

First Community Church

Newsletter

December 2011



Our Mission Statement

We are a community of faith believing in the power of prayer and seeking earnestly to deepen our spiritual life and share the love of God with others.

The Pastor's Message

I am writing this on "Black Friday," the busiest shopping day of the year, a day when many of us thread our way through the maze of crowds at malls in search of Christmas bargains. It will be interesting to see whether, with the economic recession our country is presently experiencing, it will be as wild and crazy a shopping spree as it has been in recent years. As much as I hope for a stimulus to the economy, the deeper wish of my heart is that this year may provide us with the opportunity to rediscover the true meaning of Christmas and the joys of simple living.

I love the Christmas season -- the crisp winter air, a fire in the fireplace, the delightful aromas of cooking, the lights in the windows of houses, the crèche, tree, and Advent wreath in our sanctuary, even the shopping (when it's not too crowded and crazy). It is a time to be together in church, and it is a time to gather together as a family. This year Darlene and I will have all of our children and all of our grandchildren with us for Christmas. This happens so rarely that we don't mind in the least that our house will be bursting at the seams! It also leads us to remember those who will be alone on Christmas Day and to say a little prayer for them.

From a sacred and liturgical perspective, the Advent/Christmas season is a wonderful time of year in the best sense of that word -- a time to reflect on the wonder of life and the wonder of God's gift to us. This year, once again, I resolve to get everything done early enough to be able to enjoy the last few weeks, especially the sacred silence that sometimes touches me during our Christmas Eve candlelight service.

Christmas can bring out the best in a person. It can bring out the best in a church. When we read the Christmas story, there is no doubt that it brought out the best in the wise men, who made their pilgrimage to Bethlehem and who humbled themselves before a little child. It brought out the best in the shepherds, who were granted the honor of being the first to see the newborn king. And it must have brought out the best in Joseph, who discovered the true meaning of love, who

honored his commitment to his wife-to-be even though he must have had some serious misgivings about what had happened and some confusion about what was happening.

What will this Christmas bring to us, and what will it bring out in us? To some it will bring the joy of giving, of sharing what we have and who we are with others, while for others it will just bring stress. To some it will bring light and warmth, while darkness and cold will reign in the hearts of others. Some of us will rejoice at the presence of loved ones, while others will feel the loss of loved ones more poignantly. Some will experience the true meaning of Christmas, while others will leave this blessed season relatively untouched by its message.

As we enter into this Advent season, with its call to prepare ourselves to receive God's great gift to us in Christ, let us try to be open to its message. In all the busyness of this season, let us remember to not only await but to prepare ourselves to receive the gifts of hope, peace, joy, love, and light that are symbolized in our Advent candles. It is in both the receiving and the sharing of these gifts that we incarnate the true meaning of Christmas.

May you and your loved ones receive and then share the true gifts of Christmas in this blessed season and throughout the year to come.

Faithfully yours,
The Reverend Paul D. Sanderson

Adult Bible Study

The Adult Bible Study group meets on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of every month from 9:15 – 10:30 AM in the Vestry. We are presently reading and discussing the Gospel of John, trying to discern its message for our own spiritual journey, for our society, and for the life and ministry of our church.

The Bible study is open to all. No background in biblical knowledge is required. You don't even need to own a Bible (Bibles are provided by the church). Please join us for a time of fellowship, study, and sharing as we seek to strengthen not only our understanding of our religion but also our personal faith.

Missions Offering

Our Mission Offering for December is given to the Salvation Army through our church "Christmas Card." We continue our long tradition of this program in lieu of sending individual Christmas cards to members of the congregation whom we see regularly. If you would like your name to be included on this card, which will be sent to all those members and friends of our church family who are on our mailing list, please make your donation no later than Sunday, December 11. This will insure that your name will appear on the special holiday greetings that will be enclosed with the Pastor's Christmas Letter. If you have a pledge box, please use the special envelope provided in it. Or you can make a check payable to the church, (note on it "Salvation Army") and give it to Jim Holmes or place it in the



offering plate. This is a great way to extend Christmas greetings to everyone in our church family and support a very worthy cause in the process.



