growth (Library) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:00PM Storrs Noon Group (Room 102) 6:30PM Adult Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Meeting House) 7:30PM AA Meeting (Room 201) 7:30PM Adult Choir Rehearsal (Meeting House) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:30AM Storrs Noon Group (Room 102) 6:00PM Storrs Korean Church (Lounge & Classrooms) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00PM SPF Rock-A-Thon (Lounge) 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00AM Adult Choir (Sanctuary) 9:00AM Adult Ed. (Room 202) 9:00AM Chime Choir (Meeting House) 9:00AM SPF Rock-A-... 10:00AM Worship 11:00AM Library Ope... 11:15AM Junior Choir... 11:30AM Budget Meet... 3:00PM Take Note! C... 4:30PM Storrs Korean... 5:00PM Advent Faith... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:00PM Storrs Noon Group (Room 102) 1:00PM Staff Meeting (Pastor Matt's Office) 7:00PM Properties (Room 201) 7:30PM Finance Board (Lounge) 9:00PM UCC UConn (Lounge) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30AM Library Open (Library) 12:00PM Storrs Noon Group (Room 102) 7:00PM Music Board Meeting (Library) 7:00PM Outreach Board (Lounge) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00AM Quilters (CE Bldg) 10:30AM Cafe Storrs Bible Study (Library) 12:00PM Storrs Noon Group (Room 102) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:00PM Storrs Noon Group (Room 102) 6:30PM Adult Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Meeting House) 7:30PM AA Meeting (Room 201) 7:30PM Adult Choir Rehearsal (Meeting House) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:30AM Storrs Noon Group (Room 102) 6:00PM Storrs Korean Church (Lounge & Classrooms) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM Food Packing (Auditorium/Lounge) 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00AM Adult Choir (Sanctuary) 9:00AM Adult Ed. (Room 202) 9:00AM Junior Choir (...) 10:00AM Worship 10:15AM One Room... 11:00AM Library Ope... 11:30AM Food Deliver... 4:30PM Storrs Korean... 5:00PM Advent Faith... 6:30PM SPF Meeting... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:00PM Storrs Noon Group (Room 102) 1:00PM Staff Meeting (Pastor Matt's Office) 6:00PM Carol Sing At Juniper Hills (Off Site) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30AM Library Open (Library) 12:00PM Storrs Noon Group (Room 102) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00AM Quilters (CE Bldg) 10:30AM Cafe Storrs Bible Study (Library) 12:00PM Storrs Noon Group (Room 102) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:00PM Storrs Noon Group (Room 102) 6:30PM Adult Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Meeting House) 7:30PM AA Meeting (Room 201) 7:30PM Adult Choir Rehearsal (Meeting House) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:30AM Storrs Noon Group (Room 102) 6:00PM Storrs Korean Church (Lounge & Classrooms) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:00PM Junior Choir (CE Room 201 or MH?) 5:00PM Family Christmas Service 9:00PM Christmas Eve Service 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00AM Adult Ed. (Room 202) 10:00AM Worship 11:00AM Library Open & Fellowship Hour 4:30PM Storrs Korean Church (Lounge) 	Matt Vacation			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:00PM Storrs Noon Group (Room 102) 6:30PM Adult Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Meeting House) 7:30PM AA Meeting (Room 201) 7:30PM Adult Choir Rehearsal (Meeting House) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:30AM Storrs Noon Group (Room 102) 6:00PM Storrs Korean Church (Lounge & Classrooms) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Year's Eve 		



Ushers & Greeters



Date	Greeter	Lead Usher	Usher	Usher	Usher	Fellowship
4-Dec	Marsha & Ron Creese	Dan Wilson	Juanita Hall	Storrs Korean Church	Storrs Korean Church	Jan Weston
11-Dec	Susan Irvine	Dan Wilson	Juanita Hall	Lynn Brown		Nancy & Chauncy Rucker
18-Dec	Chauncy & Nancy Rucker	Dan Wilson	Juanita Hall	Lynn Brown		The Latincsics
25-Dec		Dan Wilson	Juanita Hall			No Fellowship
1-Jan						
8-Jan						
15-Jan						
22-Jan						
29-Jan						

~ Thank you for your willingness to serve ~

POINSETTIA ORDER REQUEST

Red White Pink

Dedication: (In memory or honor of)

