

# PARISH POST

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

CHESHIRE  
CONNECTICUT

Volume XXIII

December, 2006

No.10

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Services at 9:00 and 11:00 in the Sanctuary through December 17

**\*December 24 and 31, morning worship at 10 only**

**Christmas Eve services at 5, 7:30, and 11**

Church School for Pre-school 3 through Junior High December 3-17

Nursery/Toddler care at both hours

**Sunday, December 3 – (First Sunday of Advent):** 9 & 11 Worship and Church School, Communion and Food Offerings; Rick Dacey preaching; Coffee hours hosted by the Board of Trustees; the lessons are **Jeremiah 33:14-16** and Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36; Labyrinth in Parish Hall 7-11

**Sunday, December 10 – (Second Sunday in Advent):** 9 & 11 Worship and Church School; Alison McCaffrey preaching; Coffee hours at 10 and 12 – Christmas Cookies ; Church Meeting at Noon in Parish Hall; the lessons are Baruch 5:1-9 or Malachi 3:1-4 and **Luke 1:68-79**; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6; 4 p.m. - Christmas Pageant in the sanctuary

**Sunday, December 17 – (Third Sunday in Advent):** 9 & 11 Worship and Church School; Rick Dacey preaching; Coffee Hours at 10 & 12 hosted by the Board of Stewardship; 4 – a candlelight service of Lessons and Carols; the lessons are Zephaniah 3:14-20 and Isaiah 12:2-6; **Philippians 4:4-7**; Luke 3:7-18

**Sunday, December 24 – (Fourth Sunday of Advent – Christmas Eve):** **Morning worship at 10 o'clock only – no church school;** Rick Dacey preaching; Christmas Eve services at 5 (Debbie Gravell), 7:30 (Alison McCaffrey), and 11 o'clock candlelight (Rick Dacey); the lessons are Micah 5:2-5a and Luke 1:47-55 or Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; **Luke 1:39-45, (46-55);** **Christmas Eve:** Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2:11-14, and Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

**Sunday, December 31 – (First Sunday after Christmas):** **Morning worship at 10 o'clock only – no church school;** Rick Dacey preaching; the lessons are 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 and Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; **Luke 2:41-52** (Or the readings for Epiphany may be used): Isaiah 60:1-6 and Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12 and Matthew 2:1-12

**\*See Church School News for programming information for December 24 & 31**

## **FROM OUR STUDENT INTERN...**

### **Lisa Horst**

For me, December can be a time of over stimulation. It is the time of year when all the stores pipe in seasonal music with such gusto they appear certain my spending is directly related to my Christmas spirit. In December the church often goes into overdrive, baked goods covered in sprinkles are present at every turn, and the frenzy of the end of a semester or a fiscal year can send one spinning. With all of these flashing red and green lights, we can be distracted from the fact that the season of advent comes to us at the darkest time of the year. The winter solstice this year falls on December 22<sup>nd</sup> which is coincidentally, the last day of finals at Yale Divinity School. I must admit that for many a student, this fact has indelibly linked the shortest day of the year with Intermediate Hebrew.

Driving home recently, I found myself caught in an unexpected darkness. It was only four in the afternoon, but the early evening and cloud cover sent darkness upon my daily routine. The light has been ending earlier and earlier this time of year, the leaves are almost gone from the trees, and I find myself bracing for the chill that is to come. As a native Californian, the threat of upcoming cold looms large against my psyche. I am tempted to collect coats and scarves as talismans against the cold, as if these knit items will stave off winter and the days of darkness. There is a reason that advent is called a season of preparation.

It can be hard to reconcile brightly colored paper with darkness, and at times perhaps the hope can seem incongruous. For many, alongside the bright celebration, Christmas can be a time of missing those who are absent, of anniversaries of those who have been lost, and perhaps even uncertainty when looking towards the winter which is approaching. Our bright holiday of tinsel and rich food appears at a time when the weather seems to be despairing. What does hope look like in a time when we're losing the light?

Our good book tells the old story of travelers who followed a star. Travelers ventured out in the world because of old words of a promise unto Israel. They ventured out into the world to the darkness, because they had seen a star at its rising. They traveled through dangerous lands, and unknown locations following a hope, though they knew not where it would lead. I like to think that they traveled at night, for after all, when else can you see starlight? A group of travelers saw a star at its rising, a star whose light could not compete with the light bright of day.