The “miracle” of Christmas is repeated over and over again through the joy of caring and sharing. The traditional red kettle is an integral part of the Christmas scene, with millions of dollars donated each year to aid needy families, seniors, and the homeless, in keeping with the spirit of the season.

Donations provide Christmas dinners, clothing, and toys for families in need. Financial assistance also helps with basic necessities, along with seasonal aid. Families of prisoners often are included.

Volunteers distribute gifts to shut-ins in hospitals and nursing homes, and shelters are open for sit-down dinners. The Salvation Army endeavors to bring spiritual light and love to those it serves at Christmas so that the real meaning of the season is not forgotten.

Many families receive aid over a period of months after the Christmas season as well, people struggling with difficult family, emotional, or employment problems.

The following is a letter that was received by The Salvation Army. It is from a young mother living in a teen housing program, writing with a few simple requests for her little boy. The Salvation Army notes that the requests for assistance they receive are not wish lists for the latest designer fashions, jewelry, electronic games, or even new bicycles. They are for warm coats to protect against the winter chill, enough food for a nice Christmas meal, and maybe a toy or a book for the children to open on Christmas morning.

Dear Salvation Army,

I'm a single mother with no family support. I am low-income, but I would like my son to have a memorable Christmas. The struggle's not so bad, but during the holidays it hurts that I can't provide my son with the things he needs and wants.

My son is an adorable 2-year-old named Isaiah. I'm in real need for Isaiah to have a booster car seat. He's outgrown the car seat I have now. Isaiah also enjoys books and song tapes.

We could really use some blankets for this cold weather.

I want to thank you for reading this letter and in advance for your kindness and generosity.

*Sincerely,
Isaiah and Patricia*

Let's help Patricia make this Christmas a memorable one for herself as well as Isaiah by letting her know that people care. Let's make our gift to The Salvation Army through our Church Christmas Card a very special gift this year.

The Season Of Advent



This year the sacred liturgical season of Advent began Sunday, November 27. This is always a special time in the life and worship of our church. We begin to sing the Christmas carols that are so much a part of our tradition, one each week until Christmas Eve. Our sanctuary is always decorated so nicely thanks to the artistic touch of David Sickles.

In our worship we usually focus on a theme that helps us to prepare for the celebration and the experience of Christmas. This year we will be reflecting on how we can facilitate the advent or coming of the five great gifts or experiences of Christmas, the gifts of faith that are symbolized by the five candles in our Advent wreath.

November 27	The Advent of Hope
December 4	The Advent of Peace
December 11	The Advent of Joy
December 18	The Advent of Love
Christmas Eve	The Advent of Christ
Christmas Day	The Celebration of the Birth of Christ

Please join us during this special and blessed season as we prepare to receive the Christ child into our lives.

This year we have another special gift – Christmas Day falls on a Sunday! What better way to celebrate Christmas, the true meaning of Christmas, than by gathering together to celebrate Christ's birth on Christmas Day!

Report Of The Diaconate

At our November meeting, we talked about how to reach out to people in surrounding communities to invite them into our community of faith at First Community Church. We have been listening to members of our church talk about what our church means to them. Listening to them reminds us all of what a rich and meaningful Christian community we are blessed to have here at First Community. Moreover, we would like for others who do not know about our wonderful church to learn about us. We will continue to explore ways to reach out to others and would welcome thoughts from our extended church family.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 6 at 6:00 PM.

The Board of Deacons wishes to every one of you a Happy and Blessed Christmas!

