
The Parish Press

March 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**

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SCANTIC MEETING HOUSE – BUILT 1802

"If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there shall My servant be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him" (John 12: 26; RSV).

*** * * IMPORTANT * * ***

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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 we could utilize those methods and save... but we will continue to mail the Parish Press to anyone who would like to receive it via U.S. Mail.

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

Pastor's Annual Report for 2010

In an effort to distribute my Annual Report to a wider audience, I am including it as the first article of the Parish Press for 2011.

"If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there shall My servant be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him" (John 12: 26; RSV).

This passage taken from the Gospel of John comes on the heels of Jesus first set of teachings about His death. Prefiguring the Great Commandment, in which Jesus instructs His disciples to love one another as He has loved them (John 13: 34), it calls on His disciples to also serve one another as He has served them. It goes on to affirm that as disciples of Jesus we are called to follow Him to His death and through His death to share in His glory. Further, the reading ends by telling us that in serving Christ we are honored by God. It is the only time in the Gospel that speaks of God honoring anyone and anticipates the mutual relationship between God, Jesus, and ourselves.

This mutual relationship finds its expression in what Paul's First Letter to Timothy terms "our hope" in Christ Jesus (I Tim. 1: 1; RSV). The "hope" of which he speaks is made manifest in the gathered community of believers who weekly worship and praise the Almighty for the gifts of life and eternal life through His Son. Such faith carried us forward as we began the year with a budgetary deficit of \$4,520.00. Yet, as in times past, we echoed the faith of Abraham who, faced with sacrificing his son, proclaimed "God will provide" (Gen. 22: 8, 14; RSV).

Guided by the Holy Spirit, the year, while challenging, provided an opportunity for us to be creative in our attempts to encourage spiritual growth, foster community, and in deference to our secular responsibilities, offset our expenses. Directing her energies toward achieving such a goal, Eileen Venditti scheduled a series of dinner events each with a specific theme. There was, for example, "The Spring Fling" on Saturday, March 20th, followed by the "Taste of Italy", on Friday, April 20th, the "Western Dinner" on Saturday,

May 22nd, and the "Strawberry Dinner" on Saturday, June 19th. The season culminated with a "Dinner Theatre" performance of Michael Druce's play, "Murder Ahoy" where yours truly played the role of Captain Jack Colby. All in all such diligence yielded over \$5, 300.00 toward our budget. My thanks to all and especially to the cast of our play, the fun we had, and the companionship we enjoyed.

Still, our church, which has long considered itself a —family| in the best sense of the word, came together again this year to support and encourage one another in a variety of ways. While each of our members has in one form or another contributed to the functioning of the whole, I think it would be ungracious if we did not acknowledge those who have greatly given of their time and talent with no regard for recognition or praise. Among this group are the stalwart members of the Trustees who oversee and maintain the church building and grounds. With Rene Thibodeau as chairman, this group functioned admirably. It was a performance made all the more remarkable when we realize that two emergencies had all but exhausted their budget by February. Additionally, special thanks needs to be made to Mike Fortier who, as in years past, has spent countless hours repairing, rebuilding, installing, painting, or applying his talents to anything that needs attention. Likewise, thanks needs to be given to Greg Gabelmann, Dick Larson, Rick Osborn, and John Parda, other members of the Trustees, for their sustained and unselfish service. Thank you gentlemen for all that you continue to do in the Name of Christ.

In like manner, I would like to thank Lou McGonagle and Eileen Venditti for taking over

the secretarial responsibilities and other related administrative functions. Each has performed above and beyond all expectations. I particularly appreciate how they seek to find ways that will make the office function more efficiently and their empathy toward relieving the burdens of my week. Also, thank you again for all the work you did to make our new church directory such a resounding success.

Similarly, my heartfelt gratitude goes out to our exceptionally talented moderator Donna Gendreau, and to her reasoned leadership, professional bearing, and ability to be able to decipher the complexities of any situation. To our multitalented Treasurer, Pat Thibodeau, who has logged in uncounted hours revamping our accounting practices in order to maximize efficiency and increase spending power. Also, to our clerk, Karen Gaudreau, whose recordings of baptisms, weddings, funerals, new members, membership removal, in addition to issuing the Warning for our Congregation meetings is integral to the functioning of the church.

