

Old Greenwich,
Connecticut

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF GREENWICH

United Church
of Christ

MEETINGHOUSE MONTHLY



*Celebrate
Advent
and
Christmas
2011*



*Christmas Carol Sing
and Dinner*

Sunday, December 11
6:00 pm

See Page 14 for details



INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Advent and Christmas Eve Services.....	2
Speaking Pastorally.....	3
Harvest Sunday 2011 Recap.....	4
Parish Nurse/Christmas Tree Sale.....	5
Musical Notes.....	6
Giving and Mitten Trees/Christmas Flowers.	7
linc/Stewardship Pledge Card.....	8
White Gifts/Bible Study.....	9
“The Circle of Life” Pledges.....	10
One of our own...New Minister Profile.....	11
New Members/Website/Annual Soup Sale..	12
Birthdays/Life Events.....	13
Christmas Carol Sing & Dinner/College- Senior Progressive Dinner.....	14
The Rummage Room 2011 Review.....	15





*Celebrate the Joy of Christmas at
First Congregational Church
on Christmas Eve!*



- 10:00 am Lessons and Carols for Our Youngest Families
Cherub Choir Sings, Offering of White Gifts* & Live Nativity
- 4:00 pm Family Service: *“Once in Royal David’s City”* Children’s Pageant
Children’s Choir Sings and Offering of White Gifts*
- 5:00 pm Community Carol Sing Around the Tree with Hot Cocoa
- 8:00 pm Communion and Carols Youth Choir Sings
- 11:00 pm Candlelight Lessons and Carols Chancel Choir Sings

* White Gifts are offerings of new clothing, toys, books or other useful items wrapped in white paper that are offered during our 10:00 am and 4:00 pm services on Christmas Eve. The white paper gives the illusion of snow under the trees in the Meetinghouse. See page 9 for more details.

*Opportunities for Children and Family
Participation on Christmas Eve:*

If you and/or your children would like to read scripture, etc., or participate in the live nativities (10:00 am children and adults; children only at 4:00 pm), please let Rosemary know by Sunday, December 11.



Speaking Pastorally...

Come and join us on a journey just begun. As we celebrate the life of God's own son. The stories of his life become our stories too, in the choices that we make, in everything we do. Come and join us on a journey just begun. - Jim Strathdee



This past Sunday marked the transition from the season of Thanksgiving to the season of Advent and the beginning of the Christian year. New Year's is marked with a calendar year change and, for many, the making of resolutions for this and for that. The beginning of the Christian year, which begins on the first Sunday of Advent, is different. It is a time of beginning again, to walk again, the journey of Jesus' earthly life from start to finish - and moving on into the work of the church after his resurrection. This is a time pregnant with possibilities for new starts. It is a time of resolve to deepen our faith and to walk more closely in the path of Christ.

Let me encourage you to engage in faith practices that will add meaning to your life, relieve stress and focus your priorities with a Christ-centered focus. Attend worship as often as you can. Use an Advent wreath, light candles and use daily devotional aids to enable God's spirit to touch you both in the morning and the evening. Reach out to others with acts of kindness - way beyond your family and close friends to those who are truly in need. Commit to walk as closely as you can with Christ throughout the entire year - allowing Advent to be a time of preparation, not just for Jesus' birth, but for the journey of your life.

There are many events planned at the church this Advent and Christmas season to help us all deepen our faith and celebrate the joy of God's love and presence among us. You will find those opportunities highlighted throughout this issue of the *Meetinghouse Monthly*. While it is true that sometimes less is more, it is also true that sometimes more is more. What I am suggesting is that the more you do things and spend time focused on God's priorities for your life, the more you will know the fullness of the new life God has in store for you.