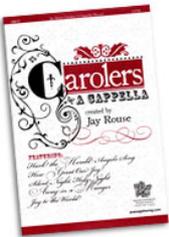
Bob L'Heureux, Chairman and Church Council Representative; Dianne Simmons, Secretary; Joyce Harrington, Treasurer; Robert Farmer, Beverly Lees, and Scott McKeen

The Advent Event **POTLUCK** *Supper*

& Tree Lighting Sing-A-Long

Saturday, December 3, 2011 6:00 PM

You are cordially invited to celebrate with us the beginning of this joyful season at our traditional annual Advent Potluck Supper, hosted by your own First Community Church "Entertaining" choir. The evening will begin with the potluck supper – so many choices it will be hard to pick.



Then a first time event – A Christmas Tree Lighting and Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long in the Sanctuary. Then we head back down to the Vestry for some special surprises. You may want to bring your thinking caps, just in case.



Please plan to join us, bring a friend, a dish, and be ready for an entertaining and joy filled evening.

Admission -- A dish of food, (entree, appetizer, side dish, or salad - your specialty)
Desserts and drinks provided by the Choir.

Please sign up on the posted sheet in the Vestry. If you would like a ride to the Advent Event, don't hesitate to call Jim and Cheryl Holmes (508-460-0142).

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Let us welcome our Savior into the world and into our lives on Christmas Eve as we gather for our traditional service of lessons and carols, as we both "receive the light" and share it with each other.

Join us on Saturday, December 24 at 6:30 PM.

What Do You Know About Alzheimer's Disease?

More than 5.1 million Americans have been diagnosed with this disease. Maybe a loved one, a relative, a friend or an acquaintance suffers from Alzheimer's. Do you know how to react? Do you know how to help the carepartners?



Joanne Koenig Coste

Join us on Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM on December 7 at First Community Church when Joanne Koenig Coste, the author of *Learning to Speak Alzheimer's* will enlighten us on this disease. She presently serves as an international consultant to healthcare providers and as an outspoken advocate for Alzheimer disease (AD) patients and families.

Living with Memory-impairment & Caring for the Carepartner

We are living in a time when carepartner's burn out from the act of loving at a rate that is staggering! For every patient who succumbs to a memory-impaired disease or dementia, there may also be a carepartner who will lose their life from the issues that surround the act of caring for a loved one with a dementing process.

Carepartnering (the patient / caregiver relationship) in the upcoming years will bring moments of pain, celebration, doubt, fear, and joy. There will be days of saying, "this is the best thing I've ever done" and days of saying, "get me out of here." There will be additional strains on family relationships, finances, and dynamics but there also will be more knowledge, more human service programs, and more family support.

The idea of this presentation is to discover a positive interaction based on reordering priorities: not dreams for tomorrow but hopes for this hour's peace; not the perfectly coordinated home but painting the bathroom red if it helps him find the toilet; not trying to bring her into our reality but living for moments in her new world; not mourning the failures created by the disease but creating chances for success to happen; not focusing on lost abilities but capitalizing on remaining skills; not questioning, chastising, or reasoning but finding peace in his current time and place; and, most importantly, not hearing the failing words but listening to the emotion behind them.

When we learn and employ new carepartnering skills, we, the carepartner's, will endure a more positive journey. Throughout it all, whatever kind of caregiver we may be, each of us can learn to listen when words can no longer be spoken, to hear messages from deep within a loved one's eyes, and to provide the kind of loving care that transcends illness and applauds humanness.

Joanne is a past Chairman for the Board of Directors Mass. Chapter of the Alzheimer's Assoc and since 1977 has been facilitating support groups for both patients and for family members. More than 3 decades ago, Joanne designed the program and environment for one of the first Alzheimer specialized buildings in the U.S.

She has been selected by Readers Digest as a National Health Hero along with others: Katie Couric, Oprah Winfrey, & Rosalynn Carter. She was featured on NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw in January 2000 as a Woman to Watch in the 21st Century for her pioneering efforts on behalf of AD patients and families.

