



STORRS
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

The Carillon

February 2012



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

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

IMPORTANT DATES

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Sunday, February 5th – Leadership Retreat ~ begins at 11:30 in the Auditorium
Snow Date: Sunday, February 12th

Thursday, February 9th – Women’s Fellowship Gathering in the Lounge ~ 10:00 – 12:00

Friday, February 10th & Saturday, February 11th ~ UCC UConn Valentine’s Themed Dinner & Silent Auction. See page [...] for information.

Tuesday, February 14th – Valentine’s Day!

Saturday, February 18th – Picture This! Identifying the faces of our 275 years ~ 1:30 in the Auditorium.

Sunday, February 19th – SCC 275th Book Club ~ 6:30 in the Library.

Worship at Storrs Congregational Church: February

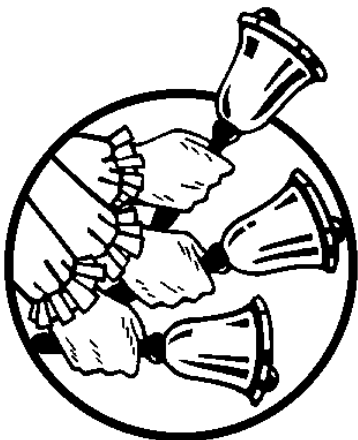
Feb 5th: The 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Holy Communion
 “Casting Out Demons” – Scripture: Isaiah 40:21-31 & Mark 1:29-39

Feb 12th: The 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 “I Do Choose!”: *An Interfaith Preach-in on Global Warming* – Scripture: 2 Kings 5:1-14 & Mark 1:40-45

Feb 19th: Transfiguration Sunday
 “Blind To the Light or Blinded By the Light?” – Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 & Mark 9:2-9

Feb 22nd: Ash Wednesday – Services at 12:00 Noon & 7:00 pm
 Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. During Lent, the people of God reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ’s death and resurrection. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God’s mercy and forgiveness.

Feb 26th: The 1st Sunday in Lent – Holy Communion
 “Covenant Conversations: Rainbows in the Sky” – Scripture: Psalm 25:1-10 & Genesis 9:8-17



HANDBELL FESTIVAL

Sunday, February 26, 2012

7:00PM

St. Joseph Church, Willimantic
 (snow date, March 4)

UCC UConn Presents 7th Annual

Valentine's Themed Dinner & Silent Auction

To raise funds for our Alternative Spring Break trip to Tuscaloosa, AL to assist with Tornado Relief

February 10th, 2012 – One Seating 6:30 p.m.

February 11th, 2012 – Two Seatings: 5:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Storrs Congregational Church Parish House

\$20 per Person \$18 Take-Out \$18 Seniors \$5 Children

**Take Out & Child Care Available at All Dinners!
Professionally Prepared!
Come Help Support Those In Need!**

Dinner Menu

Fresh Fruit Cup w/ Raspberry Sherbet
Exotic Greens w/ Vinaigrette

**Beef Tenderloin Medallions w/
Bordelaise Sauce &
Baked Stuffed Shrimp**

Or

Eggplant Rollatini (Vegetarian Option)

Butternut Squash
served w/ Native Apple &
Green Beans Au Buerre
& Twice Baked Potato

Freshly Prepared Desserts

*Tickets available by visiting the
Storrs Congregation al Church
2 North Eagleville Road, Storrs, CT*

HAVE A MINUTE?

Thoughts from Pastor Matt...

“Leadership ... is less about power, persuasion, and personality than about the capacity to help a group make progress on the toughest issues that lie in the space between known problems and unknown solutions. “

So writes Dr. Sharon Daloz Parks, passing along the leadership wisdom articulated by long-time Harvard instructor Ronald Heifetz, in her 2005 book *Leadership Can Be Taught: A Bold Approach for a Complex World*. I had the privilege of spending the second week of January in seminar with Dr. Parks, along with 13 of my fellow young adult clergy colleagues as part of our participation in the UCC’s *Next Generation Leadership Initiative: Target 2030*.

The question of what makes for good “leadership” is one that gets asked a lot these days in a variety of venues. In the book that the Church Council read over the last year, *Changing the Conversation*, Anthony Robinson points out that here in the mainline Protestant churches, we haven’t been accustomed to asking for actual *leadership* from clergy. Chaplaincy (pastoral care and counseling, worship leadership) and occasionally management, yes—but not necessarily real leadership. At least not leadership as folks like Heifetz articulate it: helping mobilize a group to make progress on the toughest challenges, and particularly those for which a simple ‘technical’ fix is not enough.

But the question of leadership isn’t just one for clergy and other staff. A key aspect of the kind of leadership being called for by folks like Parks and Heifetz is that leadership can come from any seat in the house, not just from the ones with official positions of authority. How does any one of us, from wherever we are in the systems and relationships of this congregation, help all of us to “make progress on the toughest issues” that face us?

For that matter, what if we continue to expand the circle? What happens if we ask ourselves how we as a congregation together might exercise *leadership* in a wider “commons”? That is, what if we broaden our thinking beyond how the individuals among us might help make progress on the challenges that face our congregation (an inward looking view), and instead ask how our congregation exerts leadership that helps a wider context—campus, community, town, state, nation, world—make progress on the tough challenges faced there (a more outwardly focused life)?