My prayer this holiday season is that whether you are surrounded by bright decorations or struck by an early darkness, that you might see the star at its rising. We believe in a God of promise, a God of hope, a God of faith who cares for us so deeply that God came to us in a child. May we see in this God, the light that calls us forward.

**NOTES FROM  
THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

The Executive Board met on Tuesday, November 7, 2006, for its regular monthly meeting. Included in this article are highlights of topics which were discussed at that meeting.

**Communications Task Force**

A special report was made by the representatives of the Communications Task Force (a separate article summarizing their recommendations is included in this edition of the Parish Post). A full report can be found in the church office and library as well as on the church's website. The Executive Board welcomed the report and will schedule a separate meeting to discuss the recommendations and plan implementation of them.

**Staff Searches**

Updates were provided to the Board regarding the staff searches which are underway. These include the search for an Associate Minister for Parish Care, the search for the Interim Senior Minister, and the Director of Youth Ministries. A separate update on these searches is also included in this Parish Post as well as on the church website.

**Stewardship**

The Board of Stewardship gave an update in regard to the pledges received thus far. It was noted that a summary of the comments made at the recent Cottage Meetings would be given to the Executive Board at its next meeting.

**2007 Budget Planning**

This report was followed by a discussion of the planning for the 2007 budget. We decided that the cut off date for receiving the pledges and planning for the 2007 budget would be November 17, 2006. Pledges will still be received after that time but the planning for the budget would be based upon the information received as of that date.

We also agreed that the budget and the summary of changes would be posted on the church website and hard copies would be available at the church. A motion was made and passed to call a Church meeting on Sunday, December 10 to review and accept the budget for 2007.

**Planning for our Future**

In addition to other reports, the Executive Board discussed the need for identifying our focus in the future. Where is God calling us?

It was noted that a planning process will assist us in program planning and budgeting as well as in determining the skills we need in our settled senior minister. We agreed to create a team to work on this planning process in the New Year. Members of the Executive Board were requested to consider the gifts and skills of the individuals who might be called to work on this important project.

## **FAREWELL CELEBRATION FOR THE DACEYS**

The Deacons invite all church members and friends to a farewell celebration for the Dacey family on January 5. We are planning a church supper, hymn sing, and worship service. If you have ideas about additional activities, we welcome your input. We are looking for volunteers from the congregation to help us out.

Please call Susan Mancinelli at 272-6809 to share your ideas or volunteer your time.

## **CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS**

### **STEPPING STONES YOUTH GROUP**

#### **FORMERLY KNOWN AS CHRISTIANS IN ACTION (C.I.A.)**

The 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> graders will be Christmas caroling for residents at the Masonic Home in Wallingford on Friday, December 15. We will meet at the church at 6 sharp. Volunteers are needed to drive. We will return to the church for hot chocolate following our singing. Children should bring their favorite Christmas cookies to share. Children should be picked up at the church by 8.

### **BIBLE JOURNEYS FOR GRADES 2-6**

This workshop rotation Church School program is for children and youth entering grades 2-6 this fall. Children will know what workshop they will go to by the schedule below, the bulletin or the Bible

Journeys Board in the hallway across from Room 8.

**Grades 3-6** will go to class when dismissed from the church.

**Grade 2 at 9:00 service only** will leave for Chapel in the early part of the service. After Chapel they will go with their Shepherd to their Bible Journeys workshop. Parents may find their children in the classroom listed in the bulletin at the end of Church School.

### **Summary of Birth through the Eyes of the Shepherds and Angels December 2006**

#### **Thou art Room 8**

The students will create a yummy nativity reminding them of how the nativity characters illustrate the wonderful love of God for us. The process of creating the nativity with food provides the creative outlet and hands on activity that facilitates a deeper understanding of this Bible story. The physical reminder will help children remember the story.

#### **Red Sea Productions Room 9**

Assuming that all children know the basic Christmas story, this lesson focuses only on the shepherds and angels. The children learn that being a shepherd was not a prestigious job but that God used these ordinary people to be an important part of Jesus' birth. The children will also learn that God can send messages to us through other people who might be called angels. We do not know what angels look like and they may or may not be the creatures we

imagine with white wings and halos. Students will learn through Praising Puppets.

**Desert Tales** **Room 10**

With music, instruments and movement, the students will create/recreate the story of Jesus' birth, as told and witnessed by the shepherds and angels. The students will experience the joy and excitement of the angels' message.