Two special opportunities are happening on two special days as we make the turn to 2012. On Christmas Day we are joining with our brothers and sisters from First Presbyterian Church and First Baptist Church for a service hosted at First Presbyterian on the corner of the Post Road and Lafayette Place at 10:00 am. We will celebrate the day with great music featuring lots of carols and our combined choirs singing portions of Vivaldi's *Gloria*. The dress is completely casual - so come as you are and share in a wonderful time of celebrating the birth of Christ!

And then on New Year's Day, we will host a service of Word and Sacrament at 10:00 am in the morning here at FCCOG. Dr. Evertsberg and Dr. Nins will join me for a tri-fold meditation based on the story of Jesus in the Synagogue at eight days old when he was brought for purification and circumcision. We will conclude the service with a special New Year's communion celebration.

In the choices that we make, in everything we do. My hope and prayer is for renewed faith, a deepening sense of God's spirit within and a stronger commitment to serve others as Christ's disciples on the journey.

In Joy,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David D. Young". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Harvest Sunday 2011



**Wellness Program - Greenwich Senior Services ... Good to Know,
December 4 at 11:30 am in the Lounge**

A special presentation with Sam Deibler, Director of Greenwich Commission on Aging.

"I didn't know that" is often the response when people hear of the many helpful services available to seniors in Greenwich. Like it or not, many of us are eligible for the Town Senior Services because they are now accessible to people 50 years and older! There are many exercise and enrichment programs, as well as programs to assist those finding it difficult leaving the house. From transportation to recreation, from meals-on-wheels to insurance counseling, our town has much to offer. Sam Deibler will touch upon the many services offered and answer questions. Sam will also offer an update on the 2012 Medicare Part D prescription drug plan, which has an earlier enrollment deadline this year.



Speaking of Medicare Part D, the open enrollment period is earlier this year, and ends on December 7. Overwhelmed with options? Don't know what a drug plan donut hole is? New to Medicare? Need help sorting through the choices? Fear not! Help is available. No-cost counseling is offered for Medicare Part D plans through the Town of Greenwich, and also here at FCCOG. Individual counseling sessions include internet navigation and comparison of plans. For an appointment with a Town of Greenwich counselor, call the Commission on Aging office at 203-862-6710. For an appointment with your parish nurse or our FCCOG volunteer insurance counselor, Art Robinson, call your Parish Nurse, Sue Asselin at extension 21.

I also encourage you to take advantage of the many programs offered by Greenwich Hospital to help people experience the holidays in a more healthful manner. For example, on December 8 there is a lecture on managing stress entitled *Stress, Food, and the Holidays*. And, on December 15 there is a one-time bereavement support session entitled *Coping with the Holidays*. These and many other programs can be perused at www.greenhosp.org. Click "Calendar" on the upper tool bar. Then click "list" to see everything on one page, but be sure to scroll all the way down, as they are listed in four separate categories: classes, events, screenings, and support groups.

With all this encouragement, and the love of Christ, may you have a happy, healthy Advent season.

Alone for Christmas?

If you or anyone you know is without a place to go on Christmas and would like to join with others from our congregation for the holiday, please let one of the pastors know.

Is there room at your table?

If you would like to host someone at your Christmas table, please let one of the pastors know.

Christmas Tree Sale

One of the ways that we increase the amount we are able to share through the Outreach budget of FCCOG is through our Annual Christmas Tree Sale. Our trees and other items arrived Sunday, November 27, and we began selling as soon as the truck was unloaded. Here's where you come in...**Buy trees and other items from us!!!** Sales will continue each weekend in December until trees are sold out.



“Musical Notes”



First Music and Arts presents the 45th annual Messiah

One of the long-standing holiday traditions here at First Congregational Church is our gift to the community of the Christmas portion of Handel's *Messiah*. From its humble beginnings in 1966 by the late Richard Vogt, we celebrate 45 years this year. Our soloists this year include, Bonnie Pepper, soprano; Wanda Brister, mezzo soprano; Christopher Pfund, tenor; Mark Kaczmarczyk, bass. Two of our soloists have ties to our music director!