Such a change in perspective—from asking how we as individuals lead within the church to looking for how we as a church can lead within a wider commons—is deeply rooted in the biblical witness. From the very beginnings, we hear that God blessed Abraham and Sarah and their descendants *in order that they might be a blessing to others*. Jesus speaks of the call to be “salt for the earth” and the “light of the world”. Later, after his resurrection and just before he ascended into heaven, Jesus told the disciples that they “will be [his] witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Jesus, it could be said, exhibited the sort of leadership that Heifetz and Parks talk about—or at least he tried to. He tried to help people “make progress on the toughest issues that lie in the space between known problems and unknown solutions.” If we are called to be the Body of Christ in the world—which, of course, we are—how is it that we might widen our sight to the point that we’re not just looking to address the challenges we ourselves face, but rather truly being leaders in the world, helping all humanity address the challenges we face as a global commons?

Yours in the journey,
Matt

***On the Kick-off Sunday for our 275th Anniversary Year celebrations on January 22nd,
Pastor Matt focused and framed our observance with the following sermon:***

**“The Tree of Life, Part I”
A Sermon for the Kick-off of 275th Anniversary Observance
*Revelation 22:1-5; Genesis 2: 7-9, 15-17***

It is said that well-known preacher and teacher-of-preachers Fred Craddock often quips that “Anyone who can't remember any farther back than his or her own birth is an orphan.”¹

Anyone who can't remember any farther back than his or her own birth is an orphan.

Our obsession today, as a post-modern American people, is with individuality. We disengage from any collective; we disconnect and detach from any corporate or communal or context-carrying sense of the self. Isolated and independent, we are like orphans, experiencing the world without family, without memory, without history, without perspective. At least that is the world our preacher friend Craddock worries about. Lose the context, forget those connections, and we—he would point out—we forget who we are, what we're about, why we're here, ... *and* where we're going.

The idea that we need to know from where we're coming in order to know where we're going—it sounds so simple and yet may be rather counter-cultural. After all, when we tell stories of people who've moved out of troubled or less-fortunate backgrounds into some place of wealth or worth or wonder, we usually say they did it “*in spite*” of where they came from, not “*because*” of it.

Still, there is something within ourselves, I think, that knows how deep the roots run, and that we gain something by knowing where we've come from.

But we struggle with it, at least I know I do. Am I who I am today and where I am today *in spite* of coming from a working-class family in a middle-of-nowhere farm town in Michigan... or *because* of it...? The voice on one shoulder would whisper “you can take the boy out of the small town, but you can't take the small town out of the boy.” On the other shoulder, another voice would murmur back “a prophet is never welcomed in his own town” and “you can never go home again”.

Is an anniversary celebration like the one we are embarking upon this morning, for these next ten months or so, is it just a nostalgic attempt to go home again...? That is, to go home again in the way they say one never really can go? Do we simply look back longingly for a return to some past era that is no more ... a time that never really can be ours again, and perhaps never was in the first place, at least not in exactly the way we remember it?

Some of you here today first sat in these pews during the 40-plus years when the great J. Garland Waggoner was the pastor here—first, *the* pastor, and then subsequently the *senior* pastor as the church staff expanded. And indeed it did expand, because as you who knew that era first-hand can tell, there were many years when this church was busting at the seams, a choir loft filled with fifty or more voices, all from among the college students ... worship held 2 or more times each Sunday in order to welcome in all those who would come seeking within these walls. Others of you perhaps first came in a slightly later era, when a University Christian Foundation took over campus ministry from the congregation proper, and when tensions admittedly grew as students ended up a bit further ahead on the social and moral issues of the day than the older members of the congregation. Later, some of you watched as our choir and organ moved from being performers at the front of this worship space, to speaking and singing from a place among the congregation, giving voice and support to this whole assembly in our work of worship and praise—whereas many others of you have only ever known this space as it looks now. Some of you wrestled with God and

¹ As noted by R. Wayne Stacy in his 18 Jan 2012 post “Ecclesiastical Orphans” on his blog *Disciple's Diary* (<http://www.rwaynestacy.com/2012/01/ecclesiastical-orphans.html>); accessed 21 Jan 2012).

with one another over declaring this place “Open and Affirming”, and taking the next steps to be “Welcoming All”; others of you are here precisely because you already *knew* Storrs Congregational Church as a place that welcomed and affirmed people of all sexual orientations and where persons of all physical, mental, and emotional abilities could make their way into these buildings and into the life of this people. And still others of you, you here for the first time today—seeing a congregation spreading the news in a new era on Facebook and email, seeking after a place that is learning again what it means to form people in faith and discipleship to Jesus Christ.

Whichever of these eras have been yours, I still must ask, is that enough?

Is it enough to look fondly on a time we can recall from the scripts in our own heads? Is it enough even to look back upon tensions and conflicts of the past—miseries over ministers, mistakes with moneys, missteps in mission—simply to try to guard ourselves from repeating past errors?

Is it enough to look back at what we ourselves can remember, or is there something more?

After all, “anyone who can’t remember any farther back than his or her own birth is an orphan.”