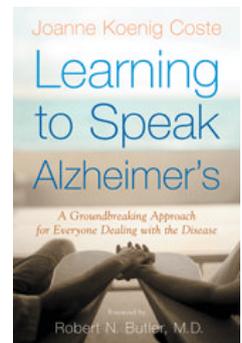
Joanne has appeared on many radio & TV programs across the country - NBC Today Show, NPR Talk of the Nation, The NY Times, and many other media venues. In 2001, Joanne Koenig Coste was inducted into The International Society of Poets.

Joanne is founder of The Program Directors' Alliance – a grassroots organization designed to elevate the status of those working with AD patients in the community. With an undergraduate degree in Education and Masters Degree in Counseling & Psychology, she is a member of the faculty at Cambridge College.

Currently Joanne is a contributing writer to: the AFA magazine Care ADvantage; Caring.com, a website for caregivers; the medical website WebMD; the South Shore (MA) Senior Newsletter; and the American Journal of Alzheimers among others.

She is the renowned author of the best-selling Learning to Speak Alzheimer's, currently available in three European countries, Australia, and Japan. Learning to Speak Alzheimer's has been selected by the World Health Organization for Medical School libraries across the country.

Recently, the training video also titled Learning To Speak Alzheimer's received international recognition with such awards as the prestigious WorldFest, Aurora, and Telly for excellence in educational filming.



Please help us help others!

First Community Church Shopping List for December

For the month of December, we will be collecting all donations that are appropriate and you are willing to give. Choose from the list below or consider making a check out to First Community Church of Southborough with a note earmarking it "Southborough Food Pantry."

Sugar Flour Cookies Crackers Parmalat Milk

The collection box is located next to the L'il Shoppe for you to drop off your items.

A Blast From The Past

125 Years Ago

1886 – December

- ♦ The story is told of a good Methodist brother, an itinerant, who sought shelter for the night at a certain farmhouse. The woman demurred, but there had been a long drought, and when the minister suggested that his prayers might move the Lord to send the rain, she consented to let him stay. In the night, the floods came, and when the good woman came down in the morning and found her fences and chicken coops had sailed off for parts unknown, she was much cast down. “I might have known better,” said the poor woman, as she cast a rueful glance out of the window. “I might have known better than to let a Methodist come into my house, for they always go into everything with all their might, and I don’t want any of ‘em to pray any more for rain for my benefit - no, never - if the land dries up till it cracks open.”

100 Years Ago

1911 – December

- ♦ An oyster supper will be given in the Congregational vestry to be followed by a farce entitled “If morning glory wins.” There will also be singing. Supper at 6:30 o’clock Tuesday evening, December 10th. Fifteen cents a plate. Ten cents for children.
- ♦ Congregational Church: Rev. Arden M. Rockwood, pastor; Sunday school: 1:30 PM; Preaching by pastor: 2:45; Evening service: 7:00 PM. Thursday evening prayer meeting at 7:30 PM.

75 Years Ago

1936 – December

- ♦ December 8th A special meeting of the Southville Federated Church was held to discuss the plans of alteration of the front of the Church. It was unanimously voted that the changes be made. Mrs. Twombly was elected chairman of a committee to raise the necessary funds. (Historians note: No mention of what the changes were. Possibly inside front of the Church?)

50 Years Ago

1961 – December

- ♦ On Sunday afternoon, December 17th, the Church School presented their gift to the church, the pageant “Why the Chimes Rang.” Mrs. John Dewey and Mrs. Charles Masterman coached and directed the pageant, which left a lasting impression on all.
- ♦ The Women’s Fellowship met in December “with its cold chilling winds, bringing only warm fellowship as we filled Christmas baskets for the shut-ins. Thanks were extended to all workers on the fair and fair supper. The meeting was concluded with a Christmas party and gifts were exchanged.”

25 Years Ago

1986 – December

- ♦ On December 7th, the following joined our Church: Gail Clark; Lee Clark; and Janice Norcross.

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- ◆ Total Membership Dec. 31st, 1986: Active: 80; Inactive: 33. Total: 113.