Bonnie Pepper, a Michigan native, currently lives near Hartford. Bonnie and Craig attended Detroit's Wayne State University together in the late 1980's. They sang together in the acclaimed Concert Chorale at Wayne State and are featured in the choir's CD, *Glory to God*, released around 1990. Bonnie holds degrees from Florida State and Yale Universities and currently is a cantor and section leader at St. Joseph Cathedral in Hartford.

Bass Mark Kaczmarczyk (pronounced Kaz-mar-zik) has been Director of Music at Riverside's St. Catherine of Siena Parish since 2008. He is also on the voice faculty of Manhattanville College in Purchase. Mark did post-graduate work at the University of Michigan and was conductor for the Detroit Oratorio Society, which rehearsed at the First United Methodist Church where Craig served as Director of Music prior to coming to Greenwich.

You will want to mark your calendars for *Saturday, December 17 and Sunday, December 18* (both at 4:00 pm) for this special holiday treat. Admission is free, but we encourage a \$20 per person donation to help underwrite the costs associated with this lovely afternoon of a timeless masterpiece. This is a great chance to bring your neighbors and colleagues to show off your church family and the wonderful programs it shares with the community.

Sunday Afternoons Live return on January 8

After a short hiatus, the ever-popular Sunday Afternoons Live return to First Congregational Church on *Sunday, January 8* with a familiar face. Tod Hedrick will be bringing his jazz ensemble with him for an enjoyable afternoon of jazz in the superb acoustical setting of FCCOG's auditorium. Possessing a background that encompasses performing on historical instruments, playing double bass in numerous area orchestras, musical theater, and jazz, Tod shares a bit about the program: “[The] repertoire choices for this early January concert will bring out some of the familiar jazz sounds, as well as taking the audience into some more introspective moods that come from winter.”

Another familiar face is that of David Browning, tenor section leader in the Chancel Choir from 2003-2006. David will be here on *January 22* to perform a program of a wide variety of composers, including Handel, Vaughan Williams, Bowles, and Ashwander. Accompanying him on the piano will be our own Craig Scott Symons. David is happy to begin a renewed focus on performing after many years in the business world, and is very active in *Opera Manhattan*, where he serves as General Director.

One big change for these programs is the concert time. 2:00 pm is the new time. I can hear cries of “WHY!?” Because our Sunday evening “linc” service begins at 5:00 pm and we need to be cleared up in the auditorium by 4:15 at the latest. So mark your calendars now and let your subconscious be saying “Sunday Afternoons Live at 2:00 pm... Sunday Afternoons Live at 2:00 pm... Sunday Afternoons Live at 2:00 pm.”

Giving Tree

There may still be gift tags available with wishes for gifts from our neighbors at H.O.M.E. Co-op in Maine and at Pilgrim Towers in Stamford. The Giving Tree is in the hallway outside the Auditorium. There is a Log Book in the Church Office which you must sign noting the person for whom you are giving. Please affix the **original** gift tag to the package when you return it.

The deadline for returning your wrapped and tagged gift(s) is *Wednesday, December 7*. The gifts will be delivered to Maine that weekend and to Pilgrim Towers at a later date.



Mitten Tree



Throughout Advent the **Mitten Tree** is available in the Auditorium to accept gifts of mittens, hats, gloves and socks that will be delivered to St. Luke's Lifeworks to help warm the hands and hearts of those St. Luke's serves.



Christmas Memory/Honor Flowers and Decorations

The Chancel Committee invites contributions for decorations for the Meetinghouse this Christmas. Any amount is welcome. Please deliver the completed form with your check to the Church Office (payable to the First Congregational Church Flower Fund) on or before *Sunday, December 11*. Thank you.

In Memory/Honor of

By

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$_____

Please print names legibly to minimize spelling errors.



What's the Advent season without a few Angels? From comforters to confronters, Angels appear over and over in our faith tradition as communicators from God. During Advent, we will take a look at our Biblical Angels and attempt to recognize the Angels among us even now.