And so we re-member back farther than our own members today. We recall an era now long gone when college students were required to attend chapel services in the church that stood atop this hill. We flip back through the pages to an era before there was a college here in the northern sections of Mansfield at all, when this congregation was simply another rural eastern Connecticut church, a church in fact that needed financial support from other churches in the state to survive. We can even page back to the first story of this church, the founding myth, if you will, of the church placed here because the First Church in Mansfield was too difficult to get to.

But the reality, my friends, is that our remembrance cannot stop simply with the front cover of the particular book of history with our congregation’s name on it. “Anyone who can’t remember any farther back than his or her own birth is an orphan.” Indeed, there are other books on the shelf... the volume bearing the stories of our earlier Congregationalist and Puritan ancestors, tracing back through Mansfield Center, and Windham Center, and Norwich, and back and back and back, to the Massachusetts Bay Colony and Plimoth Plantation. But sitting on the shelf alongside that title is another one, one that takes us back across the sea to the English Puritans, those who went back and forth between Congregationalism and Presbyterianism even as they were clear in their differences from the established Anglican church, the same ones who studied with John Calvin in Geneva and his followers in Holland and other places.

Even that’s not enough, of course. The shelf goes on to hold books about the rest of the Protestant Reformation—Martin Luther and Ulrich Zwingli, Bucer and Knox and Wycliffe and Hus—and also on through the stories the faithful witnesses of the Western church through even earlier centuries (yes, even “those Catholics” are a part of our story)—ones like Thomas Aquinas and St. Francis, Augustine and Julian of Norwich, countless women mystics and contemplative, priestly men.

But then what is at the beginning of the shelf, sisters and brothers?

Of course—*this* book (hold up Bible).

Perhaps it is only when our imagination stretches far enough and wide enough to embrace a story and a history that starts *here*, that is when we become more than orphans. That is when we truly connect in with who we are and whose we are, when we see from where we come, and even perhaps catch a little glimpse into where we are going. *Here* we become rooted in the true story that is ours, grafted onto the tree of God’s delight.

Indeed, as you have heard in the Genesis reading this morning, there *was* a tree of God’s delight in the midst of that garden at the beginning of all things—“pleasant to the sight and good for food,” a tree to eat freely of, the tree of life. The reality, though, is that I think we often forget this part of the story. We remember the majestic yet distant God, the one who created all things on an orderly plan of seven days and seven nights, the one who simply spoke the word and all was made. But we forget the other story, the God who formed things out of dust ... the God who was near enough to us to breathe into us the breath of life... the God who you could even say was a bit of a tinker-er, a trial-and-error experimenter, a potter with wet hands on clay that could be shaped and re-shaped, formed and re-formed.

And we forget about this tree we have just heard about, the tree of life. Oh, sure, we remember a

tree all right, but only the forbidden tree, the tree that got us in trouble. But there was another tree in the midst of all things, “pleasant to the sight and good for food,” the tree of life.

If we can hear and remember *this* version of the story, this alternate script with a desert instead of watery chaos and a forming and experimenting God rather than the declarative distant God, then perhaps we can open our eyes to other alternate stories within our story. If we know the original story, the story of all stories, has more than one witness, then maybe our particular story does too.

We can hear the old tale that this church was founded because of the trouble getting horse carts up and down Spring Hill, and say, yes, *but* also in order meet and minister to people *where they are*—a calling we still have today. We can see the typical images of this church being the ‘conventional’ or ‘elite’ or ‘establishment’ place, and perhaps that has been true at times, *but* also true is that this is a church that: reached out in the early 1900s to support black colleges in the South, a church where the senior pastor entertained university students in his home, a church where mission giving once neared 12% of the budget, a church where in the heat of the civil rights movement we welcomed the starting of a black church in this place and proactively invested its finances in a black-owned-and-operated bank that invested in inner city Hartford. We can live in a story that says we’re a church stuck in “the way we’ve always done it here”, or we can realize that we’re a church that has reinvented itself time-and-time again over these 275 years for widely different contexts, times, and communities. The way we’ve always done it is not how we’re doing things today, nor will it be tomorrow. We can carry with us the stories of the conflicts and the kerfuffles, and know that they have been true, but also know that at the same time people throughout this congregation were reaching out in kindness and compassion, care and concern, conviction and courage.

The story of the tree of life is always, I dare say, an alternate story. Our world, broken as it is, would always have us wallowing in the stories of death and destruction. We’d only remember the tree with the forbidden fruit, and not the other tree. We would look back at history and tell only the stories of war, not those of peace. We’d flip through the pages of our own story and see only the conventional, not the courageous; the institutional, not the innovative.

But that tree of life that stood in the middle of the garden, that tree still stands, that tree still grows, that tree still branches out, “pleasant to the sight and good for food.” With roots reaching down to a solid ground in Christ, the truth, my friends, is that God has formed and is forming us into a *new* tree of life, a tree standing in the midst of this wondrous creation that God loves, drawing from the living waters of God’s grace flowing across the parched earth of lonely hearts.

The tree of life is always an alternate story.

So, how is our life together an alternate story now?

And what will be our alternate stories in the years to come?