Moreover, I would once again like to acknowledge my gratitude to the deaconate and the spiritual leadership and support they have provided during this last year. They are a special and dedicated group who works together as a harmonious whole seeking neither reward nor recognition but to serve our Lord unselfishly and in His Name. My thanks again to senior deacon Janet Greer, in addition to Carolyn Kita, Jackie Lowry, Harriet Muska, Steve Schortman, and Chan Stoughton who at all times have practiced their Christian faith in reasoned and prudent judgment, how they represent the church and their position, and in how they minister to the community of the faithful. I consider myself fortunate to have such examples of Christian service. Thank you for the fellowship, the laughter, the camaraderie, your willingness to assist at a moment's notice, for the discussions, and for the delight you take in seeking new and innovative ways to praise and worship our Lord. Each of you is a true blessing.

As with any church season, there are many unsung heroes who have stepped forward when the situation demanded. Many in fact are nameless or simply wish to remain anonymous.

From the individuals who provided paper, to those who volunteered for clean-up days, to others who assisted or contributed to our dinners, and everyone in between, I would like to offer a sincere expression of gratitude for your time and generosity.

Having said that, I would be remiss if I did not single out three of our congregation for honorable mention. Lou McGonagle and Eileen Venditti have worked tirelessly to help ensure the smooth functioning of our church. Particular recognition must be given for their compiling our weekly Sunday bulletin as well as the Parish Press. One of their great strengths is to accept and work with the shortcomings we all possess. I know for me this has been quite valuable and much appreciated. Additionally, I would like to thank Ed Zimnoch for his continued and unselfish attention to the plumbing needs of the church and for his help with the instillation of the new sink in the kitchen. Once again Ed, your humility, service and commitment are inspiring.

As for me, the year has proved one of the most demanding since I began ten years ago. Gratifying, as always, was the Bible Study, which we were able to resume in February. Meeting dates included: February 3, 10, 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24; April 28; May 5, 12, 19; June 9; September 15, 29; October 6, 27; November 3, 10; December 1. This year we altered our schedule a bit to accommodate the Confirmation Class, which met one of the four Wednesday's normally reserved for Bible Study. During this session we completed the Book of Proverbs and are currently working on Paul's Letter to the Galatians.

The demands of this year did not preclude me from participating in several ecumenical functions. The first involved the Ash Wednesday service on February 27, 2010 at St. John's Episcopal Church in Warehouse Point. I was also involved in the Good Friday service once again held at St. John's on April 3, 2010; hosted the Easter Morning Sunrise Service held at our church on April 4, 2010; attended a talk given by Rabbi Amy Scheinerman at Beth Israel Temple in West Hartford on May 3, 2010 ; and marched in the Memorial Day Parade giving the prayer at the cemetery and at the town green on May 31,

2010. Additionally, as a board member of Pauline's Stock Pot Kitchen I attended meetings on March 3 and May 13, 2010.

As a member of the Clergy Association of East Windsor, I attended meetings on January 6; February 10; March 17; June 2; September 1; October 6; November 3; and December 1. There were no meetings in April, May and August. Additionally, the Clergy Association's continued commitment to the community witnessed my serving as guest minister to the residents and patients at Kettle Brook and Chestnut Point leading worship and administering communion to those who were willing or able on January 12 and November 9, 2010. I cancelled my scheduled July 13th meeting because of a prior commitment.

Moreover, I provided pastoral coverage for the Rev. Dr. Charlotte Wright, interim minister at the South Windsor Congregational Church, on two occasions. The first, from December 31, 2009 through January 8, 2010, the second from May 23 through May 31, 2010. Additionally, I provided pastoral coverage for the Rev. Dr. Joseph Callahan on two occasions, the first from May 24 through June 3, 2010, the second from November 4 through November 11, 2010.

Similarly, as a member of the Committee on Ministry for the Hartford East Association of the United Church of Christ, I attended meetings on January 21; February 18; March 18; May 20; June 17; September 16; October 21; November 18; and December 16. I missed April 15th meeting because I was in Germany. There were no meetings in July and August. Additionally, I attended the Annual Lenten Communion Service for the Hartford East Association on March 25, the Spring Meeting on May 2, and the retirement of the Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree on May 2, 2010.

Meetings related to the proper functioning of the church included: **Deacons:** January 7; February 1; March 4 and 30; May 20; September 2; October 7; November 4; and December 2, 2010. There were two meetings in April because I was in Germany from April 4 to April 14, 2010 and would have been unable to attend that month's meeting. **Trustee's:** March 9; May 11;

June 8; and December 9, 2010. **Finance:** January 5; February 2; March 2; May 9; June 1; July 6; September 8; October 5; November 2, 2010. I did not attend the December 7th meeting because of a prior commitment. **Executive Council:** February 8; March 8; May 10; June 14; September 13; October 11; November 8; and December 13, 2010. **Caring Ministry:** March 4; May 20; July 22; and November 16, 2010. **Stewardship:** September 13, 2010. Additionally, I attended a Deacon's Retreat on Saturday, January 2; Saturday, March 6; and Saturday, October 2, 2010.