10 Years Ago

2001 – December

- ◆ Church council met on December 11th.
 - ◆ Christmas pageant held on December 23rd.
 - ◆ On December 9th Pastor Sanderson presented a Tibetan slide show.
 - ◆ Total Membership Dec. 31st, 2001: Active: 49; Inactive: 17. Total: 66
-

From The Desk Of The Collector

Contribution statements showing donations made through November 6 were handed out to those who pledged in 2011, with the remainder mailed immediately. We are now in the midst of our 2012 Stewardship Drive. For the benefit of those who have not pledged at our Church, and a refresher for those who have, here are a few pointers:

- ❖ Reminder that, to be tabulated as a 2011 donation, we need to receive your offering by Sunday, December 25, 2011.
- ❖ Your box of envelopes for 2012 will be ready for pickup on December 18. If you have not pledged and would still like the convenience of the envelopes, please speak to me in advance and I will make sure there is one for you.
- ❖ Inside your box you will find the usual 52 weekly, dated envelopes for use to help in meeting your 2012 pledge. People contribute differently. Some weekly - some monthly - Whatever works for you is fine with us. We do see a larger collection the beginning of the month when many of those making monthly contributions contribute. That works well for the Church Treasurer as it assures he has a jump on meeting that month's bills.
- ❖ You will also see a Diaconate envelope at the beginning of every month. That money is for use at the discretion of the Board of Deacons. It is not part of a pledge, not recorded by the Collector and not part of the budget. It may be turned in any time during the month.
- ❖ Next, for your convenience, you will also find a monthly special "Mission envelope." The Missions are selected by the Diaconate each year and are an excellent mix of local, national and world missions. These are also not part of the Church budget or pledge. The Church has strived to reach a 10% mission level and has surpassed that wonderful goal in recent years.
- ❖ In late January 2012, the final contribution statements will be given out or mailed.

Thank you for your generous contributions to the support of our Church ministry and its outreach.

Jim Holmes
Collector



To Ralph Claflin who recently had a number of his paintings featured at an art exhibition at the McCoy Gallery at Merrimack College in North Andover, MA.

The following are excerpts taken from the brochure at this special event:

“Ralph Claflin has been exploring themes of medieval history, the early church and stories in the Old and New Testaments in a painting career that has been courageously focused and unwavering for years. Very few contemporary painters have given such extensive energy to these themes, but Claflin has attended to his subjects with artistic manners that incorporate graphic sophistication, historical seriousness, humor and a capacity for visual narration. If the current interest in the graphic novel were to confine itself to the single image, Ralph Claflin’s paintings would be more than apt models.”

“The paintings that make up this exhibition are a part of a large gift that Ralph Claflin is presenting to Merrimack College, which we are extremely fortunate and grateful to receive. Claflin’s paintings incorporate much that fits within the College mission in terms of its commitment to the subject of religion and religious history as well as for Claflin’s fresh vision of a past that has too rarely been celebrated in contemporary art.”

Away In The Manger



Heightened activity has been the theme all fall. Schools reopened, multiple holidays beckoned with attendant responsibilities, Church activities resumed with renewed vigor - so many demands on our time, talents, and sensibilities. Mind boggling, yet we manage to navigate through the hecticness with positive spirits, purposeful attention, and lighthearted anticipation.

Perhaps this is because the final month of the season and the year, December, is so special to our faith and being. December heralds Advent, beginning the last week in November and continuing to Christmas - Jesus’ birth as a human being.

Advent is the joyous celebration as well as preparation in anticipation of Jesus’ humanity, the reason for our faith, hope, joy, love and peace as represented by the candles of the Advent Wreath. It is a time to reflect, gather together as a church and experience the symbolism of the

Advent candle lighting ceremony each Sunday morning starting November 27, and ending on Christmas Eve, December 24.