Do we have the courage to be an alternate story to the world of consumerism and self-importance? Do we have the strength to be an alternate story to the narrative that says mainline churches are on the decline? Do we have the compassion to be an alternate story that speaks of community and care and conviction?

The tree of life is always an alternate story. It is the story by which we are no longer orphans, but children of God. It is the story of us, our past *and* our future, thanks be to God!



Rest, relax, reflect, renew, refresh, replenish, rejuvenate, ...a lot of good “re” words that come to mind when one is preparing for a sabbatical leave. If you consider the origin of the term, sabbatical initially refers to God’s resting on the seventh day after the great works of creation and later resting the fields every seventh year in order that the soil might have a chance to renew itself. All of this is not new to you, nor is the information that during the second half of this year I will be away on combined vacation, study, and sabbatical leave.

This is a wonderful time to stand back and take the time to think about *how* and *why* we do the things we do. *Busyness* gives way to *intentionality*. Not only is this a time for me to be away, it’s a grand opportunity for the congregation and music ensembles to think about their role in the ministry of music. What do we do well, what could we do better? How can we continue to grow in a healthy, positive working relationship with the music leadership of the church? In choir rehearsals I have already begun to initiate changes to help them prepare for an interim change of leadership. The Music Board has been working to identify short-term tasks for which they can assume responsibility. There have been in-depth discussions about how best to cover staffing needs in an economical way and still maintain program integrity. There is much positive momentum.

There are usually two main foci to a sabbatical these days that encompass personal and professional time away. Personal time used to seek renewal in activities that replenish the physical and mental well being of the individual. Professional time used to accomplish a special task or project. Many people take the opportunity to remove themselves from their usual abode in order to gain perspective through the stimulus of travel to a new place. A third dimension is the presentation of what has been accomplished during this leave, more on that in another article.

Last fall I began to gather materials and attended a conference in preparation for my special project on improvisation. My training has been exclusively as an interpreter, not creator of music. This is a daring move in a new direction for me. Ask any musician not practiced in the art of improvisation how they feel about playing off the page and the fear factor will usually be the first words out of their mouth! My inspiration for this is to pursue a desire from many years ago that never played itself out in my professional life. The lure of competitions and the success that followed drew my energy in an interpretive direction. As an organist and leader of congregational song, it is my intent to spend my time away practicing and re-training to be more spontaneously creative in the playing of hymns. I do not expect that I will miraculously be able to improvise extended preludes and postludes at the end of a ten-week leave! I do hope to be more creative and spontaneous in the playing of hymns, introductions and interludes.

Lastly, there will be time for the pursuits of renewal. I know I can’t afford a trip to Machu Picchu like one of my colleagues. I doubt I will even be able to accompany my spouse to Greece this summer for a reunion with his college roommates. I do hope that I will be able climb some new mountain summits, be inspired by new vistas and spend time in a place of great natural beauty. Nature has always fed my soul in the most rejuvenating way.

The adventure will soon begin. The gift of sabbatical time is treasured. Let us all plan to make the most of it!

Soli Deo gloria,
Trishā



Storrs Congregational Church
Council Meeting
January 3, 2012
Minutes
Draft 2

Present:

The Rev. Matt Emery (Senior Pastor)
Nancy Rucker (Call to Care Rep)
Carolyn Holmy (CE Rep)
Sue Schur (Deacons Rep)
Dick Roberts (Properties Rep)
Bob Malecki (Vice Chair)
Donna Latincsics (Outreach Rep)

Pam Roberts (Chair)
Chuck Vinsonhaler (Clerk)
Jan Castle (At Large)
Suzanne Hathaway (Music Rep)
Liz Cowles (Growth Rep)
Dave Jordan (Treasurer)

- 1. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions:** 7:13 pm
- 2. Candle Lighting and Opening Prayer.** Matt read from Ephesians 3 and Matthew 6, in observance of the new year, before offering a prayer as he lit each candle.
- 3. Council continuation of IMAGINE: Conversations about our passion.** Conversation 10 – Where do we start?”

After sitting in silence for a few minutes, we each wrote down an instance where the church has moved forward this year on one of our passions, and one instance where we're still hoping for movement. Then we wrote down one way each of us could effect change in the faith community of Storrs Congregational. Discussion touched on ways we might carry our conversations on this book out into other areas of the congregation.

- 4. Additions to the Agenda:** none
- 5. Minutes:** The clerk reported that the email approval process for minutes of December 6, 2011 resulted in the approval of those minutes.
- 6. Correspondence to share/distribute:**
 - Jan and Feb Schedules prepared by Deborah were passed around for notations of corrections, deletions, etc. Liz Cowles requested that the Feb schedule in the Carillon be clear that board meeting will likely change after the new boards meet and decide schedule on Feb 5.
 - WA Committee can make their planned payment to Windham Habitat for Humanity and the new WA fund bringing total outreach donations to \$50,000 to date.
 - Our sister church in Somers was burned. We each can send letters and other gestures of support through either the Somers church facebook page, Somers church email or postal mail. Pastor Matt has sent a formal message on behalf of the Church.
- 7. Formal Reports:**
 - a. Senior Minister**
 - Matt leaves on Jan 8 for a meeting of his Target 2030 group
 - Pastoral care concerns were discussed