Special services related to our church included: Palm Sunday Communion breakfast on March 28, 2010; Maundy Thursday on April 1, 2010; the aforementioned Sunrise Service on April 4, 2010; Remembrance Sunday on October 31, 2010; and Christmas Eve service on December 24, 2010.

Special meetings outside the purview of the church include: The retirement service of our former minister, the Rev. Randy Ferrara in Malden, Massachusetts on January 31, 2010; meeting with the Rev. Jim Dowse, interim minister of the Berlin Congregational Church on February 16, 2010; delivering the instillation sermon for the Rev. Dr. Kenneth Hoyt at the Middlebury Congregational Church on February 28, 2010; meeting with the Rev. Jim Dowse on March 2, 2010; attending the Annual Blue and Gold Dinner for

Boy Scout Troop 89 on March 13, 2010; meeting with the Rev. Dr. Ken Hoyt on July 28, 2010; attending a talk given by Prof. Harvey Cox at Andover Newton Theological School on September 20, 2010; attending the wake and funeral service of Catherine Adamczyk, Irene Pickles' daughter, at the Della Vecchia Funeral Home in Southington, CT., on November 12, 2010; and attending the funeral and participating in the internment of Marge Bixler on December 3, 2010.

Special meetings and /or events which directly involved the church include: the "Spring Fling" dinner on March 20, 2010; Informal Chat With the Pastor on March 21; "Taste of Italy" on April 30; Informal Chat With the Pastor on May

16; Strawberry Supper on June 19; New Members Tea on September 12; Sabbatical Talk on September 19; Rehearsal for —Murder Ahoy! on October 3 and 9; Pastor's Appreciation Day on October 10; Rehearsal for —Murder Ahoy! on October 20; Dress Rehearsal for —Murder Ahoy! on October 22; Performed in the play —Murder Ahoy! as Capt. Jack Colby on October 23; Pastor's Sabbatical meeting on November 8; Woman's Fellowship talk on Aging on November 15; Membership List meeting on November 17; and the review and editing of the Membership List on December 1, 2010.

Professionally, I decided to take a semester of New Testament Greek offered at Hartford Seminary. Classes included: September 7, 14, 21, 28; October 5, 26; November 2, 16, 30; December 7, 14. In total I missed three classes, October 12, 19 because I was in Green Bay and November 9, due to responsibilities at the church. It was a rewarding, though difficult, experience.

Moreover, this year began the second half of my instruction of the **Confirmation Class**. Meetings included: January 10, 20; February 7, 24; March 31; April 11, 28; May 5, 26; June 6, 23; September 19; October 3, 24; November 14, 28; December 19. As reported last year, this has been our largest class and includes: Ryan Bagdikian, Abby Gabelmann, Trevor Muska, Tisa Platt, Patrick Riley, Alex Stewart, and Autumn Venditti. Our mentors include: David Bearce, Janet Greer, Jonathan O'Brien, Dianna Riley, Michael Riley, Penny Shepard, Eileen Venditti, and Mark Venditti. Guests include: Marie Groves, Lou McGonagle, and Gerda Mikkelsen.

For this session we have changed our meeting days and times. Formally we were meeting on the first Sunday and the third Wednesday of the month for three hours. Now we meet for two hours on the first and third Sunday of the month. As reported last year, I wish to thank Dianna and Michael Riley for their unfailing generosity in providing a lunch for each meeting. Additionally, I thank the mentors as we set time aside to review their respective student's progress as well as assess our goals. This year we completed our textbook,

Discovering, Choosing and Following Jesus Christ, and opened the class to more discussion. Additionally, students and mentors are now given weekly quizzes dealing with the books of the Bible, Christianity, Protestant theology, and Congregationalism. Scripturally, we read the Gospel of Mark for Easter and are about to finish the book of Exodus. In these last six months we are scheduled to read at least one other Gospel along with the book of Acts and Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians.

During this past year the class has also been involved in one trip and two events. They include: a trip to the Hindu Temple in Middletown, CT. on January 30; a Game Day dealing with the book of Genesis on February 27; and a Game Night on June 23.