The hecticness will still prevail all around us but, perhaps our faith and connection with God, our Father, will override the secular challenges of the season and allow us to totally appreciate, enjoy, and celebrate the unimaginable wonder of our faith's beginning foundations, the story of Christmas occurring on that cold night in a crude manger where a tiny infant named Jesus was born.

Join us in this experience of Christmas. Let it put you in touch with your own spiritual being. Your church welcomes you always, and especially now during Advent, to celebrate with us the miracle of Jesus' human birth in that lowly manger. It was and is the original and truest Christmas gift we could ever have received.

Have a Blessed Christmas Season!

Guest Columnist
Martha Hubley

With Our Sincerest Sympathies



Our heartfelt sympathies to the Riggles' families for the loss of Jill Ellen (Fiorini) Riggles. Jill, 57, passed away on Thursday, November 10 at Middlesex Hospital in Durham CT, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Jill, a former member of First Community Church who also served on the Diaconate, leaves her husband, Elven W. Riggles, Jr. who served as pastor of both our church as well as Pilgrim Church.

She also leaves her children, Meredith Jean Huntley and her husband, Matthew, Elizabeth "Posey" Lucy Riggles, John Alexander Riggles and many other close family members.

Our deepest prayers are with Elven, his children, and all of the Riggles' families.

Women's Fellowship

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5

At our past November meeting, we filled in our meeting schedule up to May 2012. Sandy McKeen gave an update on the plans for our Wednesday, December 7 program with guest speaker Joanne Koenig Coste, the author of *Learning to Speak Alzheimer's*. Copies of flyers were being distributed to the members of the United Parishes of Southborough community by way of our Representative, Bob L'Heureux. These flyers will in turn be brought to their

respective churches to make more people aware of this special program to be held right here at First Community Church of Southborough.

Sandy also contacted Linda Hubley, Editor and owner of “*southboroughnews.com*” who has posted the information on her website. David Crane is working on a sign to place on the St. Mark’s property. Light refreshments of punch and cookies will be served after the program.

With our donated baskets, we filled 16 “Sunshine Baskets” to distribute to some of our shut-ins and other friends. A big thank you to all the women who baked and provided lots of goodies for these baskets.

Looking ahead to our Christmas Table Fundraiser, the following people will be responsible for overseeing the sales:

December 4 - Mattie Cummings

December 11 - Helen Varney

December 18 - Martha Hubley

Looking far ahead, we made plans for the Annual Meeting meal in February, a lunch of soups and sandwiches.

Soup	Sandwiches	Dessert	Misc
Helen Varney Corn Chowder	Beverly Lees Egg salad	Thelma Oakes Apple crisp	Sandy McKeen Crackers
Karin Farmer Potato Leek	Martha Hubley Chicken salad		
Marlene Joe Minestrone	Mattie Cummings Tuna salad		

A reminder to all ladies of the church that you are welcome to the Women’s Fellowship Christmas Party that will be held on Sunday December 11, in the Vestry beginning at 1:00 PM. Please bring your favorite finger food and a gift for the Yankee Gift Swap. (\$5.00 limit)

We look forward to seeing you there.

Mattie Cummings
Secretary

Spiritual Exploration Reading

Monday Afternoons with Rev. Sanderson

The Monday afternoon Spiritual Exploration Reading Group will meet on Monday, December 5 and December 12 from 2:30 – 4:00 PM in the Vestry. The group will resume again sometime in February and begin with a new book.

Spiritual Study & Growth Group

**Thursday Evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 PM
Led By Rev. Sanderson**

Our Spiritual Study and Growth Group will be meeting on December 1 and December 8. These will be our last evenings until we resume in February with a new subject to be determined.

