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# *The Parish Press*

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*December 2011*

*January 2012*



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**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**

<p><b>Presorted Std. U. S. Postage PAID East Windsor Connecticut Non-Profit Permit No. 20</b></p>
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**SCANTIC MEETING HOUSE – BUILT 1802**

*"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased!" (Lk. 2: 13 - 14; 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](mailto: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: [fceastwindsor.com](http://fceastwindsor.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?**

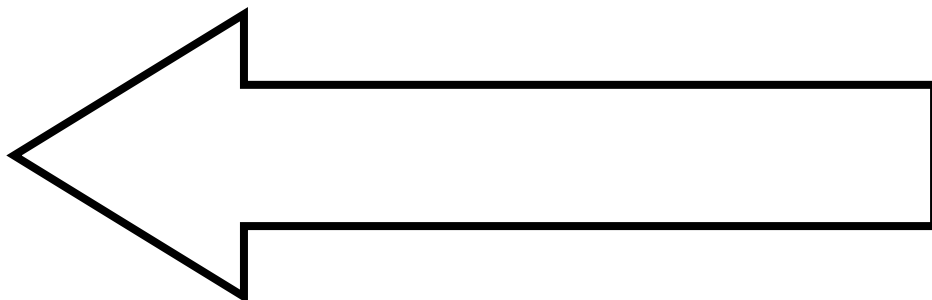
The cost associated with printing and mailing the Parish Press continues to rise; and we cannot take advantage of Bulk Rate mail fees unless we mail out 200 copies. If the folks who are interested in receiving the Parish Press would like to receive it via email or view it on our web site (and print it 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*

***DID YOU READ THE SURVEY ON Page 2?***



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

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

(If you cannot remember, just call or email us, again!)

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased!" (Lk. 2: 13 - 14; RSV).

The birth of Jesus is a cosmic event unique in the history of humanity. As recorded in Scripture the occasion found fulfillment at this particular time and this particular place so designated by the Almighty. Still, the text gives us the sense that God's breaking forth into human time, that God's indwelling presence among humanity is something the very angels of heaven have waited for in anticipation.

Throughout the entire encounter with the heavenly host humanity remains noticeably silent. In their initial meeting it is the angel who declares, "be not afraid" (Lk. 2: 10; RSV). Likewise, as a multitude of angels breaks forth into human time and the darkness of humanity's landscape is transformed by holy light, humanity is no more than a neutral observer to the celestial celebration. For this is a teaching moment and humanity stands in awe before an angelic vanguard that proclaims, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased" (Lk. 2: 14; RSV).

However, the peace of which the angels speak should not be confused with an absence of hostility, the lack of conflict or a general feeling of personal tranquility. Rather, the peace which the angels proclaim should be paraphrased to mean "salvation." In other words, our salvation proceeds from God's grace, i.e., God's kindness and love. There is nothing we can do to earn it, it is a free gift to be accepted. As the Apostle Paul says in his letter to the Ephesians, "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God" (Eph. 2: 8; RSV). As the heavenly host attest, joy and celebration are the only appropriate responses.

The primary function of the church is to worship God, to show reverence and adoration, to give thanks and praise for this gift which the Almighty has bequeathed. This year our Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols Service will begin at 6: 00 p.m. It will be a time of reading

Scripture announcing the birth of Jesus, our Messiah, interspersed with hymns of adoration reminiscent of the joy of the angels recorded in the Gospel of Luke.

The life of the church continues to be observed in many activities. For example, the Confirmation Class, which includes Bonnie Gabelmann, Brendan Gondarowski, Sabrina Leighton, and Wayne Osborn, has completed the first part of their course work and is now on Christmas Break. We will be meeting again after church on January 8, 2012.

Similarly, Bible Study has recessed until Wednesday, January 11, 2012. As always we will be meeting from 7: 00 until 8:30 p.m. and offer an open invitation to any who are interested. Given all the publicity over the end times in such works as the Left Behind Series and more currently the concern over the Mayan calendar ending on December 21, 2012, we have begun a study on the book of Revelation. Progress has been slow but steady and we will do a thorough review before proceeding. Hence, as we resume our study all members, including any new additions, will remain on an equal footing.

In a further effort to encourage fellowship especially during the winter months, I am implementing a Movie Night, an idea I have been contemplating for a little over a year. The goal is to get together, have some popcorn and enjoy a movie of some renown. My plan is to try this for one month to determine the viability and interest.