In addition the class went on its major trip. In attendance were students Abby Gabelmann, Trevor Muska, Luke Pelletier, Tisa Platt, Autumn Venditti, along with myself, co-instructor Eileen Venditti, mentor, Janet Greer, and guests, Marie Groves and Gerda Mikkelsen. Together we attended the 2010 New England Regional Youth Event —Inside Out-Outside In: Finding Our Way in God's World! at Boston University. The event was sponsored by the United Church of Christ and ran from Thursday, June 24 to Sunday, June 27, 2010. Once there we were all expected to attend daily worship service, two workshops, and participate in a service project. The workshops I attended were: —UCC 101; Finding Our Way in God's Church! and —Take a

Knee: Spiritual Lessons Learned from the World of Sports. Together with Marie Groves, Trevor Muska, and Tisa Platt, the service project with which we were involved was providing lunch for the residents at a methadone clinic. All in all it was an enlightening, though tiring, experience.

During this last phase of class we intend to complete our topical discussions along with our proposed faith experiences, both of which are open to anyone in the church who wishes to attend. Topics include: evil and suffering; death and dying; prayer; the Trinity; the Reformation; and our Congregational heritage. Faith

experiences include: a trip to a Buddhist Temple, a mosque, a synagogue, and a Russian Orthodox Church. After each student writes a one to three page paper on their faith journey approved by both their mentor and myself, they will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, June 12, 2011.

The book of Ecclesiastes records that —for everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven (3: 1; RSV). The times of our lives are dictated by an endless cycle of birth, maturity, and death. During this year it has been my distinct honor and privilege to accept into the faith and family of Christ through the **sacrament of baptism**: Kendall Marie Nicholson on April 18, 2010; Jackson Lincoln on May 23, 2010; Tayton Robert Thebodeau on November 21, 2010; Dalton Thomas Nai on December 12, 2010; and Caitlyn Daigneau on December 12, 2010.

In a similar manner, it has been my good fortune to unite in **holy matrimony**: Heidi Burns and Scott Calderone on February 5, 2010 (Service performed at the Berlin Congregational Church); and Faustino Capati and Karen Taylor on July 24, 2010.

Additionally, I have performed **funeral or memorial services** for those who have returned into the loving embrace of God. They include: Betsy Ritter on February 25, 2010; Alberta Guardiani on February 27, 2010 (Gravesite service and internment in Glastonbury); Les George on April 20, 2010; Theresa O'Brien on April 21, 2010; Viola May Bancroft on June 2, 2010; Henry

Thornton Peace on June 16, 2010; Edward —Eddie— Matthews on July 8, 2010 (Service performed at the Berlin Congregational Church); John Nelson Jones on July 9, 2010; Edward J. Parda on September 23, 2010 (Service performed at the Burritt Hill Funeral Home in New Britain); Lillian Goss on September 29, 2010; Magdalene Schon on October 29, 2010; Henrietta Hewes on November 11, 2010; Charlotte McKay Foley on November 23, 2010; and Robert Webber on November 27, 2010.

During this past year those who have come to publicly profess Jesus Christ as their personal

Lord and Savior and have become **members** of our church family include: Cheryl Bellisle on January 10, 2010; Joe Ferolano on February 28, 2010; Eileen Mattera on February 28, 2010; Paul Mattera on February 28, 2010; Laurie Preste on February 28, 2010; James F. Stremper, Sr., on February 28, 2010; Rebecca Stremper on February 28, 2010; Lynda Burke on September 12, 2010; Nick Denis on September 12, 2010; and Theresa Denis on September 12, 2010.

Throughout the year I have maintained office hours without interruption or absence. However, the demands of this year have required me to put in additional hours. As a result my accumulated time has increased by ten days over last year for a total of eighty-one days. Likewise, dependent on the week, pastoral visitation and /or consultation have occupied between one quarter and one half of my weekly schedule.

As I come to the end of my report I would like to thank Sue Stathers for organizing Pastor's Appreciation Day on October 10, 2010, which celebrated my ten year anniversary at our church. It amazes me that so much time has passed so quickly. Thank you also to Steve Schortman, Marion Rolocut, Marilyn Butenkoff, Cheryl Bellisle, Gerda Mikkelsen, and Dick Stathers, and who along with Sue gave such heartfelt testimonials. I was very touched and moved at so many kind words and later by the many gifts that were presented. Thank you also to all in our church family. It has been my great pleasure to serve such a faithful and loving congregation.

