
The Parish Press

October/November 2011



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF EAST WINDSOR
124 Scantic Road
East Windsor, CT 06088**

Return Service Requested

**SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00 AM
The Rev. Dr. Thomas V. Calderone, Pastor**

Presorted Std. U. S. Postage PAID East Windsor Connecticut Non-Profit Permit No. 20
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SCANTIC MEETING HOUSE – BUILT 1802

*"You will seek Me and find Me;
when you seek Me with all your
heart" (Jer. 29: 13; RSV).*

THE TOPIC OF 'PARISH PRESS DISTRIBUTION' WILL BE ADDRESSED AT OUR ANNUAL MEETING IN JANUARY 2012. IF EVERYONE AGREES, WE WILL BEGIN USING THE NEW METHOD OF DISTRIBUTION IN 2012.

**** * * IF YOU HAVE NOT YET RESPONDED... * * ****

***And if you like receiving the Parish Press,
please contact us as soon as possible.***

You may call and leave us a message at 860-654-0590 OR

You may email us at scanticsecy@sbcglobal.net

(If you have already called or spoken to Lou or Eileen please ignore!)

When you contact us please provide the following information:

1. Your Full Name
2. How you would prefer to receive the Parish Press (PP):
 - a. BY U.S. MAIL (snail mail)?
 - b. BY EMAIL? Send us your email address so we have your name and your email address.
 - c. VIEW PP ON CHURCH WEB SITE?
If you log onto the internet and type our web site name: fcceastwindsor.com you can view this Parish Press right now! Just click 'Parish Press' (on left side of screen); then click the .PDF file (on right side of screen). You can view this issue or any of the 2010 issues that are still there. If you need a back issue you may call or email us and we can send it to you. OR
 - d. PICK UP THE PP WHEN YOU ARE AT CHURCH!!

WHY ARE WE ASKING?

The cost associated with printing and mailing the Parish Press continues to rise; and we cannot take advantage of Bulk Rate mail fees unless we mail out 200 copies. If the folks who are interested in receiving the Parish Press would like to receive it via email or view it on our web site (and print it at their home) we could utilize those methods and save on postage, paper, toner and manpower. However, please note that we will continue to mail the Parish Press to anyone who would like to receive it via U.S. Mail; and copies will be available at the church.

We just need to know if we are mailing this to folks who actually want it. **So please call or email us** to let us know you are still interested in receiving the Parish Press.

Thank you and God Bless You,

Lou and Eileen

Parish Press October 2011

"You will seek Me and find Me; when you seek Me with all your heart" (Jer. 29: 13; RSV).

The search for God is a difficult journey at best. At times His touch is almost palpable; at others He appears as distant as the farthest shore. It is doubly frustrating when we sincerely desire union with the Divine and appear only to be met with silence. Gregory of Nyssa (335 - 394), bishop of Nyssa in the region of Cappadocia, in modern day Turkey, knew of such frustration and once wrote, "The knowledge of God is a mountain steep indeed and difficult to climb, the majority of people scarcely reach its base."

As followers of Jesus, the manifestation of God on earth, we seek to find the Almighty in ways innumerable, yet the Holy One at times appears to remain hidden. It is not because God is elusive, but because we have used the wrong tools and looked in the wrong places. God cannot be found in the things that we own or the money we accumulate. God is not viewed in the power we wield or the prestige we desire. All these and so much more are the things of this world, not the things of God. As Jeremiah records, we can only find God, we can only recognize God's presence in our lives, when we turn from the things of this world and give ourselves over to Him fully. When we see Him not through the eyes of the material, but of the spiritual, not as a product of the mind, but of the heart. Then, "I will be found by you, says the Lord" (Jer. 29: 14; RSV).