November kicked off the first Sunday of Advent with the story of Gabriel visiting Mary (from Luke 1). We also took a look at Psalm 91 where Angels are portrayed as our comforters!

On *December 4*, we will take a look at the Angel's visit to Joseph as told in the Gospel of Matthew! David Young will be leading the service. Donald Haviland will serve as the vocal lead.



December 11 brings us to yet another Angelic encounter, this time from the book of Judges, chapter 13. Don't recall which story is in this chapter? Open up to Judges and take a look! Mark Montgomery will be the service leader.

On *December 18*, we will get to hear the voices of Angels. We are going to forego our regular 5:00 pm linc service on this day and gather at 4:00 pm in the Meetinghouse instead. Then, let the Angelic voices commence as we share together in Handel's *Messiah*!

On *December 25*, we will gather for an evening of Angel stories from different parts of the Bible. We will also enjoy carol singing, soloists and times for prayer and reflection. At the end of a busy Christmas season, may this be a time of restoration!

Have you turned in your Stewardship pledge card yet? There's still time! Use the card below if you need a new one. And, remember, financial giving is one of the most spiritual exercises we can practice.



First Congregational Church of Greenwich Stewardship 2012 - "Circle of Life"

*What shall I render to the Lord for all his bounty to me?
Psalms 116:12*

For 2012, I/we pledge the sum of \$ _____
(or \$ _____ weekly/monthly)

____ I/we intend to pledge, but would like to defer on the amount until all income & bonuses are known.

____ I/we want Contribution Envelopes.

Signature _____

Date _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

This Declaration of Intent may be amended by notifying the Church Office

The Circle of Life

Since David's October 16 sermon initiating our 2012 Stewardship campaign, we have, as of November 28, received 191 pledges of financial support for the programs and ministries of First Congregational Church in the coming year. (Please see page 8 if you need a new pledge card.) We ask that those who have not yet made their intention known will return their pledge cards as soon as possible so our Budget Committee will have a strong foundation on which to build a plan for 2012. Meanwhile, the Board of Trustees gratefully acknowledges pledges from the following members and friends, as well as those who wish to remain anonymous.