**Gospel Games** **Room 11**

To find and learn the story of the angels and shepherds in the Bible – To learn how to use computer software to research the story – To be able to present what has been learned in discussion

**CHURCH SCHOOL FOR  
DECEMBER 24 MORNING**

Single service at 10:00 a.m.

Children in grades Preschool 3 through 6th grade will have a special program. Grades Preschool through 1<sup>st</sup> will also see a special video. Youth in Jr. High will remain in the service or can speak to Debbie Gravell about being a helper with the programs downstairs.

**CHURCH SCHOOL FOR  
DECEMBER 31 MORNING**

Single service at 10:00 a.m.

Children in grades Preschool 3 through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will have a special program.

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

***The First Christmas Present Ever***

The speaking cast has been filled and children have begun their rehearsals as listed below.

**For Children with speaking parts only!**

**Line Rehearsal:** Sunday, December 3 at **10:30 Sharp!** Children know where to meet their leaders and should arrive on time. The cast counts on you, so your presence is important.

**Blocking Rehearsal:** Sunday, December 3 from 12:30-2:30. We will take a break for a light lunch which will be provided.

**For Everyone!**

**Dress Rehearsal:** Saturday, December 9, 9:30-12 noon

**Pageant Date:** Sunday, December 10 at 4. Children should arrive by 3:15.

**THE ADVENT LABYRINTH**

The Advent Labyrinth will be open for walking from Sunday, December 3 beginning at 7 PM (to 11 PM) through Wednesday Dec 6 at noon. There is no need to sign up, please just come! It will be open on Monday and Tuesday from 9 am to 10 pm and on Wednesday from 9 am until noon. The theme of this year's labyrinth is "hope". Anyone interested in taking part in setting it up is welcome to come at 2 PM on Sunday, December 3. We will once again be led in this process by labyrinth facilitator Laura Litvinoff. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the connector to help us welcome you.

Questions? Please see Alison McCaffrey

**9:00 Church School**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Thou Art</b>	<b>Red Sea Prod.</b>	<b>Desert Tales</b>	<b>Gospel Games</b>
Dec. 3	Grades 5 & 6	Grade 2	Grade 4	Grade 3
Dec. 10	Grade 2	Grade 4	Grade 3	Grades 5 & 6
Dec. 17	Grade 3	Grades 5 & 6	Grade 2	Grade 4
Dec. 24	Special Program	Special Program	Special Program	Special Program

**11:00 Church School**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Thou Art</b>	<b>Red Sea Prod.</b>	<b>Desert Tales</b>	<b>Gospel Games</b>
Dec. 3	Worship	Worship	Worship	Worship
Dec. 10	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grades 5 & 6	Grade 2
Dec. 17	Grade 4	Grades 5 & 6	Grade 2	Grade 3
Dec. 24	Special Program	Special Program	Special Program	Special Program



**CALL TO A CHURCH MEETING**

A meeting of the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Cheshire, Connecticut is called by the Executive Board and the Board of Deacons for Sunday, December 10, 2006 at 12:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall for the following purposes:

1. To approve the Final Budget for 2007
2. To accept the Resignation of Senior Minister, Richard L. Dacey
3. To hear a reading of the Nominating Committee Report
4. To hear a report on Communications
5. To hear a report on the Ministry Searches

Karen Gravino, Clerk

## YUTES NEWS

### DECEMBER CALENDAR

YUTES schedule:

**Sunday, December 3**

5-7 Whiting House – dinner

**Sunday, December 10**

No meeting

**Sunday, December 17**

6-8:30 Caroling – meet at Whiting House  
for bus; refreshments at 8

**Sunday, December 24**

**Christmas Eve – no youth group  
meeting. Merry Christmas!**

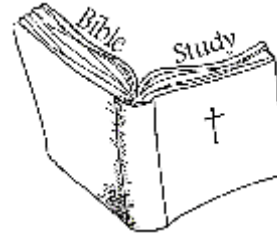
**Sunday, December 31**

**New Year's Eve – no youth group  
meeting. Happy New Year!**

### Mission Trip 2007

The 12<sup>th</sup> graders voted to attend the Group Work Camp in Lyons, NY. The trip is scheduled for July 29 through August 4. There are 30 available slots (if you heard 50, it was in error). Letters were mailed to all 12<sup>th</sup> graders; if you did not get a letter, please call the church office at 272-5323 and one will be sent to you as quickly as possible. A \$50 down payment is required to hold your position. Scholarships are available for those who would not be able to attend otherwise and all information is kept confidential.