Our first movie, appropriately enough scheduled for Friday, January 13th, is that cinematic classic, "*What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?*" First released in 1962 it is a thriller which follows the gradual descent into madness of Baby Jane Hudson, former ex-vaudeville child star played by Betty Davis. As her behavior becomes more erratic and unpredictable Baby

Jane's treatment of her crippled sister, Blanche, played by Joan Crawford, becomes ever more severe. Running time is 133 minutes. Other movies will be determined by popular demand.

In the same vein of fellowship gatherings, I would be remiss if I did not thank all those who made our Gourmet Dinner on December 3rd such a rousing success. Particular mention needs to be made of those who helped orchestrate the event including: Corinne Burnham, Theresa Denis, Lou McGonagle, and Eileen Venditti who did the cooking. Likewise, entertainment was provided by Kara Denis, who stole the show, Lou McGonagle, Gerda Mikkelsen, Eileen Venditti and Rebecca Venditti. If I've missed

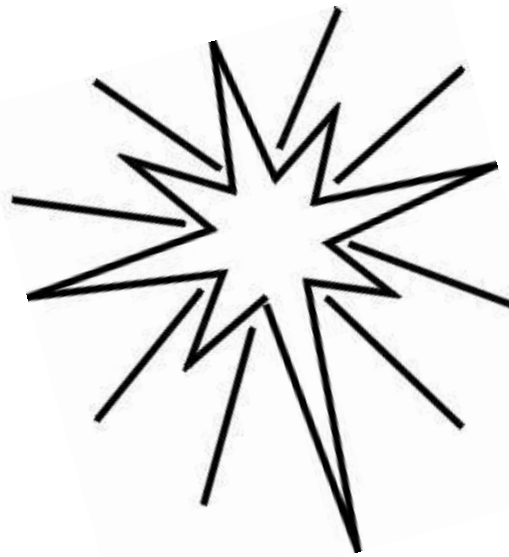
anyone, please forgive the oversight, it was not done on purpose.

Finally, as I have done the past two years, I have decided to again go green and express my Christmas wishes to all at the end of my article.

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My prayer is that Christ's Holy Light be Your strength and guide in this upcoming year. May you prosper, be kept safe from physical and spiritual harm and temptation, and have your thoughts and actions continue to reflect God's love. Have a wonderful Christmas. God Bless,

Pastor Tom, Bärbel,  
Jonathan, Nick, and Julia.



# Mark Your Calendars

## ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

6:30PM Bring a dessert to share. Review the budget and nomination slate.

Deacons will host coffee hour.

7:00PM Meeting called to order

*In the event of inclement weather, the meeting will be postponed until the following Tuesday, January 24th.*

### INCLEMENT WEATHER



**For church cancellations  
Tune into WFSB & WFSB-3  
Fairfield  
Between 6:00 AM and 8:00 AM**

## Generosity Gems

The weather waylaid us a little bit with our campaign to fund the 2012 budget. With worship cancelled twice due to the power outage from the October 29<sup>th</sup> snowstorm, our campaign, which was supposed to culminate in a blessing of the pledges on November 13<sup>th</sup>, stretched until November 27<sup>th</sup>. Consequently some momentum was lost and many pledges normally received by the middle of November have not yet been received. As I write this - the first week in December- we are way under the goal set by the committee requests for 2012.

Rather than worry about it, let us turn to scripture. It is written in Matthew 6: 34, "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today." To paraphrase Luke-- Don't worry about your life...you can't add a single hour to your lifespan by worrying...Strive for God's kingdom-- for God knows what you need and will provide for you.

I'm not saying we should not worry about our church's future and just go blithely along thinking that God will provide. I'm saying that in addition to not worrying, we should first **pray**. Pray and ask God to help us-- but then we shouldn't sit back and expect God to do it all. We know God provides

according to God's will and timing, but we shouldn't use that as an excuse for inactivity. So, secondly, we should **act**. We should talk to others in the congregation about pledging and why it's important to us. This is what the "Generosity Moment" speakers, Lou McGonagle, Carolyn Kita, Steve Schortman and Dave Bearce have done so eloquently. Supporting our church shouldn't be something that's done in the darkness. We should be proud to shout it from the steeple that we love our church and support its work!

If you would like details on the budget, please contact Finance Committee chairperson Penny or Assistant Treasurer Lou. For a pledge card and Campaign materials, contact me.

God bless us, every one!  
And our church too!