Chuck & Maryan Ainsworth	Bob & Mary Ferry	Mary Leinbach	Ken & Erna Olson
Bob & Persis Alden	Mary Fike	Mary Lennon	Gary & Karen Oztemel
David & Colleen Alfano	Jane Finch	Clem & Jenny Lepoutre	Bill & Mary Jane Penwell
Erling & Diane Andersen	Dick & Kathy Fraser	Dick & Linda Lewis	Anne Pfetsch
Mark & Susan Anderson	Don & Phyllis Freeman	Ginge Liddel	Steve & Nancy Pierson
Selma Ash	Randy & Lindy Freeman	Ruth Lindegren	Hans & Sandra Plickert
Shawn & Susan Asselin	Natalie & Billy Frenz	Bobbie Littlefield	Jeff & Nancy Ramer
Gordon & Mary-Ann Assing	Harold Frost	Chuck & Marcia Livingston	Mary Ranta
David & Jean Ayres	John Fryback	Mario & Lilian Lotufo	Giff & Ruth Reed
Sue Baker	Pat Geismar	Robin Loughman	Karen Retzler
Elizabeth & Peter Beam	John & Jan Gelb	Dana & Anne Low	Harlan & Wendy Reynolds
Annette Bergh & Gary Lico	Paul & Lauren Ghaffari	Bob & Ruth Lubbers	Barrie Richmond
Gary & Deb Berner	Lile Gibbons	Bob & Carolyn MacLea	Gary & Janice Riddell
Edith Bjornson & Steve Dubrul	Ann Goodson	Marc & Lenore Mallett	Bill & Ginny Ridenour
Janet Blasberg	Al & Judy Gordon	Joe & Wendy Mallory	John & Marie-Theres Riis
Sam & Bill Boles	Dale Greene	Avery Manchester	Chuck & Dee Robarts
Steve & Betty Bonsal	Stephanie Hanbury-Brown & Ed Healy	Sandra McCalla	Dorothy & John Robertson
Phil Bradford & Dorothy Mueller	George Handley	Stu & Sue McCalley	Lynn Robertson
Don & Ginny Breismeister	Chris & Olga Hartwell	Patricia McCarter	Charlotte & Arthur Robinson
Janet Brooks	Glenn & Donna Hascher	Chuck & Nancy McConnell	Joe & Colette Rogers
Virginia Burgess	Lorry & Barbara Hathaway	Rob McCready & Dawn Heberling	Beth Rollins
Sandy Burke	Larry & Erlinda Haviland	John & Sandy McCue	Mike & Christina Russell
Chris Cantwell	Dick & Carol Hermance	Leon McKenzie	Peter Russell
J. Robert Carey	Nadean Hirth	Bob & Pat Mendelsohn	Bill & Betsy Sandberg
Judy Chapman	Sybren & Janette Hoekstra	Ben & Lea Menegon	Peter & Patricia Schay
Mary Ann Chidsey	Kevin & Lucia Hoffman	Fred & Marie-Noelle Meyer	John & Elizabeth Schinto
Sally Colegrove	Lisa Hudson	Jan & Prill Meyer	Charlotte Schmidt-Fellner
Thelma Colegrove	Dennis & Pam Humbert	George & Alida Meyers	Bill & Louise Schmitt
Tim & Allison Coleman	Gerald Isaacson	Brian & Paula Mickley	Pat Schmitt
Bill & Marian Cordner	Robert & Kristen Jacks	Christopher Mill	Christina Schoen & Fred Lorthioir
Libby Craig	Rob & Cheryle Janelli	Gary & Judy Miller	Stuart & Jean Serenbetz
Steve & Ashley Crihfield	Paul & Joan Johansen	Mark Mohn & Beth Press	Jim & Carol Shattuck
John & Joan Denne	Wayne & Emily Jostrand	Kevin & Marcie Molloy	Jay & Debi Shaw
Rick & Marilyn Derr	Gail & Victor Khosla	Chris & Betsy Moore	David & Beverly Silliphant
Mary Durland	Ron & Janet Klingner	Earl & Darlene Moore	Michael Simko & Susan Heidere
Betty Edgar	Barbara Kneen	Tripp & Laura Moore	Ed & Claire Simmons
Anders & Mariann Ekernas	Polly Koehler	Sally Morgan	Jorn & Mia Simonsen
Dan & Claire England	Ken Kolb & Kathy McLennan	Doris Moss	Peter & Ann Simpson
Dave & Laura Erickson	Paul & Diane Kretschmann	Richard & Tamara Ng-Yow	Bob Small
Daniel Erickson	Debbie LaCivita	Jack & Barbara Norrgard	Elen Sorzing
Lindsay Erickson	Fred & Nanette Laffan	Enid Norris	Bob & Pam Speer
Beverly Espinosa	Rosemary Lamie	Joyce Nye	John & Libby Standish
Susan Eveland	Chris & Maggie Lange	Chris & Beth O'Donnell	John Stansell & Michael Pellegrino
Kendra Farn-Finz	Tad & Pat Larrabee	Eleanore Olsen	Jim & Tommie Starkweather

Stewardship continued from previous page...