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



**Topic:** Faith

**Leader:** Debbie Gravell

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor

We will be starting a new series shortly after Thanksgiving. Throughout the study we will use a study guide from the Life Guide Bible Study series (cost \$5.00). Each week we will explore different scriptures about Faith.

You are welcome to join us when you can and be away when you must. Each week stands by itself. We read the scriptures together, share reflections on the scripture and close with prayer requests. All women of the church are welcome.

Babysitting is available.



**CHRISTMAS FAIR**  
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2**  
**10 a.m. TO 2:30 p.m.**  
**Parish Hall**



This all in-house production features handcrafted gifts for all ages, Advent Calendars, Ornaments, "Treasure" Table with items from Granny's attic, Pecans, Cutlery, Jewelry, Poinsettias, Goat Milk Soap, and baked goods of all kinds.

Lunch will be served beginning at 11 a.m. featuring "Christmas Corn Chowder".

**Your Donations are needed!**

Cakes, cookies, pies, candy, jams, jellies – whatever your specialty is – and handcrafted items of all kinds would be most appreciated. Please bring donations to the Parish Hall between 9 a.m. and noon on Friday, Dec. 1 or on Saturday at 9:00 a.m.

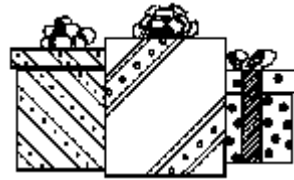
**BOARDS AND  
COMMITTEES**

**BOARD OF OUTREACH**

**Covenant to Care**

There are 50 children who would be blessed to receive Christmas gifts from people who care about them. The majority

of these children will not be celebrating at home, nor have they experienced the sense of family or community that most of us have been fortunate enough to experience. However, because of your caring and generous spirits, these children will have at least one gift to open on Christmas morning – in a group home, a residential treatment center, or in a foster home.



For those who would like to contribute a gift to this wonderful ministry, there are gift tags (with the child's age and suggested gift) and a sign-up sheet posted in the parlor. Please secure the gift tag securely to the **UNWRAPPED** gift and bring it to the church by December 17 at noon so that they may be delivered early Monday morning. If you have any questions, please call Jan Cowles at 272-8441. Thank you.

**Festival of Cookies**

Are you in need of new cookie ideas for Christmas? December 10<sup>th</sup>'s coffee hour will be just what you need, a Festival of Cookies

The Festival of Cookies is a showcase of everyone's favorite Christmas cookie. Simply bring a plate of your favorite Christmas cookies for others to enjoy during coffee hour. Bring copies of your recipe to share with others and go home

with new recipes to share with your family and friends. It's a great way to start your holidays. Any extra cookies will be brought to the Waterbury Soup Kitchen. Please call June Webster at 272-5163 to let us know you will be bringing cookies.

**FOOD OFFERING**

There were **409** food items collected for the month of **November**. Thank you! The Food Pantry request for the month of **December** is **peanut butter**.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**TOTAL RETURN INVESTMENT  
AND SPENDING POLICY  
CHANGES**

The Trustees have accepted the recommendation of their Investment Committee to change our Unrestricted Trust Fund to a Total Return Trust Fund. Total return means income (dividends and interest) and appreciation are total earnings. Therefore, all dividends and interest will be reinvested as received. The objective of this policy change is to increase payout from the Trust while maintaining a reasonable rate of growth for the Trust Fund from appreciation. The spending policy is calculated by using the yearend market value times the current selected spending rate (4%) divided by four to equal the quarterly payment.



**Example follows:**

12/31/05 Mkt. Val. \$750,488 x 4.0%  
(selected rate) = \$30,020  
Annual payout divided by 4 = \$7504 per quarter.  
The total amount actually paid in 2005 was \$17,515 based on actual income received less fees.

Based on the most recent quarterly report from the bank on 9/30/06, the market value was \$794,737. Assuming a total return Spending Policy of 4%, recommended by the Investment Committee of the Trustees, a payment amount of \$31,669 or \$7917 quarterly would be made to the church. Actually, through September only \$9434.77 has been received. This is the policy we will follow starting in 2007. This policy has become a common way to manage Charitable Trust funds by banks and other financial managers in recent years. It is an appropriate way to increase payout by sharing the appreciation which in some years is high and still be able to grow the total value of the fund.