One individual who possessed such spiritual sight is the late Rev. Richard E. Harris, pastor of our church from 1955 - 1959. Richard, who passed

into life eternal in the eighty-fifth year of his age on Friday, August 19th, was a deeply devout follower of Christ and personal friend who I had gotten to know during our 250th anniversary celebration. It was at that time that he told me of his personal conversion experience. As the account goes he was in the balcony of his local church singing in the choir when he noticed the wall opposite beginning to dissolve. Astonished and perplexed he looked around to see if any one else noticed what was going on; no one did. The wall continued to disintegrate until it exposed a host of angels. Richard watched their movements until, in the blink of an eye; the wall was restored as solid as before. In one brief moment Richard witnessed the intrusion of the spiritual world into the material, an experience not afforded to many and after which he was never the same.

Born on November 15, 1925 in Boston, Massachusetts, Richard Earl Harris served in the US Navy in World War II, was present at Normandy Beach on D-Day, and spent time in the Atlantic and Pacific theatres. Following the war he earned a B.A. degree from Boston University and continued on to earn a Masters of Divinity degree at Andover Newton Theological School. After being ordained in 1954 Richard served churches in Massachusetts; Connecticut; Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico; Hawaii; as well as Pasadena and Lompoc, California. He was the founding pastor of the Valley of the Flowers United Church of Christ in Lompoc, where

he served from 1962-1980.

Richard taught, preached and volunteered in all the communities in which he lived. As an example, in 2007 he was awarded the Pomona Valley Hospital Volunteer of the Year Award and in 2010 the Arnold Goodman Award for his work with the United Nations Association in California and Hawaii, an organization in which he had been involved since 1980. Since 1994 Richard and Carol, his wife of thirty years, have lived in Pilgrim Place, Claremont, CA, a retirement community for religious workers and leaders. Still not content to be sedentary, Richard hosted and produced "Pilgrim Place Presents," a weekly public access television show in addition to pursuing his lifelong hobbies of woodworking and bicycling.

I remember Richard as highly intelligent and compassionate. From our first conversation we spoke as if old friends and continued to corresponded despite distance and the gulf in age. In fact, he was a guest at my home prior to celebrating of his fifty year class reunion from Andover Newton. I recall driving him to the event and spending some quality time before departing. It was the last time we saw one another. I ask that we keep his wife and children in our prayers at this difficult time.

In reference to others who have passed I would like to remind any who have lost loved ones that we are celebrating our Reformation/ Remembrance Sunday on October 30th. This worship service honors those who have returned to the Lord during this past year. If you wish to have their name included in the Bulletin and a candle to be lit, see Lou McGonagle or myself.

As we seek the Lord in all that we do and how we act and interact with one another, I would like to thank the Deacons for their concern over my health and well-being. Having worked the first ten days of my vacation and with ninety-five days accrued they have encouraged me to take some extra time off. Heeding their advice, I was able to manage two trips to Green Bay this year, the first from September 30 to October 3 and the second from October 11 to October 18th. Still, this could not have happened without the dedication and support of others. More specifically, I would like to thank Steve Schortman for leading worship on October 2nd and Eileen Venditti on October 16th. Additionally, in Wisconsin I would like to thank my close friends Tony Jamail and Bart DeBauche for their kindness and generosity in helping to offset the cost of my trip, without whose help it would not have been possible. I have truly been blessed with a caring congregation and unselfish friends who are more like brothers. Thank you one and all. With so many involved if I have forgotten anyone please forgive me it was not intentional.

The quest to find God in our world and know something of God in all that we do is a daily pursuit. Yet, difficult as it might be at times, we are encouraged by Christ Himself to persevere, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened" (Mt. 7: 7 - 8; RSV).

God Bless,
Pastor Tom.

From Your Diaconate:

Summer vacation is over, the leaves are falling and the holidays will soon be upon us. The Deacons and Flower committee will be decorating the sanctuary and setting up the Christmas Tree on Saturday, November 26th. Volunteers always welcome. See a Deacon if you can participate.

Important Dates to remember:

November- Poinsettia sale begins – See Flower Committee members for an order form.

Saturday, November 26th – Holiday decorations & Christmas Tree set up in Sanctuary – **9am**

Sunday, November 27th- 1st Sunday of Advent – **Readers needed** – See a Deacon to volunteer.