Marie  
(For the Generosity Committee)

"God nowhere tells us to give up things for the sake of giving them up. He tells us to give them up for the sake of the only thing worth having--life with Himself." — Oswald Chambers





## Cookies

An elderly man lay dying in his bed. In death's agony, he suddenly smelled the aroma of his favorite chocolate chip cookies wafting up the stairs. He gathered his remaining strength, and lifted himself from his bed. Leaning against the wall, he slowly made his way out of his bedroom, and with even greater effort forced himself down the stairs, gripping the railing with both hands. With labored breath, he leaned against the door frame, gazing into the kitchen.

Were it not for death's agony, he would have thought himself already in Heaven: there, spread out on newspapers on the kitchen table, were literally hundreds of his favorite chocolate chip cookies. Was it Heaven? Or, was it one final act of heroic love from his devoted wife, seeing to it that he left this world a happy man?

Mustering one great final effort, he threw himself toward the table, landing on his knees in a ruffled posture. His parched lips parted; the wondrous taste of the cookie was already in his mouth, seemingly bringing him back to life. The aged, withered and shaking hand made its way to a cookie at the edge of the table, when it was suddenly smacked with a spatula by his wife. "[Stay out of those](#)", she said, "[they're for the funeral](#)."



The sleigh was all packed, the reindeer were fed,  
But Santa still knelt by the side of his bed,  
"Dear Father," he prayed, "Be with me tonight.  
There's much work to do and my schedule is tight.  
My sack will hold toys to grant all kids' wishes.  
The supply will be endless like the loaves and the fishes.  
I can do all these things, Lord, only through You.  
I just need your blessing, then it's easy to do.  
I do this only to honor the birth of the One,  
That was sent to redeem us, Your most Holy Son.  
So to all of my friends, lest Your glory I rob,  
Please, Lord, remind them who gave me this job."



## A FEW CHRISTMAS FACTS...

A wreath with holly, red berries and other decorations began from at least the 17th century. Holly, with its sharply pointed leaves, symbolized the thorns in Christ's crown-of-thorns. Red berries symbolized the drops of Christ's blood. A wreath at Christmas signified a home that celebrated the birth of Christ.



On Christmas morning since medieval times, church bells have been rung to announce to the world the coming of the savior. It was customary from the 18th century to wear clothes and carry a small bell to signify the birth of Christ. The ringing of the bells was to signify the importance of the His Birth.

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The abbreviation of Xmas for Christmas is not irreligious. The first letter of the word Christ in Greek is chi, which is identical to our X. Xmas was originally an ecclesiastical abbreviation that was used in tables and charts. In the early days of printing, when font sizes were limited and type was set by hand, abbreviations and ditto marks were used liberally. Xmas came into general use from the church.

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The tradition of gifts seems to have started with the gifts that the wise men brought to Jesus. The exchanging of gifts between people started in about the 1800's

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The word "Christmas" comes from Cristes mæsse, an old English phrase that means "Mass of Christ."

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Poinsettias, named for Joel Roberts Poinsett, are native southern Mexico and Central America plants, and can grow as tall as 16 feet. Legend has it that a young Mexican child could not afford to offer Christ a gift on Christmas Eve, so he picked some weeds from the side of a road, in the belief that even his humble gift, given in love, would be worthy. When the weeds were brought into the church, they bloomed into red and green flowers, which the congregation agreed was a Christmas miracle.





Far away in Bethlehem, a Baby Boy was born;  
Born with neither riches nor with fame,  
Yet Wise Men came from all around to bring to Him their gifts,  
And peace was felt by all who heard His name.

Angels watched Him as He slept, and gently rocked His bed;  
Their voices singing softly in His ear;  
His Mother and His Father both gave thanks to God above  
For the greatest gift of all, their Son, so dear

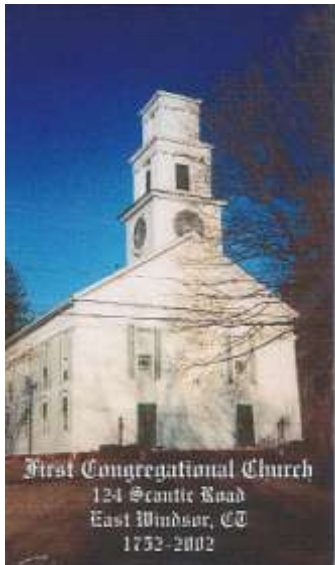
They knew His life upon this earth would not be filled with wealth,  
They also knew He would encounter strife;  
But most of all, they knew that He would be a loving Child,  
And teach the love of God throughout His life.