To further illustrate, using the 9/30/06 results:

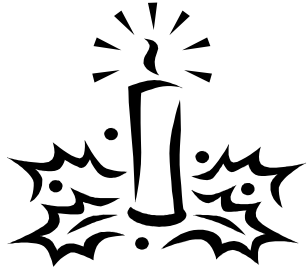
Annual rate of return as of 9/30/2006	6.01%
Average current yield	<u>2.71%</u>
Total return	8.72%
Less fees	<u>-1.00%</u>
Return net of fees	7.72%
Less payout to church	<u>-4.00%</u>
Retained earnings	3.72%

**BOARD OF MUSIC**

**CANDLELIGHT LESSONS  
AND CAROLS**

**Sunday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Please note the time: 4:00 PM**



Our always wonderful Lessons and Carols service will be in the afternoon this year, allowing us to take the time for the full traditional nine lessons and carols, and to take advantage of the gathering dusk to present this service by candlelight. The service will include favorite Christmas selections from the Senior Choir such as "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" and the Coventry Carol, and section leaders Patricia Barbano and Paul Fletcher will add their wonderful voices with solo pieces. The Worship and Arts Committee, and many other boards and committees, will be working with the Music Board to provide an inspiring, atmospheric setting that will help keep you centered on the real meaning of the Christmas season amid the hustle and bustle. Invite your friends and neighbors to experience it too - all are welcome! There will be a free will offering.

**MEMORIAL MUSIC CD'S**

**HAVE ARRIVED!**

CDs of this spring's Memorial Music Sunday presentation of Bach's "Christ lag in Todesbanden" have arrived! This recording wonderfully captures the very special service given by the Senior Choir, soloists and orchestra in March 2006. The CD makes a wonderful Christmas gift or special item to take to shut-ins who can't always get to services. Please fill out the form below and give it to Megan Stephan, Joe D'Eugenio, or the church office. Payment will be collected when you get your CD. Or look for us at the coffee hour between services!

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ CD's at \$10.00 each

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number:

\_\_\_\_\_

Best way to get your CD to you (please check one): After 9:00 service \_\_\_\_

After 11:00 service \_\_\_\_

By mail \_\_\_\_

## MISCELLANEOUS

### COMMUNICATION TASK FORCE NEW REPORT LOOKS AT HOW WE COMMUNICATE

Do you think you know what's going on in the life of First Congregational Church? Do you consider yourself "in the loop" or "out of the loop"? Do you feel well informed? How well do we communicate here?

During the past six months, these and other questions were addressed by a Communication Task Force created by the Executive Board. The six-member Task Force, chaired by Bob Mead, met several times with members of the congregation, clergy, and staff to find out what's working, what's not working, and how we can improve internal communication. In early November, the Task Force submitted its report to the Executive Board.

Among the key findings:

- No single way to communicate will reach everyone. We need to take advantage of every communication tool available to us – in print, electronic, face-to-face, and others.
- The church web site has a high potential for informing friends and members, but there need to be a lot more reasons for them to visit it.
- E-mail ought to be used more for communicating with friends and members, but they must be assured that they won't be bombarded with spam or mass mailings. (There are ways to keep e-

mail addresses confidential and protect against spam.)

- The Parish Post and the weekly Bulletin both do their jobs well, but there is room for improvement. Establishing an "editor" to actively seek and report church news would be a help.

- There must be more thorough follow-up to major initiatives at the church. Too often, after a major event there's little or no way for the congregation to find out the latest information.

These highlights just skim the top of the Task Force's 3,800-word report. We urge everyone to read the complete report, copies of which are in the church office and library.

In addition, the report has been posted on the church's web site, [www.cheshirecongregational.org](http://www.cheshirecongregational.org). To see the report, select "Ministries" on the home page, then select "Boards and Committees." At the right of the Board and Committees page is a box reading "Click here for available board and committee reports." Click it; then select "2006 Communications Task Force Report."

### FIRST DONATION MADE TO BACK BAY MISSION

In honor of Martha Lape's long service as Church Secretary and Office Manager here at First Church, the Martha Lape Outreach Endowment Fund was established in May of 2005 with contributions from parishioners and friends. A committee of three has been

appointed to review outreach efforts worthy of receiving money from this fund.

The committee has decided to use the interest accrued over the past year to make its first annual donation to our UCC Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi to assist in its rebuilding efforts after Hurricane Katrina. Five of its buildings were destroyed and two need to have their interiors completely redone. They currently are operating out of trailers supplied by FEMA. The Mission does outstanding work serving some of the poorest people of the Gulf Coast.