Saturday, December 24th – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Songs & Readings Celebration – **Time TBA**

Your servants,

Janet Greer
Chan Stoughton

Carolyn Kita
Steve Schortman

Jackie Lowry
David Bearce

Harriet Muska

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Missions Update

Five Corner Cupboard

"Scouting for Food", the East Windsor Boy and Girl Scouts annual food drive to benefit our church pantry, the Five Corner Cupboard was held October 15th. The following week the items were all checked for outdates, etc. This was a tremendous job and as usual many helpers showed up, some just an hour or two, some for all day every day. A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped worked so hard. We hope the donations received will last until about February or March.

CROP Walk

On Sunday, October 16, we held our 2011 CROP Walk. The walk kicked off at 12:30 p.m. with about 15 walkers and runners of all ages gathered in the parking lot for a prayer by Grand Marshal Gerda Mikkelsen. Then they were off! Bright colored balloons attached to their clothing for safety.

Thank you to all who helped make the walk successful – the walkers/runners, water station workers, safety drivers, soup makers and servers and last but not least –those on the sidelines cheering everyone on. Your support was greatly appreciated. The CROP walk raised about \$1,400.00, about \$350.00 of which will help the Five Corner Cupboard feed the hungry in our community. The remainder will go to fight hunger and poverty worldwide.

Missions Committee

Cindy Birmingham, Cheryl St.Cyr-Bellisle, Penny Shepard

First Congregational Church of East Windsor, 124 Scantic Rd., East Windsor, CT

VENDOR FAIR

“TEACUP” RAFFLE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2011

9AM – 2PM

LIA SOPHIA

CARDS BY VALORIE

HANDICRAFTS

PAMPERED CHEF

**PARTY OF GOLD

INSPIRED DESIGNS

PRINCESS HOUSE

PANDORA-LIKE BEADS

MARY KAY

TASTEFULLY SIMPLE

JOHN DEERE PRODUCTS

AND MORE!

****Yellow, white, rose, any color gold 8kt and up
Platinum, Sterling Silver jewelry, flatware, serving pieces and coins
Must have photo ID to sell gold and silver**

First Congregational Church of East Windsor First Annual

Scantic Craft and Bake Sale

Saturday November 19th

9am – 2pm

Get Your
Thanksgiving
Home Made
Baked
Goods

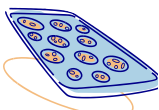


Bring Home one of Dee's
Uncooked Frozen Apple pies...
Tested & Perfected!
Baking instructions included!



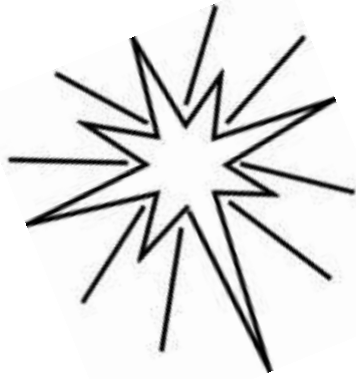
Stop and Have a Bite to
EAT!

Hot Dogs, Burgers &
Warm Gooey Cookies!



Get some
Christmas
Shopping
Done!





Hooray it's Finally Here!!

The One Ways and Means Dinner of the Year!
Start December off right with the...

North Star Dinner

Sit down and relax as a four-course meal is served
With
Holiday Solos Ringing From the Stage

Dinner starts with a cup of
Roasted Butternut Squash Soup w/ Amaretti Cookies
Followed by Salad
Continue with your Choice of 3 entrees
Broiled Cod w/ mango puree
Chicken w/ sun-dried Tomatoes, feta and Spinach in a Phyllo Cup
or
Winter Vegetable Shepherd's Pie
And finish with
Surprise Dessert(s)!

December 3rd at 6pm

\$15 Adults & \$8 12 and under

RSVP by December 1st [860-654-0590]

Raffle Baskets
&
Surprise Gifts



Holiday
Entertainment

Generosity Gems

The following is taken from www.ChristianPF.com.