At Christmas, as we celebrate this Birth of Jesus Christ,  
Let's keep in mind the truth of Christmas Day;  
For it's not the Christmas wrappings, nor the gifts that lie within,  
**But our gift of love to others in every way...**





Actual Size: 5 1/2" Wide, 5 7/8" High, 5/8" Deep  
**WOODEN CHURCH CUT-OUT - \$8.<sup>00</sup>**



Actual Size: 2" Wide, 3 1/2" High  
**CHURCH MAGNETS - 2 for \$1.<sup>00</sup>**



Actual Size: 6 3/4" Wide, 5" High  
**PEN and INK NOTE CARDS**  
 Please see info in box, above.

### **ITEMS FOR SALE**

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

Several of the items are pictured here or call Lou if you would like to see these or the other items.

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.<sup>00</sup> each**

# Happy Birthday



# Happy Anniversary

## DECEMBER

### *Belated Happy Birthday!*

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



## JANUARY 2012

01/01 Marie Groves  
01/05 Carol Bushey  
01/07 Gerry Godin  
01/09 Janet Greer  
01/10 Carolyn Osborn  
01/11 Bärbel Röder  
01/13 Bill Ellsworth  
01/14 Mike Fortier  
01/15 Irene Pickles  
01/22 Emily Bearce  
01/23 Marilyn Butenkoff  
01/24 Karen Bearce  
01/27 Barbara Novak

## FEBRUARY

02/03 Ed Wheelock  
02/04 Cheryl (Ojantakanen) Broderick  
02/05 Julia Röder Hanna  
02/06 Jim Leighton  
02/06 Bruce Lincoln  
02/07 Imogene Ellsworth  
02/07 Michael Greer  
02/11 Karen Brett  
02/13 Alyssa Lincoln  
02/13 Andrew Smith, Jr.  
02/19 Martin Welles  
02/22 Dee Stathers  
02/24 Shirley Machesney  
02/27 Cheryl Muska

## DECEMBER

### *Belated Happy Anniversary!*

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

## JANUARY 2012

## FEBRUARY

02/23 Dee & Dick Stathers

## MARCH

03/17 Janet & Michael Greer



### *Birthdays Continued!*

## MARCH

03/01 Corinne Burnham  
03/04 Marci (Ojantakanen) Stiles  
03/06 Patricia Beals  
03/06 Rebecca Venditti  
03/14 Autumn Venditti  
03/15 Jan Jamieson  
03/16 Muriel Welles  
03/17 David Dougherty  
03/17 Eileen Venditti  
03/18 Mark Venditti  
03/24 Ryan Lincoln  
03/26 Will Lincoln

# 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](mailto:scanticsecy@sbcglobal.net)

Web Site: [fceastwindsor.com](http://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](mailto:scanticsecy@sbcglobal.net) or by placing the item in the Public Relations mail box by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**In 2011 we published the following issues of the Parish Press:**

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

**In 2012 we plan to publish the following issues of the Parish Press:**

**No February Issue; MARCH/APRIL 2012; MAY/JUNE 2012; JULY/AUGUST 2012;  
SEPTEMBER 2012; OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2012; and DECEMBER 2012/JANUARY 2013.**

**If you would like an article included in the MARCH/APRIL issue of the Parish Press, please submit your article(s) by FEBRUARY 19, 2012.**

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.

Christmas is for giving  
And for showing that we care,  
For honoring the Christ Child  
With the loving gifts we share.

The wise men gave of riches;  
The shepherds, faith and love.  
Each gift, in its own measure,  
Was smiled on from above.

Let every gift be treasured;  
Not always size or price  
Determines the extent of love  
And willing sacrifice

Handsome gifts with festive trim  
Bring smiles of sweet content,  
But modest gifts of humble means  
are oftentimes heaven sent.

Whether it be large or small,  
Each gift will share in part  
The message of true Christmas joy  
If given from the heart



# January 2012

<i>S</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>S</i>
1 <i>Happy New Year!</i> 	2	3 Finance 7pm	4	5 Choir 7-8:30pm	6	7
8	9 Deacons 6pm  NO Exec Mtg.	10 Trustee's 7pm	11 Bible Study 7pm	12 Choir 7-8:30pm	13	14
15	16	17 <b>ANNUAL MTG 6:30/7:00pm</b>	18 Bible Study 7pm	19 Choir 7-8:30pm	20 Soup Kitchen Call Eileen 860-256-7361	21
22	23	24 Snow Date for Annual Meeting 7PM	25 Bible Study 7pm	26 Choir 7-8:30pm	27	28
29	30	31				

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

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

# *February 2012*

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

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

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