The committee would like to give YOU the opportunity to add to the \$500 being donated from the fund. If you would like to support our efforts in helping Back Bay rebuild, please send your checks to the church office, or put them in the offering plate, by December 12, 2006. The check should be made payable to First Congregational Church, mark memo "Back Bay Mission" fund. Any amount, large or small, will be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please call a committee member: Martha Lape, Leah Sanders, or Pam Euerle.

### **CARING CRAFTS MINISTRY**

The Crafty Ladies have been busy since September making 5 shawls, 1 baby blanket, and over 35 Teddy Bears. The

next meeting of the Caring Crafts Ministry will be December 18th at 7 pm at Donna Mead's home - 15 Conifer Drive, Hamden, CT. This will be our holiday meeting where each person brings a small craft related gift to be shared by someone in the group. We will also have "holiday related" snacks! If you have questions on how to get there or what we do, feel free to call Donna at 248-9576. Come celebrate life and the joyful season with us!



### **UCC CONFERENCE NEWS**

#### **THE GENERAL SYNOD**

The registration process for visitors to General Synod will open on December 1 on the UCC website. We anticipate a very heavy registration and I don't want you to miss this opportunity. So I ask that you place the following announcement in your bulletins in the early weeks of Advent:

General Synod is coming to Hartford and visitor registration is available at <http://www.ucc.org/synod/> effective December 1. We encourage you to register early as thousands will be attending and even the Civic Center has its limits on numbers. Since this is the first time the Synod has ever convened in Connecticut, this is a rare opportunity to experience the whole life of our denomination, especially in this 50th Anniversary year. And

don't forget to volunteer by visiting  
[http://www.ctucc.org/synod2007/!](http://www.ctucc.org/synod2007/)

Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree  
Conference Minister, Connecticut  
Conference, United Church of Christ

### **Oops!**

Julie Witte's name was inadvertently left  
off the list of members on the  
Membership Committee.

## **PERSONALS**

### ***Thank you from...***

#### **-Marge Beard**

Nancy Demac brought me a lovely  
bouquet of flowers from the church. I  
was so pleased. Thank you once again for  
thinking of me. Happy Thanksgiving.

#### **-Daisy and Bill Bissell**

How sweet and thoughtful of the church  
family to remember our anniversary. We  
were so surprised and pleased to see Susan  
at our door with a lovely arrangement of  
flowers. Thank you all so very much.

#### **-Bob and Doris Nims**

We wish to thank our church family for all  
of the acts of kindness shown to us – the  
lovely flowers, the visits to our home, and  
the delicious Saturday night dinner  
delivered to our door. All are very much  
appreciated.

May the peace of the holiday season be  
with all of you throughout the New Year.  
We're pleased to be part of this loving  
family.

#### **-Alan Skiparis**

Thank you for your prayers and support  
during the last few months. It has been a  
great comfort to be part of such a caring  
congregation.

### **BAPTISMS**

#### **November 19, 2006**

James Bernard, III, Colin Douglas, and  
Caitlin Jessie Fanning – twin sons and  
daughter of James and Traci Fanning

### **DEATHS**

#### **November**

Sarah Allyn (Frannie Welch's niece)

#### **-November 18**

Lois Lalley

### **HOSPITAL STAYS**

If you are hospitalized, it is important that  
you or a family member call one of the  
ministers or the church office to let us  
know so we can visit and care for you  
properly. A new federal law prohibits  
hospitals from giving us any patient  
information so we will not know you are  
there.

### **Emergency Pastoral Care**

After office hours, you may call Rev.  
Dacey at 250-1623, or Rev. McCaffrey at  
272-3233.

Please be mindful of their family time  
and call only in an emergency or crisis.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Non-Profit Org.

111 Church Drive

U.S. Postage Paid

Cheshire, CT 06410

Cheshire, CT 06410

Permit No. 34

Change Service Requested

Richard Dacey, Senior Minister

Alison McCaffrey, Associate Minister for Parish Life

Deborah Gravell, Minister of Christian Education

Joseph D'Eugenio, Music Director

Marianne Beckmann, Handbell Director

Matthew McCaffrey, Interim Director of Youth Ministry

Judith Monarca, Church Administrator/Post Editor

Jessie Waszmer, Secretary

Fred & Pat Turner, Sextons

Church Phone 203-272-5323

[www.CheshireCongregational.org](http://www.CheshireCongregational.org)