"Stewardship is God's way of raising people, not man's way of raising money" (Willmer, Smith. 2002.)¹

In [Romans 12:8](#) we learn that some excel in the gift of giving, but what about everyone else? We've all heard of spiritual disciplines such as prayer, worship, Bible study and fasting, but what about giving?

In [Romans 12:1](#) the Lord calls us to a life of complete commitment to Him by urging each of us to offer our bodies as living sacrifices. The idea here is that we are, "all in", so it's important that we ask ourselves if there are any areas of our life that are not completely surrendered to, and under, the Lordship of Jesus Christ. In other words, have you only given the Lord part of your life as a sacrifice? Are there areas in your life that are currently off limits or that have not been fully surrendered to Him? Oftentimes, this area is how we steward the time, talent and treasure entrusted to us by God. We see an example of this separation in [Luke 18:18-23](#) when a certain ruler asked Jesus how to inherit eternal life. Unfortunately, while he was a good person, his possessions owned him vs. the other way around and we are left with a sad ending.

This causes us to look deep within our day-to-day habits and routines and ensure that every area of our life is affected by our walk with Christ. After all, our walk with the Lord is comprised of much more than a spiritual high during a Sunday morning worship service or simply listening to the word of God and not doing what it says. *We are called to be 24/7/365 Christians and our role as stewards is an essential part of the equation.* Or, as Dr. Wesley Wilmer and Martyn Smith (2002) state in, *God & Your Stuff*, "*God is not indifferent to our daily financial choices, but is interested in transforming all of our lives*" (p.23).

What Scripture says about Possessions

"Possessions are mentioned 2,172 times in Scripture—**three times more than love, seven times more than prayer and eight times more than belief.** About 15 percent of God's Word deals with possessions—treasures hidden in a field, pearls, talents, pounds, stables, and so on. Obviously God understood that believers would find this a difficult area of their lives to turn over to Him" (Willmer and Smith, 2002, p. 9).

There are four key points the Lord brings forth in Scripture regarding our possessions:

1. **God owns everything and has provided us all that we have** (Psalm 50:10-12, Psalm 115:16)
2. **We are stewards of what God has provided, which involves management not ownership** (1 Pet. 4:10)
3. **Everyone human being was created to give** (Gen. 4:4, Lev. 27:30, Prov. 3:9)
4. **Each one of us will give an account of how we manage the resources God has given us** (Rom. 14:12, 2 Cor. 5:10)

So how do we integrate giving into our entire Christian life? Because giving is a spiritual discipline it requires a long-term commitment as well as the day-to-day steps that will help ensure we are fully surrendered to God as stewards. Here are three tips that will help exercise the spiritual discipline of giving:

Declaring Jesus Christ as Lord and Live out that Declaration – This is the first step on the road of biblical stewardship and living a life of generosity. How we handle our possessions is a reflection of Christ and His Lordship over our lives. If He is Lord, then we realize we are merely stewards of the time, talent and treasure God has entrusted to us. If He is not Lord, then we will continue to see it as *our* money, *our* time and *our* abilities and live accordingly. It's a choice between two masters and the Lord makes it clear that none of us can serve two masters. You may find it helpful to wake up and pray, "Lord Jesus, today I choose to pick up my cross and follow you. May every aspect of my life be fully surrendered to you today".

Understand God's Word as it Relates to Stewardship- Take time read and study passages such as Matthew 25:14-30 and Luke 16:1-9, as well as reading books about biblical stewardship. There's too much at stake to not understand and grow spiritually in this area of our lives.

Give to the Lord first no matter what the circumstances – This is another step each of us can take to become more like Christ in the area of stewardship. Rather than paying all the bills and seeing what's left for God, practice giving God the first fruits of what He has given you. Each one of us should practice consistently giving according to our means and not robbing God when times get tough. Don't wait to get out of debt before taking the first steps of obedience. Start now, and demonstrate to the Lord that you will no longer let worldly debt compete with your devotion and commitment to Him.¹ – (Willmer, Smith. God and Your Stuff. NavPress 2002. P 9.