- So far, he has received positive feedback regarding the Christmas worship services. No formal count is available for the 5:30 service but the count for the 9:00 services exceeded that of last year.

b. Treasurer

Dave estimates another week to finish the books for the year. Early indications show the budget will end in the black. Investments have been topsy turvy. Overall, little change from last year. The annual report will have all the details.

c. Council Leadership

- Fundraising is over \$5600 (not quite reaching the \$6500 goal)
- New procedures for approval of Council Minutes accepted by consensus (see Attachment A)
- Personnel Committee reports that the annual review of staff has been completed, and reappointment letters will be completed by January 5th.
- The Leadership Retreat is planned for February 5. Lunch and an activity are scheduled that day for the time block, 11:30 – 3:00. Details will be available later this month.

8. Old Business:

a. Search Committee for Minister of Faith Formation and Discipleship.

Pam summarized the Subgroup report for Council. Selection of the Search Committee slate will conclude on January 8.

Council decided to call a special Council meeting at 6:30 on Tuesday, January 10, to act on the slate developed by the subgroup.

b. Council Committees and Workgroups

Five motions were passed.

Dave moved and Sue seconded

Motion 1: That the Council release the Memorial Room Task Group effective January 29, 2012 with gratitude for a job well done. Passed unanimously.

Jan moved and Suzanne seconded

Motion 2: *That the Council reappoint the WA Committee to serve through January 2013 with the following persons willing to serve in the capacities indicated. Paul Schur*, (Chair), Carol Jordan*, (Treasurer), Ted Yungclas and Sue Schur, (WA Recording and Acknowledgement), Dick Roberts* (At Large), Pastor Matt Emery (ex-officio). Note that * indicates authorized to serve as signatory as defined in the Dec 6 Council action.*

Motion passed unanimously.

The next 3 motions were grouped. Moved by Dave, seconded by Jan.

Motion 3: *To extend the appointment of the Ad Hoc Committee on Antenna Facilities thru the 2012-2013 year, or until their originally identified charge is complete; with constituency as follows unless the represented Board identifies a need for a replacement: Constituency to include: Bill Thompson, (Properties Rep), Charles Knapp (Finance Rep),*

Dave Bull (Music Rep), Jack Rice (At Large), Pam Roberts (At Large), Pastor Matt (ex-officio). Passed unanimously.

Motion 4: Extend the appointment of the 275th Anniversary Committee for the 2012 year to include: Janet Atkins, Dick Roberts, Mark Roy, Jamie Lang-Rodean, and Pastor Matt (ex-officio), to complete the charge given in 2011.

Motion 5: Appoint members of the Ad Hoc Art Workgroup to serve as an Ad Hoc Art Advisory Committee to handle art related questions and decisions that may arise in the 2012-2013 year; Janet Atkins, Annemarie Thompson, Mark Roy have agreed to continue.

Pam indicated she will thank all those workgroup or committee members involved in the actions. She reported the Ad Hoc Committee on Antenna Facilities will meet in January for the purpose of final decisions on the MOU regarding the Carillon.

She reported that at some point likely in 2012, the final winding down of the Welcoming All Committee will come before the Council with anticipation of a congregational meeting to close out the project and campaign.

- c. **Report of the Nominating Committee** – Pastor Matt pointed out areas of still existing needs along with areas where confirmations are still pending. Pam added that Council will not meet again before the annual meeting and may need this information for planning for February 5 Leadership Retreat. The council expressed appreciation to the Nominating Committee for their hard work.

9. New Business:

- a. Resignation of WAIM delegate. Motion by Jan, second by Sue that we accept with appreciation the resignation of Curt Hoffman as WAIM delegate, effective January 29 or upon the appointment of a replacement, whichever occurs first.
Motion passed unanimously.

Pam requested authority to recruit and appoint WAIM delegate(s) in hopes of having someone in place prior to the Jan 26 delegates meeting. Authority for Pam to appoint a WAIM delegate was approved by consensus.

- b. **Call to January 29 annual meeting.** A draft was considered by Council and with minor modifications approved by consensus as follows:

Members of the Storrs Congregational Church are called to the Annual Meeting to be held on Sunday, January 29, 2012 in the Meeting House immediately following worship. The business agenda will include receiving yearly reports, filling elective offices, transacting business and acting on a Council-recommended nominating slate for a Search Committee for the Minister for Faith Formation and Discipleship. The Search Committee slate consists of the following persons: (insert list). In the event that the scheduled meeting must be postponed, the Annual Meeting will be held at the same time and place on Sunday, February 5, 2012.

Pending the approval of a slate at the special meeting of the Council on Tuesday, Jan 10, the call will be completed and distributed starting January 15. The Council authorized

Pam to work with the Finance Board Chair to assure financial business needs are met with current wording and with the Clerk to distribute the final call.

- c. **Agenda for January 29 Annual Meeting.** Pam reported that the agenda will be generated using last year as a model unless council members have recommended changes. After a short discussion about the management of “reports”, the council agreed that no changes to the agenda listing should occur. Council members recommended that efficiency could be maximized by grouping reports, Pam will share the council points of discussion with Nancy Bull, Moderator.