The year which began with a multitude of challenges, not the least of which was the passage of a deficit budget, ended better than expected. This was not of our own doing, but because of our faith and trust in God who guided and sustained us in all our endeavors. Still, we need to acknowledge a personal best in being able to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit and act upon His direction. Yet, for our church to prosper demands our vigilance. One is not separate from the other, a fact not lost on King Solomon (ruled from 973 - 933 B. C.) who declared, —The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to want!

(Prov. 21: 5; RSV). Lest we give in to a —hasty nature, one that is neither thought out nor planned, we need to persevere. Although there have been some signs of recovery, Ben Bernanke, Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, recently commented that it could be another five years before the economy returns to pre-recession levels.

Although we are a people who do not place our trust in the material world, we nonetheless must operate within its confines to bring about God's kingdom. Thus, we realize that as followers of Christ we need to be in the world, but not of the world.

This next year will present its own unique set of demands and challenges which require reasoned and at times innovative solutions. That we do not weary and fall away from our responsibility we need remember that our call from God insures we are never alone. —You are My servant, declares the Lord, —I have chosen you and not cast you off; fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed for I am your God; I will

strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with My victorious right hand (Is. 41: 9 - 10; RSV).

Lord Jesus, thank You for this past year and for Your presence in our times of joy and trial. Help us to be directed by Your presence in this next year. That we might be led by Your love, grant us sight when we are blind, strength when we are weak and wisdom in our times of confusion. Holy Lord Jesus, give ear to our prayers, for they are offered in Your Name. AMEN.

These are truthful recollections of the events of the past year. Additionally, it should be remembered that much of ministry takes place in unofficial, unorthodox, and at times, unexpected settings.

Submitted in the Name and Service of Jesus the Christ,

The Rev. Dr. Thomas V. Calderone.

Lent—Why Bother? To Lead Us to Christ

Three authors weigh the merits of observing Lent.

Steven R. Harmon, author of Ecumenism Means You, Too, Frederica Mathewes-Green, the author of The Jesus Prayer, and Michael Horton, author of The Gospel-Driven Life, suggest why Christians should care about Lent.

While Israel's neighbors celebrated the cycle of seasons as shadows of the realm of the gods, Israel celebrated the interventions of God in historical events of judgment and deliverance. The major feasts include Passover, Firstfruits (Pentecost), the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur), and Tabernacles (Sukkot). In commanding these feasts, God was incorporating them into his unfolding drama, anchored in his promises and their future fulfillment in Christ.

Unlike the Old Testament, however, the New Testament does not prescribe a church calendar. Furthermore, Lent became associated in the medieval church with all sorts of rules and superstitions. For the most part, the Protestant Reformers continued to celebrate Lent, but in a more evangelical way. They inveighed against the connection between fasting and penance "as a work of merit or a form of divine worship," as Calvin put it. Lent is still celebrated today in Lutheran, Anglican, and many Reformed churches.

However, many of the English Puritans and Scottish Presbyterians went further, arguing that such observances fostered superstition, constrained the conscience where God had left it free, and undermined the Christian Sabbath as God's appointed holy day. (At the same time, the Puritans did call for special days of thanksgiving and fasting, by order of Parliament!)

In my view, these special days are valuable chiefly as a teaching opportunity. To be sure, every Lord's Day is a celebration of Christ's saving work. Paul seems to have allowed

freedom to celebrate old covenant feasts, but upbraided those who bound Christian consciences on the matter, especially with fasts and abstinence.

I believe an evangelical celebration of Lent affords an opportunity to reinforce rather than undermine the significance of Christ's person and work.

Lent is a 40-day preparation for the observance of Christ's passion and Easter. It gives us an annual opportunity to trace the history of redemption. We learn that the number 40 is associated with a trial, a preparation, even an ordeal that leads either to blessing or curse in the stories of Noah, Moses, and Jonah.

Recapitulating Adam's trial and Israel's 40 years of testing, Jesus was taken by the Spirit into the wilderness for 40 days, fasting instead of following Adam and the wilderness generation of Israelites in demanding the food they craved (Matt. 4:1-4). Resisting Satan's temptation with God's Word, Jesus was the Last Adam and Faithful Israel who fulfilled the trial not only for himself but also for us, as well as bearing the curse for our covenant-breaking.

New disciples in the ancient church were instructed daily in Christian doctrine and practice for the 40 days of Lent, leading to their baptism on Easter Eve. They realized that they were quite literally wrestling with demons from their pagan heritage. Isn't our culture just as toxic? Are we really making disciples, or just superficial converts?