Bob & Harriet Starr	Howard Truss	Stephen Weigner	Chris & Pam Wurst
Linnea Stenberg	Mike & Brook Urban	Car Westbrook	Jane Yates
David & Meg Stewart	Barbara Van Buren	Tom & Lori White	Marge York
Tom & Brenda Stiers	Dan Vandivort & Marie Pipitone	Lynn White Montanari	David & Michelle Young
Martha Stisser	Anne Wachsman	Betty Wiiken	Kirk & Karen Young
Anne Stolley	Connie Walton	Pete & Sandy Wilder	Xin Yun & Pei Fan Zhang
Jack Sweger	Jeff & Jean Watkins	Susan Wilder	Josh & Emily Ziac
Inge Thalheim	Mary Webster	Holly Wilkinson	
Sheila Tolmie	Robert & Nancy Weeks	Webb Williams	
Joan Torelli	Arthur & Cathie Weigner	Nancy Wolf	

One of our own...New Minister Profile: John "Jack" Davidson,

by Drew Page

REDDING (10/31/2011) - John "Jack" Davidson is a Connecticut minister born and bred. Raised in Greenwich, Redding's new Associate Minister has been involved in the church his entire life. It was no surprise that he decided to go into ministry.

"There was no burning bush moment for me," says Davidson.

Davidson attributes his chosen path partly to the youth program at First Congregational Church of Greenwich where he was encouraged to pursue his passions and take on leadership roles at an early age. Later, when he was contemplating religious studies while finishing high school, Davidson was advised to try "anything but religious studies." It didn't work. After one semester in the physics program at Colby College in Maine, Davidson switched to religious studies with a minor in music. He went on to receive his MDiv at Harvard Divinity in a program that specializes in theology and education.

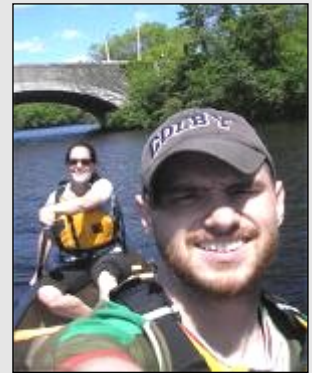
Redding seemed an odd choice when looking at his home town and a year spent interning at Old Church in Boston. The small rural town, with a population below ten thousand, could easily be one of those "sleepy" country towns, but it defies that, says Davidson.

"They have a very progressive model for mission work," Davidson explains. "The church has a partnership with a Jamaican church. When [Hurricane] Katrina hit, both churches sent mission trips to the area to work together."

Davidson hopes to develop the youth program in a way that is similar to his own experience. He hopes to assist the youth in becoming more involved in the wider church and taking on some leadership roles. He also would like to see them get more involved at Silver Lake Conference Center, a place very dear to Davidson, who is passionate about outdoor ministry. Davidson would also like to explore some alternative worship ideas. While interning in Boston, he helped lead a weekly jazz worship.

Jack Davidson was called by Redding in September and officially began as Associate Pastor on October first.

Drew Page is Media Assistant for the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ.



John "Jack" Davidson
[Front],
First Church of Christ,
Congregational, Redding

The First Congregational Church Welcomes Our New Members...



*Sara and Charles Stuckey with
Addison (1) and Charlie (2)*



*Chris and Maggie Lange
with Thomas Henry*



*Lenore and Mark Mallett
with Eloise (2)*



*Susan Heidere and Michael Simko
with Alexander (3) and Carter (7)*

FCCOG HAS A NEW WEBSITE!

Have you had a chance to check out our beautiful newly redesigned website at www.fccog.org yet? Let us know what you think. Direct any feedback about the website, including corrections or adjustments, to Dan England at dengland@optonline.net.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP ANNUAL SOUP SALE

Like winter, the Women's Fellowship 2nd Annual Soup Sale is on the way! Get your soup recipes ready for Sunday, February 5, 2012. Quarts will be \$8 each. All proceeds will go to support Women's Fellowship projects. Soup donations will start in late January. Questions? Please contact Sue McCalley at smccalley@prudentialct.com.





DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/01 Wallace Jansen	12/07 Jillian Leigh	12/16 Anne Sherrerd	12/25 Mark Sproule
12/01 Susan Cohen	12/07 Lucas Dell'Abate	12/16 Jennifer Breismeister	12/25 Parker Bonnell
12/01 Kathy Fraser	12/08 William Savage	12/16 Ashley Tufts	12/25 Grace Kim-E
12/02 Frank Preucil	12/08 Edward Mendelsohn	12/16 James Willard	12/25 Darin Jacks
12/02 Barbara Luce	12/09 Polly Koehler	12/16 Emily Weir	12/25 John Gabriel Freeman
12/02 Judith Chapman	12/09 Joyce French	12/17 Caralliene Westbrook	12/26 Stephanie Hanbury-Brown
12/02 William Sandberg	12/09 Barbara Norrgard	12/17 Patricia Mendelsohn	12/26 Tyler Sandberg
12/02 Ted Carter	12/09 Elizabeth Bonsal	12/17 Lise McDonald	12/27 Julie Smith Koppenheffer
12/02 Abby Huth	12/09 Cathy Sibirzeff	12/17 Michael Provoost	12/27 John Gordon
12/03 Elizabeth Janis	12/09 Joshua Ziac	12/17 Alexander Ng-Yow	12/27 Philip Thalheim
12/03 Lauren Bacon	12/09 Peder Maarbjerg	12/18 Jack Provoost	12/28 Karen Robbins
12/04 Helen Ingraham	12/09 Ivan Golodinskii	12/18 Bobby Bailey	12/28 Linda Wilkinson
12/04 Pamela Sheehy	12/10 Anne Stolley	12/19 Sergio Roque	12/28 Suni Unger
12/04 Nicole Thompson	12/10 Barbara Oppedisano	12/19 Robert Luce	12/28 Jake Carlson
12/04 Andrew Sproule	12/11 Terri Kutzen	12/19 Erin Kilmurray	12/29 Diana Klingner
12/04 Edward Sproule	12/11 Justin Goh	12/19 Rachel Wolfe	12/29 Christian Burke
12/05 Dana Low	12/11 Frank Osborn	12/19 Amanda Scopelliti	12/29 Esther Hoekstra
12/05 Gail Halvorsen	12/11 Peter Gurciullo	12/20 Gerald Rigg	12/29 Trevor Kelly
12/05 Anne Strother	12/11 Olivia Gurciullo	12/21 Peter Janis	12/30 Karen McCalley
12/05 Robert Speer	12/12 Sue Baker	12/22 Robert Burdick	12/30 Stuart McCalley
12/05 Richard Ng-Yow	12/12 Hannelore Moeckel-Rieke	12/22 John Fountain	12/30 Frederic Parker
12/05 Niklas Simonsen	12/13 Dr Ralph E Ahlberg	12/22 Drake Teeters	12/30 Jeff Waggaman
12/05 Christina Pastore	12/13 Margaret York	12/22 Kristen Riggs	12/30 Benjamin Quick
12/05 Jacqueline Ryckman	12/13 Sarah Saviskas	12/23 Arthur Weigner	12/30 Jake Allen
12/05 Katherine Janis	12/13 Rebecca Coleman	12/23 Marc Mallett	12/30 John Allen
12/06 Linnea Perelli-Minetti	12/14 Karen Pacent	12/23 Will Speer	12/30 Thomas Hedrick
12/06 John McCue	12/14 Alison Tierney	12/23 Cassie Dunn	12/30 Charles Carnegie
12/06 Paul Olmsted	12/14 Sarah VanDermeer	12/23 Lindsay Anibal	12/30 Andrew Sisley
12/06 Katherine Anderson	12/14 Lila Jane Braddock	12/24 Sandy Plickert	12/30 Eloise Mallett
12/07 Patricia Pollack	12/15 George Taylor	12/24 Andrew Schay	12/31 Adriana Seibert
12/07 Katharine Wall	12/15 Theodore Allen	12/24 Christina Assing	12/31 Jane Seel
12/07 Chris Cantwell	12/15 Alex Sibirzeff	12/24 Wyatt Davis	12/31 William Simmons
12/07 Bonny Edwards	12/15 Ellie Dempsey	12/25 Dale M Greene	12/31 Ciella Angel-Lalanne
12/07 Holly Hanbury-Brown	12/16 Barrie Richmond	12/25 Kellie Norrgard	