10.Round the Room:

- CE is looking for nursery coverage during UCONN break.
- A Bible Sunday and children’s teaching Communion is scheduled for March 18
- New exterior doors will be installed in the lounge this week
- Call to Care appreciates its many dedicated volunteers
- Pastor Matt added that he has been in touch with Nancy McLaren and return from family leave at some level is still expected in late January.
- Women’s Fellowship will meet on Thursday, January 12 with a craft program
- Tom and Alice-Mae Suits are leaving the area at end of January. A gathering is being explored.

11.Closing Prayer by Pam with thanks to the Council for their faithful listening and decisions.

12.Meeting adjourned 9:30 pm,

Next Meeting Tuesday, January 10th, 2012 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Vinsonhaler, Clerk

Council Minutes Approval Process

Revised Jan 8, 2012

1. After the Council meeting, the Clerk writes draft minutes and distributes it to Council Leadership (Chair, Vice-Chair, At-Large) and the Minister(s) who return their comments to the Clerk before within a week. If a portion of the minutes require clarification from an additional person, the Chair will seek input from that individual.
2. The Clerk revises the minutes as necessary, and provides the revised draft back to the Chair and Sr. Minister for final approval within 9 days of the meeting.
3. The Clerk addresses any final comments, and then gives the revised draft (Draft 2) to the Office Administrator for the Carillon, the Bulletin Board and other Council Members, within 10 days of the meeting or the 15th of the month, whichever is earlier.
4. The minutes are put on the agenda for the next Council meeting and voted on by standard motion.
5. The approved (Final) minutes are filed in the office.
6. Significant corrections are printed in the following Carillon.





Words from our Incoming Council Chair

Greetings fellow SCC faithful disciples of Christ. As incoming Council Chair, I would like to introduce myself to those of you who may not know me well, and share some of my thoughts for the upcoming year. First, I want to acknowledge the fantastic job done by my predecessor, Pam Roberts, as 2011 Council Chair, and over the past three years in Council leadership. Pam leaves big shoes to fill. I pray that I be blessed with even half of the energy and passion and commitment for SCC that Pam demonstrated over the past year.

Stacy and I joined the church in 1993. Alec, Samantha and Evan were all baptized at SCC. We are truly blessed to have Alec and Samantha grow up in our church family, and by the support provided by the church during Evan's time with us. Most of you know Stacy's parents, Bill and Annemarie Thompson, who are active members of SCC.

I work as an engineering manager at Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford. I have worked there for 25 years. I have degrees in aeronautical engineering from MIT, and an MBA from RPI. I hope to use my managerial and leadership training and experience to the benefit of SCC in the coming year. Because I work in East Hartford, I will not be around the church during the week as much as my predecessors, and will generally only be available for meetings and discussions in the evenings. However, I DO want to hear from you with any comments, questions or concerns that you may have. We are in church most Sundays - so catch me at coffee hour, or feel free to call me in the evenings or send me an email.

I am excited about 2012 as we celebrate our past, praise and serve the Lord in the present, and continue to shape our future. We will be celebrating our past with the 275th anniversary activities. In the present, we will continue to serve the Lord, the community, and each other as we grow in faith and discipleship. As we do so, I ask us to listen for the Spirit's inspiration to creatively bring additional spiritual elements into all our SCC activities. We move toward our future with the search for (and hopeful 2012 installation of) an associate Minister for Faith Formation and Discipleship. Additionally, before the end of the year, I hope that we will initiate a process to evaluate and update our current board and committee structure.

We are blessed with a very capable and committed pastoral and professional staff, and fantastic lay leadership. I look forward to working with them and you all as we celebrate the past, revel in the present, and chart our future.

God Bless,

Bob Malecki

H: 860-487-4538

bobmaleckiSCC@earthlink.net

From the Christian Education Corner

We are progressing nicely through the Spark curriculum. The kids are excited about the activities the teachers have planned each week. Remember to make use of the home connection worksheet to promote conversation with your child about what they are learning in Sunday school. Regular Sunday school classes for children Pre K-8 will run through February 12 followed by a family service on February 19.

As we begin to approach the season of Lent we have some important dates and exciting activities planned. On February 26, the kids and teachers will join Nancy McLaren in a one room schoolhouse where Nancy will lead a special Lent service. March 18 we will celebrate Bible Sunday, where every child in Kindergarten, 3rd and 5th grade will receive a special Bible of their own. Nancy will also join the Sunday school classes that Sunday for a one room schoolhouse Communion service. Last year, this was a wonderful way to introduce the kids to what it means to participate in Communion. We know that both of these one room schoolhouse services will be meaningful for both the children and the teachers. Parents please mark your calendars and plan for your children to join us.

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



WELCOMING ALL

CAMPAIGN FOR ACCESSIBILITY

With the building phase of our project complete, the third year of *Welcoming All* has seen a continuation of the fund-raising campaign, culminating in paying off the construction loan on June 1 and a transition to the outreach and mission phases of the campaign. Through the generosity of the congregation and other donors in the community, the Storrs Congregational Church has now completed the first round of gifts, totaling \$45,000, to local and international organizations:

- \$10,000 to the Covenant Soup Kitchen in Willimantic.
- \$10,000 to WAIM.
- \$5,000 to Heifer International.
- \$5,000 to the scholarship fund of Church Women United (CWU).
- \$5,000 to the Silver Lake Conference Center.
- \$10,000 to Habitat for Humanity Windham Area.