When unburdened by superstitious rites, Lent still holds tremendous promise if we will recover its evangelical purpose; namely, leading us and our children to Christ by his Word. Hopefully we can all agree that this goal remains the central mission of the church every Lord's Day.

Lent

The prayer

As the cold gives way
to the warmer days
Warming up in the morning sunrays
I keep waiting with others
For the [church door](#) to open there
with spring breeze brushing the hair
Teasing my face with its refreshing fingers
The merry season passes over
paving way for the penance 'n prayer
Comes [Lent](#) thru the Ash
ending the days of happy bash
"Dust to Dust" he would mutter
'Wash me through...O Lord', I utter.



The penitence

A whole day's feast
that I had
with the musical treats,
Out I drag myself up
weary of revels,
And the night long drumbeats
to rev up and rap.
As the sun slowly removes its hood
wiping up the nightly mood,
The Men at [church](#) dongs the bell,
The big door beneath the spires
floats open to unveil.
The odor so [divine](#),
The smoke so purifying,
Hovering over the [hallway](#) tires
Hallowed with the candles so enlightening.
As I [bend](#) on my knees
to atone for my erring glees,
A gentle touch on my forehead
lets me know of the ash cross,
And the day for which it's made.



Women's Fellowship

March 2011

The Women's Fellowship met on February 21 at 7pm in the North Parlor. We welcomed three women from the Ladies Auxiliary VFW in Windsor Locks. Candy, Cheryl and Fran proceeded to inform us on various activities/missions we could execute to help Veterans in neighboring hospitals such as Rocky Hill and Newington, and those who are struggling that live around us.

Some things that were talked about were care packages for those overseas, programs at the hospitals for visitation, collecting items for fundraising, and putting together gift bags for Easter and pass them out to the Vets in both hospitals.

As a group we have decided to start with the gift bags ASAP, so we ask for your help as a church to make this happen. We need the following items to assemble gift bags:

Bags - medium size with handles

Pencils and pads of paper

Colored pencils

T-shirts - all sizes

Socks - white

Deodorant

Toothpaste and toothbrush

Word/game books

Cards

Gum

Female hygiene products

PLEASE NOTE:

We cannot donate any products that have alcohol, such as mouth wash.

We will set up collection boxes in the North Parlor/Women's Fellowship room. Anyone interested in volunteering for more Veteran-related activities please sign up on a list that will be placed near the collection boxes.

Our next Women's Fellowship meeting will be on March 21st. We will have a "Crazy Hat Competition" with prizes to the winners. Please join us... and be creative... utilize your imagination to the fullest!

Judging Categories: Funniest, Best Theme, Prettiest, Craziest, Biggest, Smallest

Thank You,

Eileen Venditti

ITEMS FOR SALE

We still have many nice items for sale that make great gifts for family or friends... or for you! 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
- Wooden Church Cut-out - \$8.00
- Church Magnet - 2 for \$1.00
- Pen-and-Ink Note Cards
 - Package of 8 - \$5.00
 - Package of 3 - \$2.50
 - Package of 1 - \$1.00
- Church Plaque - \$2.50
- Church Scroll - \$2.50
- Cookbook - \$5.00
- Placemats - \$2.00 ea. (Traditional large country checks in center with matching solid edge; hunter green (2 left) or beige (23 left).

Thank you and God Bless You.
Lou McGonagle
860-292-1843

INCLEMENT WEATHER



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



If you would like to write to Jonny Webber, he's been in
Kandahar, Afghanistan since June 16, 2010 and will be there for a year.
He's in the Navy Reserves from Fort Worth, Dallas, Texas; and his address is:



John Webber
IT1 Webber
649th RSG CJI ATF
APO AE 09355



You are cordially invited to join us

For a

No Shop Kitchen Shower Luncheon



What is a no shop kitchen shower luncheon?

This is a way to restock the kitchen without going shopping and a time for fellowship. Proceeds will go towards the purchase of new pots, pans and utensils.

For \$10.00, (suggested donation) come and join us for this event. Lunch will be served.