Our Gifts We Bring

<i>MISSIONS – NOVEMBER 2011</i>		
	COLLECTED	DISBURSED
Straight Ahead Ministries	\$515.00	\$515.00
Assabet Valley Pastoral Counseling	\$220.00	\$220.00
Abby's House	\$410.00	\$410.00
Worcester County Food Bank	\$350.00	\$350.00
Church World Service	\$325.00	\$325.00
Love Loaves-Heifer Project	\$20.00	\$0
Love Loaves-World Vision	\$45.00	\$0
Heifer Project	\$355.00	\$375.00
Rape Crisis Center	\$575.00	\$575.00
Haiti – His Royal Ministry	\$540.00	\$540.00
Haiti Earthquake Relief	\$160.00	\$140.00
Stop Girl Trafficking Project (American Himalayan Foundation)	\$325.00	\$325.00
Tibet Mission	\$312.50	\$0
World Vision	\$215.00	\$0
Salvation Army	\$15.00	\$0
TOTALS	\$4,382.50	\$3,775.00

Robert Farmer
Treasurer

From The Editor

The deadline for the January-February 2012 Newsletter will be **Tuesday, January 3.** Remember to include any dates for meetings or events you would like listed on the calendar.

Articles and/or dates for the calendar may be submitted to Cheryl Holmes by:



(508) 460-0142



244 Flanders Road
Westborough, MA 01581



caholmes@charter.net

Oh The Weather Outside Is Frightful....



Our general policy as a church is to try to hold worship whenever we can, if only for a few people. We believe that if you want to make the effort to attend on a snowy day, we should be there for you. However, we wouldn't want you to be hurt either walking or driving to church in inclement weather. We also need to remember that our Pastor and our Organist come from quite a distance. It may be a lot easier for some of us to get to the church than it would be for them. Above all, we don't want you to end up driving to church on a snowy or icy day only to find that church has been cancelled.

In anticipation of snowy or icy days, when we would not want people to go out, the Diaconate and the Minister have put together a policy and procedure for the cancellation of our Sunday service. The decision of whether to hold or cancel church because of weather will be made by the Pastor, who lives in Foxborough; the Moderator – Lou Dundin, who lives in Grafton; and Bob L'Heureux, Chairman of the Diaconate who lives in Southborough.

We will not post the cancellation on the telephone tape at the church number because that would entail someone trekking to the church and re-recording the message. We will also not be posting it on our website.

Notice of the cancellation will appear on the three Boston television stations:

Channel 4 (WBZ) -- Channel 5 (WCVB) -- Channel 7 (WHDH)

In addition, WBZ News Radio will read the list of cancellations twice every hour – at :05 and at :35 past the hour. We are listed as “First Community Church – Southborough.”

The decision will be made and the cancellation will be called in to these stations by 8:30 AM Sunday morning by the Pastor, who alone has the secret, encrypted code numbers that enable our church to appear on the cancellation list for each station.



Christmas Prayer

*Dear God,
 Let starshine light each heart.
 Let peace line the humble crib.
 Let love enfold this holy Child,
 His story told by angel choir.
 Oh, let all on earth together lift
 Adoration for this, Thy greatest gift.
 Amen.*

by Elizabeth Searle Lamb

Thank You

From Our Missions



Dear Members of First Community Church of Southborough,

I want to thank you for your generous contribution – especially appreciated in this challenging economy. Thanks to caring donors like you, Church World Service can provide food, water, and other necessities to families displaced by war or natural disasters. And with your help, we can also assist impoverished communities as they work to improve their farming techniques, develop reliable water sources, and build a more sustainable future.

While these are sobering days, I remain hopeful because of the creative, resilient men and women we assist around the world, and because of caring people like you, who empower us to act on your behalf in our wounded world. May God bless you for your compassionate support.

Faithfully yours,

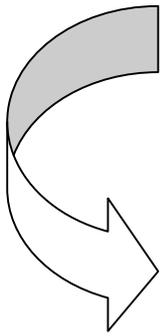
Rev. John L. McCullough
Executive Director and CEO

With Our Special Thanks To --

- ◆ David Sickles for so artfully decorating the sanctuary for the fall and Thanksgiving Season.
- ◆ Everyone who helped organize, bake pies and breads, advertise, make monetary donations, set up, and/or man our booth in front of Mauro's on Saturday, November 19 for our very successful Pie Sale. We raised \$607.00 for the General Fund.