In addition, \$5,000 has been contributed to the SCC Welcoming Fund, set up as an ongoing off-budget account to provide the means to offer special accommodations to individuals and groups both within and outside the church who use our building.

Total income for *Welcoming All* as of December 31, 2011 is \$1,063,137.41, which is 96.65% of the \$1,100,000 goal. Also as of December 31:

80.3% (90)	... have paid 100% or more of their pledge
10.7% (12)	... have paid 67 to 99% of their pledge
5.4% (6)	... have paid 33 to 66% of their pledge
3.6% (4)	... have paid 0 to 32% of their pledge

There is an outstanding pledge balance of \$49,671.00, of which \$7,755 is expected to not be received. Anticipated income should be approximately \$42,000.

We urge those who have outstanding pledge commitments to continue to meet that obligation. Pledges that are coming now are going toward the outreach and mission gifts, but, as we have noted before, a portion of every gift already received may be considered as dedicated to the goal of extending Christ's welcoming embrace to the wider community – just as contributions yet to be given also support the construction which has greatly improved access to our buildings.

What's Happening at your Library?

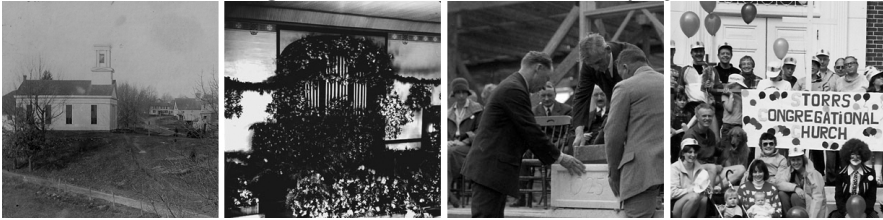
Not just another year in the library ----

Every year offers new reading and new opportunities and 2012 is no different. January brings changes in church leadership, a year of celebrating our 275th Anniversary as a community of faith, Nancy McLaren back with us as Faith Formation consultant, and numerous other activities and opportunities. Support materials are always available pretty much whatever your need. Pam Lewis, a local author, spoke to the Women's Fellowship and soon the requests were made for some of her books. We secured some titles and they are now available for borrowing. As to leadership opportunities we have many books including the one the 2011 Council has been reading, Changing the Conversation by Tony Robinson. Are you looking for some ideas for winter activities for yourself or for children – well, we have the books for that need too! Great novels – new and old - just stop by any Sunday following worship.

Suggestions for new titles to add to the collection are always gratefully received. We will be purchasing some of the titles for the 275th book discussions but it will probably be only one copy.

Be sure to stop by the library whenever you are in the buildings especially take time when you are attending meetings in the room. Directions for borrowing books are on the metal cabinets near the windows.

Celebrating 275 Years as a Community of Faith



As we explore the history of our church and look to its future during this celebration year, it's important to remember that ours was not the first church organized in the Town of Mansfield. Storrs Congregational Church, which until 1921 was the Second Congregational Church, is the offspring of the First Congregational Church in Mansfield Center. And that church was parented by the Congregational Church in Windham Center.

Dividing Mansfield into two parishes was first discussed in 1699 when a meeting house was built in Mansfield Center. It would be 38 years before the 2nd Ecclesiastical Society was formed for the north parish, and it wasn't until seven years later, in 1744, that a minister was called, and that was driven by a need to "undertake the conversion of the dissident Separatists," according to the church history published in 1985.

February 18 - Picture This!

The archives of the church include hundreds, perhaps thousands of photographs, and most have no dates or names to identify the activities and people who are in them. On February 18, we will use our collective memory to begin to put names to the many faces in these photos. Join in this activity which is sure to spark memories both fun and poignant.

Picture This! will be held Saturday, February 18 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

February 19 - Paging Through the Story

The first book in our book club series will be *The Pilgrim* by Hugh Nissenson. In this historical fiction, we follow the journeys of a young man in our congregation's 'pre-history', the earliest Pilgrim years of the 1620s in Plymouth Plantation colony. Others have written that the author "shows the tight grip of religious devotion on one young man's mind... History, politics, faith, and daily life all come together in a strong story". Come and join with others as we delve into our past stories and future hopes through the pages of literature. The first discussion is Sunday, February 19 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Subsequent sessions will be on the third Sunday in April, June, August, and October.

Coming in March: Preserving Family Records and Family Memories.

The 275th Anniversary Committee: Janet Atkins, Pastor Matthew Emery, Jamie Lang-Rodean, Richard Roberts, Mark Roy

For more on our 275th Celebration: go to <http://www.storrscongregation.org/> or find us on

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/storrscongregationchurch>

This Month In Our History:

February 22, 1754 – Rev. Moses Cook Welch is born in Mansfield. His father, Rev. Daniel Welch, is pastor of the church from 1752 to 1782. The son is pastor from 1784 to 1824.

February, 1845 – Members vote to tear down the meeting house built in 1793 and build a new, third meeting house.