Life Events:

Wedding:

Bruce Ill & Sharna Gross - November 19, 2011

Baptism:

Twin daughters of Charles & Marjorie Glover - November 27, 2011

Deaths:

Donald Swanson

David Ficker

The Church Offices will be closed Monday, December 26 for the Christmas Holiday and Friday, December 30 for New Year's Eve.

Christmas Carol Sing and Dinner

Many wonderful traditions have developed over the years here at FCCOG, not the least of which is our Annual Carol Sing and Dinner. This is an intergenerational event and there are special activities for children of all ages.

Join us on *December 11 at 6:00 pm* in the Auditorium for this wonderful event. Better yet, come to linc at 5:00 pm and “warm up” for the dinner event.



Suggested donation for the meal is \$10 with a \$40 maximum per family. You can make your reservations at Coffee Hour or by contacting the Church Office.

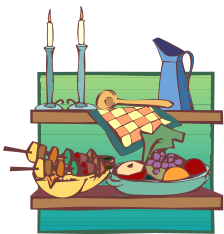
College and Senior High Progressive Dinner

High School and College Students, it's time again for our annual SPF/CPF Progressive Dinner on *Wednesday, December*

21. We will meet at 7:00 pm in the Youth Room at FCCOG and will then travel to two different houses for appetizers and dinner! We will finally end up back at the church for dessert and a White Elephant gift

exchange! Bring one wrapped gift that costs no more than \$10 (the cheesier, the better!!!)

Wanna come? Just send Debbie Bocchino or Mark Montgomery a note on Facebook or text Mark at 203-856-9320! See you on the 21st!



Need Help? Want to Work?

We have a request for a young person to shovel snow during the winter at a member's home near Eastern Middle School. If you are interested, contact Rosemary.

Also, we have a college student in the congregation who is home through the middle of January. She would love to provide child care for your family. If you have a need, please contact Rosemary.

Mark and Rosemary would like to help our young people find some work either for pay or for community service – almost every school requires a certain number of hours for graduation, etc. So we are hoping to help make the connections between the needs and the providers. If you would like to be part of this project, just email or call Mark (mmontgomery@fccog.org or ext. 15) or Rosemary (RosemaryL@fccog.org or ext. 20).





January



February



March



April



May



June



July

THE RUMMAGE ROOM *2011 Review*

Having Fun While Doing Good !



August



September



October



November



December

Our Stained Glass Windows



The art of stained glass is a handicraft perfected more than eight hundred years ago in France and England. The same methods of fabrication are still practiced today much as they were during the Middle Ages. A stained glass window is a mosaic made up of morsels of colored glass held together by strips of grooved lead, which in turn are reinforced by iron bars securely anchored to the window frame. Features, folds of drapery, ornaments and textures are painted on the glass with a dark pigment which is permanently fused into it by intense heat.

You can read the story behind each of our church's stained glass windows on our website at <http://www.fccog.org/about-us/our-building/our-stained-glass-window-tour/>. The information is excerpted from *The First Three Hundred Years*.



The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Ministers: The Members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. David D. Young, dyoung@fccog.org

Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry: Rev. Mark D. Montgomery, mmontgomery@fccog.org

Minister of Communication and Adult Education: Rev. Daniel B. England, dengland@fccog.org

Minister of Pastoral Care: Rev. Avery C. Manchester, amanchester@fccog.org

Director of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons, craigs@fccog.org

Director of Church School: Rosemary Lamie, rosemaryl@fccog.org

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister, ginnyb@fccog.org

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the clergy and staff of FCCOG!



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