Blessings,

Generosity Committee
Dianna Riley, Jonathan O'Brien, Marie Groves

Ways and Means

Greetings Congregation!

If you are not already aware... there was no official Ways and Means Committee this year as no one signed up. As a result, Lou and Eileen took it upon themselves to assemble this year's dates and event coordinators.

- JULY **THANK YOU!** This year we mailed 180 flyers for our "NO BAKE SALE". We had a return of 25.6%; and this was the result of the gracious generosity of 46 friends and active/inactive members of our church family. We have realized \$1,465.00. This is our most successful year to date!!! Many, many thanks to all who contributed to this annual fund raiser. Shirley Machesney, Ways & Means
- SEPT 24 Eileen Venditti worked very hard with all the volunteers to bring together our Annual Tag Sale on Saturday, September 24th. *Thank you, everyone, for your support.* This year we had a profit of **\$844.35.**
- OCT 1 The Dinner Theatre has been canceled.
- NOV 5 Marie Groves – **Vendor Fair**
- DEC 3 Eileen Venditti – **North Star Dinner**

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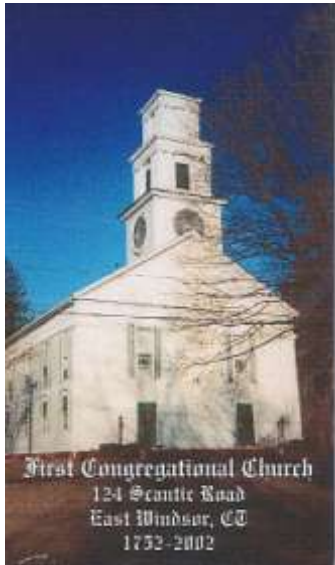
Being a Christian is like being a pumpkin. God lifts you up, takes you in and wipes all the dirt off of you. Opens you up, touches you deep inside and scoops out all the yucky stuff--including seeds of doubt, hate, greed etc. Then he carves you a new smiling face and puts his light inside you to shine for all the world to see.



ITEMS FOR SALE



Actual Size: 5 1/2" Wide, 5 7/8" High, 5/8" Deep
\$8.⁰⁰



Actual Size: 2" Wide, 3 1/2" High
2 for \$1.⁰⁰

ITEMS FOR SALE

We still have many nice items for sale that make great gifts for family or friends... or for you!

The Wooden Church Cut-out and the Church Magnet are pictured on the left.

Items are available all year; and monies go to the church's *General Fund*. If you need anything just call me or catch me at church; and I will be happy to assist you!

- Dee's Pictorial History Book - **\$4.00** (Qty: 52)
- Wooden Church Cut-out - **\$8.00** (Qty: 30)
- Church Magnet - **2 for \$1.00** (Qty: 49)
- Pen-and-Ink Note Cards (Qty: 105)
 - Package of 8 - **\$5.00**
 - Package of 3 - **\$2.50**
 - Package of 1 - **\$1.00**
- Church Plaque - **\$2.50** (Qty: 15)
- Church Scroll - **\$2.50** (Qty: 75)
- Cookbook - **\$5.00** (Qty: 6)
- ***Placemats*** - **\$2.00 ea.** (Traditional large country checks in center with matching solid edge. (Qty: 23 Beige)

Thank you and God Bless You.

Lou McGonagle

860-292-1843



PLACEMATS:

Actual Size: 16 3/4 Wide, 11 3/4 High
\$2.⁰⁰ each

Happy Birthday!



Happy Anniversary!

OCTOBER

Belated Happy Birthday!