Saturday, March 19th, 2011 at 12:00

124 Scantic Road, East Windsor, CT

Hosted by the Kitchen Committee; Janet Greer, Jan Smith, Dianna Riley and Eileen Venditti

Please RSVP by March 5th, 2011

Dianna Riley 860-627-8484 or mriley110@cox.net

From your Diaconate

Here is a quick Summary of what we are working on

Ash Wednesday – March 9th - Grace Episcopal Church 7:30PM
First Sunday in Lent: March 13th

Flower Committee – Easter Lily Sale

Palm Sunday – April 17th – Blessing of the Palms 8:00am Service, followed by Breakfast – \$5.00 per Adult/Children free

Palm Sunday – April 17th – Regular Sunday Worship Service 10:00am

Maundy Thursday – April 21 – Pot Luck Supper 5:30-6:30, Service 7:00pm – Readers needed

Good Friday – April 22 – Service at St. John's Episcopal Church – 7:30pm

Easter Sunday – April 24th – Sunrise Service in the Triangle across from parking lot.
Time of sunrise TBD.

Easter Sunday – April 24th – Eileen's Sunrise Breakfast – Donations at Door

Easter Sunday – April 24th – Regular Sunday Worship Service 10:00am

Be on the lookout for more information as these dates draw near.

Your Diaconate,

Janet Greer, Harriett Muska, Carolyn Kita, Chan Stoughton,
Steve Schortman, Jackie Lowry, David Bearce



Dear Church Family,

Your outpouring of calls, cards, and your presence at Ed's calling hours and service brought much love and support to us at this sad time.

Thank you for being with us.

Much love,

Harriet, Susan, David, Cheryl, Logan, and Trevor

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF EAST WINDSOR
2011 NOMINATING SLATE**

Moderator (F): Jason Ellsworth **Vice Moderator:** Donna Gendreau
Clerk: Karen Gaudreau **Assistant Clerk:** Corinne Burnham
Treasurer (F): Pat Thibodeau **Assistant Treasurer:** Lou McGonagle

Trustees (F): (6 Minimum)
Rene Thibodeau (chair) Mike Fortier Greg Gabelmann
Rick Osborn Dick Larson John Parda Tommy Gabelmann

Generosity Committee (F) (3)
Jonathan O'Brien Marie Groves (chair) Dianna Riley

Ways & Means Committee (F): (4) _____

Christian Education: (5)
Eileen Venditti (chair) Cheryl Muska Kathy Gabelmann
Carolyn Kita Anne Stucklen

Deacons (F): (4 Minimum) – Numbers below represent years to serve on Diaconate:
(1) Carolyn Kita (1) Janet Greer (chair) (2) Steve Schortman
(1) Jackie Lowry (2) Chan Stoughton (2) Harriet Muska
(A) Dave Bearce

Music: (3) Donna Gendreau Betsy Ferolano _____

Flowers: (3) Gaile Stewart Theresa Denis Karen & Kevin Brett
Mabel & Diane Fredette

Public Relations: (5) _____ Eileen Venditti Lou McGonagle (chair)
Steve Schortman Janet Smith

Missions (F) (4) Cheryl Bellisle (chair) Cindy Birmingham Penny Shepard

Pastoral Relations: (3) – assigned by moderator
Dianna Riley Marie Groves Rick Osborn

Nominating Committee: (3) Donna Gendreau Harriet Muska Jan Smith

Historian: Irene Clifton

Memorial Committee: (3) Noreen Leighton (chair) Gerda Mikkelsen Joan Hearn

Conference Delegates: (2) Gerda Mikkelsen Joe Ferolano

Conference Alternates: (2) Jason Ellsworth _____

(F) = Chairman or Representative serves as Fiscal Director on Finance Committee
(chair) = Committee Chairman



Alan Shawn Feinstein
37 Alhambra Circle
Cranston, RI 02905

**Please use MY money to help
your neighbors in need!**

My name is Alan Shawn Feinstein. For the past 13 years, I have been giving away \$1 million each year to anti-hunger agencies throughout the country.

This year, I am doing it again...

**WHATEVER YOU DONATE TO THIS AGENCY,
I WILL ADD MONEY TO IT. THE MORE
YOU GIVE, THE MORE OF MY \$1 MILLION
THEY'LL GET—THANKS TO YOU!**

Why am I doing this? Because I believe each of us was put here on earth to do what we can to help those in need. You got this letter because we feel that YOU believe that, too.

This has become the greatest grass roots campaign ever to fight hunger in our country. Your donation makes you a partner in it with me!

My money started this campaign but it is **YOU** who will help decide how many needy people in your city or town will be fed this year. *All that will matter to us someday is what we did while we were here to help those who needed us.*

We Are Needed Now!

Please give whatever you can - I will gladly add some of my money to yours.

(My \$1 million will be divided in full proportionately among
the agencies receiving donations toward my offer.)

Thank you for sharing my heart, and the hope that—someday—no one will ever go hungry.