Name: _____

Cost - \$15.00 – make checks payable to
Storrs Congregational Church

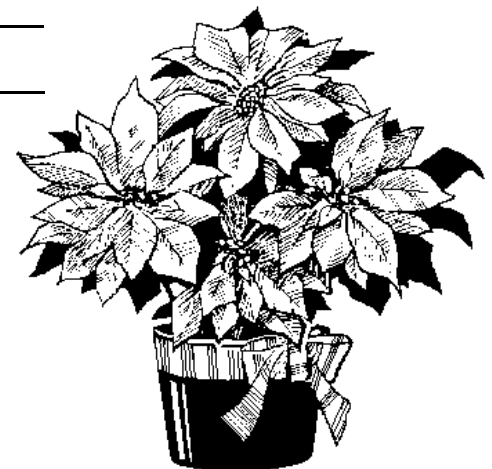
Pick up after 5:00 service on Christmas Eve

Pick up after 9:00 service on Christmas Eve

Give to Shut-in

Pick up after Sunday service

Monday, December 19th is the last day to place orders!



NEWS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY

ANNIVERSARIES:

Julie & Rich Savino	December 2
Ann & Nathan Hale	December 21
David & Joanna Lambert	December 26

BIRTHDAYS:

Dwayne Gilbert	12/4	Paulla Dixon	12/18
Beden Kimenyi	12/5	Spencer Hamlin	12/21
Donna Latincsics	12/7	Katherine Lambert	12/22
Thany Heng Litrico	12/10	Allison Cano	12/23
Pastor Matt	12/11	Julia Chilinski	12/23
Chloe Bubloski	12/15	Elizabeth Hanks	12/24
Hayley Ignatowicz	12/16	Alice O'Donovan	12/28
Jean Manter	12/16	Matt Lynes	12/29
Maye Henning	12/16	Thomas Basile	12/29
Wes Marshall	12/17	Grant Gifford	12/31
Bethany Maines	12/18		

SERVICE PEOPLE ON ACTIVE DUTY:

The following list contains people called to active duty. Please keep them and their families in your prayers. If you know of someone who should be on this list (or have a correction), please contact the church office. Thank you.

<u>Service Person</u>	<u>Submitted by</u>
Matt Allen	Pam & Dick Roberts
Mitchell Ducharme	Adrian & Janet Atkins
Chip Greer	Elaine Greer
Joel Higley	Betty Robinson
Francis Kimenyi	John & Patty Tanaka
Philip Lewis	Russ Wheeler
Eric Stailing	Bryan & Susan Stailing
Marta Tanaka	John & Patty Tanaka
Paul Tanaka	John & Patty Tanaka
Lamont Ward	Nichole Gronski Ward

"Keeping in Touch" Greeting List

For those of our friends who are housebound and unable to be with us on a regular basis, a card or note, a phone call or a visit would brighten their day and would let them know that we are thinking of them. Our "Keeping in Touch" list is updated and copies are available in the Parish House Lounge. If you'd like a copy of the "Keeping in Touch" greeting list to be sent to you, please contact the office by phone: 860-429-9382 or email: sccoffice@storrsconchurch.org. Thank you for your continued support of this important church ministry.

A BIG Thank You!

The Stewardship Ministry Team -- Eileen Griffin, Stacy Malecki, Sondra Morrison, and Pastor Matt -- want to take the opportunity to say a **big** "Thank You" to Andy McCabe for his generous donation of the full-color printing of the 2012 Mission & Ministry Goals booklets. Andy's generosity contributes to the excitement that is building about our congregation's goals for the coming year, and has helped us on this Stewardship ministry team invite you to invest in God's mission through our congregation. Thanks, Andy!

Storrs Congregational Church
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Storrs Mansfield, CT 06268

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Web: www.storrscongchurch.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Christmas Caroling at Juniper Hills

Juniper Hill residents will host us for caroling on **Monday, December 19 at 6:30 pm**. Singers are asked to bring some cookies to share on a disposable plate; Juniper Hill will supply the hot chocolate. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board near the Parish House. Let us make a joyful noise to celebrate Christmas with our friends.

COVENANT TO CARE FOR CHILDREN--CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Again, the lists are up, along with tags giving suggestion for gifts; directions are on the WF bulletin board.

I am also delighted to announce that Jeanne Johnson has agreed to be a co-liasion with me! In addition, I'll be hospitalized for surgery on December 6, so I ask for your blessings, not only for my recovery, but for the work that CCC does year round

~ Betty Robinson