10/8 Jackson Lincoln
10/10 Lou McGonagle
10/10 Brian Novak
10/15 Rick Osborn
10/22 Gerda Mikkelsen
10/22 Mabel Fredette
10/24 Linda Sinsigallo
10/26 Don Ojantakanen
10/31 Rev. Dr. Thomas V. Calderone



NOVEMBER

11/4 Cindy Birmingham
11/6 Kelley Bagdikian
11/12 Kathy Gabelmann
11/13 Harriet Muska
11/22 Shirley Beckman
11/26 Mimi Spencer
11/28 June Calderone
11/29 Noreen Leighton
11/30 Nelda Fortier



DECEMBER

12/1 Dick Birmingham
12/12 Jonathan Calderone
12/12 Carol Parda
12/13 Dianna Riley
12/19 Marcia Ojantakanen
12/27 George Castle
12/30 Amy Destro



OCTOBER

Belated Happy Anniversary!

10/2 Mike & Nelda Fortier
10/4 Bill & Lou McGonagle
10/15 Michael & Dianna Riley
10/16 George & Marilyn Butenkoff

NOVEMBER

11/23 Kevin & Sue Flanigan

DECEMBER

12/4 George & Helen Castle
12/4 Paul & Eileen Mattera
12/16 Kevin & Karen Brett
12/16 Marian & Ziggy Rolocut
12/16 Andrew & Jan Smith, Jr.
12/24 Marty & Muriel Welles

The First Congregational Church of East Windsor

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Thomas V. Calderone

Church Office: - 654-0590

Pastor's Office: - 627-5943

Email Address: scanticsecy@sbcglobal.net

Web Site: fceastwindsor.com

Every Sunday: Worship 10:00 am

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Deacons	1st Monday of the Month	6:00 pm
Five Corner Cupboard	1st Tuesday of the Month	11:30 am
Finance Committee	1st Tuesday of the Month	7:00 pm
Choir	Every Thursday (off during summer months)	7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Executive Committee	2nd Monday of the Month	7:00 pm
Trustees	2nd Tuesday of the Month	7:00 pm
Missions	Last Sunday of the Month	After Church

COFFEE HOUR

Provided by the generosity of Volunteer Church Families

The "**Parish Press**" is published by the First Congregational Church of East Windsor. Articles and items of interest should be sent to the church via e-mail to scanticsecy@sbcglobal.net or by placing the item in the Public Relations mail box by the 15th of the month.

In 2011 we have published or will publish the following issues:

**DECEMBER 2010/JANUARY 2011; MARCH 2011; SPRING/SUMMER 2011;
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2011; OCTOBER/NOVEMBER; and DECEMBER 2011/JANUARY 2012.**

If you would like an article included in the DECEMBER/JANUARY issue of the Parish Press, please submit your article(s) by NOVEMBER 15, 2011.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you.

May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

November 2011

<i>S</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>S</i>
		1 Finance 7pm	2 Bible Study 7pm	3 Choir 7-8:30pm	4	5 VENDOR FAIR 9AM – 2PM
6	7 Deacons 6pm	8 Trustee's 7pm	9 Bible Study 7pm	10 Choir 7-8:30pm	11	12
13	14 Executive 7pm	15	16 Bible Study 7pm	17 Choir 7-8:30pm	18 Soup Kitchen Call Eileen 860-256-7361	19 SCANTIC CRAFT AND BAKE FAIR 9AM – 2PM
20	21 No meeting for Women's Fellowship	22	23 (NO BibleStudy)	24 	25	26
27	28	29	30 Bible Study 7pm	31 Choir 7-8:30pm		

Calendar is subject to change. Please check the church website calendar at

<http://fceastwindsor.com/Cal.htm>

December 2011

<i>S</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>S</i>
				1 Choir 7-8:30pm	2	3 6pm NORTH STAR DINNER
4	5 Deacons 6pm	6 Finance 7pm	7 Bible Study 7pm	8 Choir 7-8:30pm	9	10 Women's Fellowship Luncheon-Time & Location TBD.
11	12 Executive 7pm	13 Trustee's 7pm	14 Bible Study 7pm	15 Choir 7-8:30pm	16 Soup Kitchen Call Eileen 860-256-7361	17
18	19	20	21 Bible Study 7pm	22 Choir 7-8:30pm	23	24
25 	26	27	28 Bible Study 7pm	29 Choir 7-8:30pm	30	31 

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<http://fcestwindsor.com/Cal.htm>