February 21, 1916 – The church approves a search committee recommendation to call Rev. Marshall Dawson, a student at Yale Divinity School, as the pastor. His ministry ended in the spring of 1924.

February 25, 1957 – The church holds "Edwina Whitney Night" to celebrate Whitney's 75th year as a member of the church. She was 89, she was a former church historian and librarian emeritus of Connecticut Agricultural College.

February 26, 1968 – On Edwina Whitney's 100th birthday, the church library is dedicated in her name with a bronze plaque and special bookplates designed by John Allie.

February 4, 1973 – The Church Council applauds the efforts of Mary and Ernest Kline to research a history of the church. Their book is published in 1985 in anticipation of the 250th anniversary in 1987.

February 17, 1985 – Rev. Mark I. Hamilton of Milton, Massachusetts is called as associate pastor. He began his ministry on March 4.



United Services Inc.

1/20/12

Storrs Congregational Church Friends and Family & Covenant To Care,

This letter is to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to you all for providing gifts to the children and families over the 2011 holiday season.

The gifts that you provided were distributed to the children that participate in the Family Enrichment Services program at United Services Inc. The program is funded by the Department of Children and Families and provides services to families whose children are at risk for abuse and neglect.

The families were very excited by the extra help over this holiday season! As always, they really enjoyed the presents and were most appreciative! The parents were especially grateful and pleased to see their children receive gifts that they themselves were unable to provide.

We hope that as you reflect upon the holiday season that you take a lot of joy in knowing that your contributions were truly needed and greatly appreciated by the FES families!

We wish to further extend our sincerest thanks to you all for your ongoing support of our program throughout the year as well. Thanks again and God Bless!

Sincerely,

Debora Moyer

Family Enrichment Services / United Services Inc.

Program Staff:

Debora Moyer, Parenting Services Manager

Gene Kupec-Iovine, Counselor

Jaclyn Chaparro, Counselor

1007 N. Main St. • PO Box 839 • Dayville, CT 06241-0839
132 Mansfield Avenue • Willimantic, CT 06226
233 Route 6 • PO Box 200 • Columbia, CT 06237-0200
303 Putnam Rd. • PO Box 378 • Wauregan, CT 06387

Phone: 860-774-2020 • FAX: 860-774-0826
Phone: 860-456-2261 • FAX: 860-450-1357
Phone: 860-228-4480 • FAX: 860-228-6921
Phone: 860-564-6100 • FAX: 860-564-6110

NEWS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY

ANNIVERSARIES:

Janet & Adrian Atkins

February 1

Cass Crewdson & Alice O'Donovan

February 28

BIRTHDAYS:

Kathleen Rice	2/1	Stacy Malecki	2/12
Campbell Sion	2/2	Annemarie Thompson	2/15
Samuel Gustafon	2/2	Bethany Dixon	2/15
Vivian Putnam	2/2	Matthew Abell	2/16
David Vaughan	2/4	Hilary Dahlberg	2/17
Janet Jordan	2/8	Jake Harakaly	2/20
Julie Klimkiewicz	2/9	David Litrico	2/22
Kyle Enderle	2/9	Greg Dione	2/22
Chloe Gibson	2/10	David Maker	2/27
Bob Ignatowicz	2/11	Martha Mochel	2/27
Gail Ignatowicz	2/11	Willard Daniels	2/27
Alison Latincsics	2/12	Peter Talbot	2/28
Molly Breault-Fisher	2/12		

Are you wondering why your birthday or anniversary is never listed in the Carillon?

It might be because I don't know when it is. If you'd like to have your birthday or anniversary published so all can wish you well, give me a call or send me an email with your information. Thanks, Deborah (call 860-429-9382 or email sccoffice@storrscongchurch.org)

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.



Service Person

Matt Allen
Mitchell Ducharme
Chip Greer
Joel Higley
Francis Kimenyi
Philip Lewis
Eric Stailing
Marta Tanaka
Paul Tanaka
Lamont Ward

Submitted by

Pam & Dick Roberts
Adrian & Janet Atkins
Elaine Greer
Betty Robinson
John & Patty Tanaka
Russ Wheeler
Bryan & Susan Stailing
John & Patty Tanaka
John & Patty Tanaka
Nichole Gronski Ward

NEW ARRIVAL:

Joy for the miracle of new birth! Please welcome with prayers the new grandson of Paul and Sue Schur. Julian Peterson Horan arrived about a month early, on Monday, Jan. 23. He and his parents, Karen (Schur) and Andrew Horan, and his big sister, Lorelei, are all doing fine. Hallelujah!

Storrs Congregational Church

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Storrs Mansfield, CT 06268

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**UCC UConn
Odd Jobs!!!**

In an effort support the tornado relief victims of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, We are asking anyone who may need an “odd job” done, (that is any job from babysitting, to chopping wood, to shoveling snow, etc.) to please contact us.

Price range is extremely flexible, for we accept all compensations as donations and 100% of the proceeds go to our disaster relief trip.

The standard compensation is usually about minimum wage or whatever the employer deems appropriate.

Contact

Email- uccuconnasb@gmail.com

Phone- (203)-962-1051 (Tim)