Sincerely Yours,

Alan Shawn Feinstein

Alan Shawn Feinstein

Five Corner Cupboard News

Feinstein Challenge

The Feinstein Challenge will soon be upon us once again. Rhode Island philanthropist, Alan Shawn Feinstein has each year for the last 13 years, given a **million dollars** proportionately to organizations which feed the hungry. The Five Corner Cupboard has participated since 2005.

Each pound of food donated in response to this campaign counts as one dollar. Any donation you make to the Cupboard in March or April will get Feinstein money added to it—the more that is donated, the more of Feinstein’s \$1 million the Cupboard will get-thanks to you. You become a partner in what has become the most successful campaign of all time to fight hunger!

It’s not so much the money we get—although we do appreciate that— it’s the increase in donations during March and April because of increased awareness of our need that really helps. The **summertime months are the busiest** for the Five Corner Cupboard so the donations which come in during the spring and early summer are sorely needed and greatly appreciated.

If you would like to support the Cupboard, but can only do so once a year, anytime during March or April is the time to do it. For more information on the Feinstein Foundation, go to www.feinsteinfoundation.com.

Checks can be made out to the Five Corner Cupboard and sent to the church’s address. Food and hygiene item donations can be brought to the pantry any Tuesday or Thursday morning between 9:30 and 11:00 or any Sunday morning between 10 and noon.

“All that will matter to us someday is what we did while we were here to help those who needed us.”

~ Alan Shawn Feinstein ~

Current Pantry Needs:

Canned Meats
Stew, Hash
1 lb Canned Hams
Hearty/Chunky Soups
Fruit
100% Juice
Jelly/Jam
Pancake Syrup
Ketchup/Mustard
Evaporated Milk
Peas/Mixed Veggies/Carrots/Greens
Tea, Regular and Decaf
Mayonnaise
Personal Care Items:
Shaving needs
Shampoo/ Conditioner
Deodorant
Bar Soap
Toothpaste/Toothbrushes/Floss
Toilet Paper
Kleenex
Feminine Hygiene Products
Laundry Detergent
Dish Detergent
Misc. Cleaning Products
Dog and Cat food

Why do we request non-food items at a food pantry? Imagine that you were able to get enough food, but could not do your laundry or dishes. Or you had to decide to pay your rent or get your medications. Or had to use soap to wash your hair and shave. These are the choices which many of the pantry’s clients face every day. Many, of not all, of the pantry’s clients are eligible for SNAP (food stamps). Did you know that food stamps cannot be used to purchase anything taxable? Personal care items, cleaning products, paper products and pet food are ineligible and can be expensive. Our clients are always so appreciative if we have these kinds of items to offer. The monetary donations to the pantry is used to purchase only food items, toothpaste, shampoo, bar soap, laundry detergent, toilet paper and sometimes dish detergent if it can be purchased at low cost.

Happy Birthday!



Happy Anniversary!

FEBRUARY

Belated Happy Birthday!

02 / 03 Ed Wheelock
02 / 04 Cheryl 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 Andrew Smith, Jr.
02 / 19 Martin Welles
02 / 22 Dee Stathers
02 / 24 Shirley Machesney

MARCH

03 / 01 Corinne Burnham
03 / 04 Marci 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

FEBRUARY

Belated Happy Anniversary!

02/23 Dee & Dick Stathers

MARCH

03/17 Janet & Michael Greer



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

Five Corner Cupboard	1st Tuesday of the Month	11:30 am
Finance Committee	1st Tuesday of the Month	7:00 pm
Deacons	1st Thursday 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.

The number of 2011 issues of the Parish Press will be decided at the next Public Relations meeting and will be posted in the next issue.

If you would like an article included in the next issue of the Parish Press, please submit your article(s) by MARCH 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.

March 2011

S M T W T F S

		1 Finance Meeting 7PM	2 Bible Study 7PM	3 Deacons 7PM Choir 7PM	4	5
6 Confirmation Class	7	8 Trustees Meeting 7PM	9 Ash Wednesday Grace Episcopal Church	10 Choir 7PM	11 Confirmation Class field trip BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE	12
13 First Sunday In Lent	14 Executive Meeting 7PM	15	16 Bible Study 7PM	17 Choir 7PM 	18 Soup Kitchen	19 Kitchen Shower 12:00
20 Confirmation Class	21 7PM Women's Fellowship Crazy Hat Contest! 	22	23 Bible Study 7PM	24 Choir 7PM	25	26
27	28	29	30 Bible Study 7PM	31 Choir 7PM		

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

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