(Photo Courtesy of Linda Hubley, Editor and Photographer of Southboroughnews.com)



LOOKING AHEAD

A Blessed New Year
2012

“Bunco Night”
January 2012
Date to be Announced



Write down these dates!!

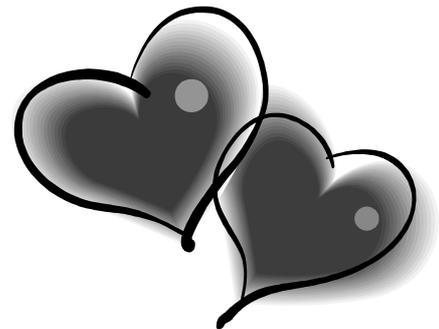


Birthdays

Gilbert Joe	2 nd
Nancy Hite	3 rd
Matthew Deschamps	11 th
Betty Tebbetts	12 th
Tanner Willman	13 th
Bayley Willman	18 th
Cheryl Holmes	19 th
Darcy Hilbert	20 th
Stacey Willman	21 st
Dick Varney	24 th
Justin Elias	27 th
Pat Davis	29 th

Anniversaries

Lynn & Scott Webster	23 rd
Dorothy & Michael Larson	24 th



CELEBRATIONS



Christmas in the Heart

*Have you sensed the charm of Christmas?
Have you seen the radiant star?
Heard the angels' alleluias
As they echo from afar?*

*Have you felt the pulse of church bells
In the magic, mystic air?
Grasped the tenor of excitement
That each being seems to share?*

*Have you glimpsed the sparkling radiance
In a child's bright eyes?
Have you awed in silent wonder
As you gazed at star-gemmed sky?*

*Have you marveled at the beauty
Of the caroler's sweet song?
Exchanged greetings, smiles, and laughter
As you walked amid the throng?*

*Have you thought about the manger
And the Babe that therein lay?
Has your heart swelled overflowing
With the love that came that day?*

*Then you have the Christmas spirit;
Never let its glow depart.
Peace and love will be your measure...
Always Christmas in your heart.*

by Esther Lloyd Daubert



For we are laborers together with God...(1 Corinthians 3:9)

Lay Leaders

December 4 - Bob Farmer
December 11 - Sandy McKeen
December 18 - Martha Hubley
December 25 - Mattie Cummings



Greeters

December 4 - Eileen Prefontaine
December 11 - Scott McKeen
December 18 - Zach Bird & Angie Delormier
Christmas Eve -
December 25 - Cathy Ten Eyck

Coffee Hour Hosts

December 4 - Sandy McKeen & Thelma Oakes
December 11 - Garcia, Roy, & Nigel Pinnock
December 18 - Eileen Prefontaine
December 25 - No Coffee Hour



Memorial Flowers

December 4 - Joan Brunelle
December 11 - Bob L'Heureux
December 18 - David Sickles
December 25 -



Deacons for December

Joyce Harrington and Dianne Simmons

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>December 2011</h1> <h2>Missions – Salvation Army</h2>				1	2	3
				7:00 PM Spiritual Study & Growth Group		 <i>Advent Potluck Supper 6:00 PM</i>
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service <i>Sacrament of Holy Communion</i> Coffee Hour following Worship Service	2:30 PM Spiritual Exploration Reading Group	5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM Diaconate Meeting	7:00 PM Guest Speaker Joanne Koenig Coste <i>“What Do You Know About Alzheimer’s?”</i>	7:00 PM Spiritual Study & Growth Group		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service Coffee Hour following Worship Service 1:00 PM Women’s Fellowship Christmas Party	2:30 PM Spiritual Exploration Reading Group	5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM Trustees Meeting		7:00 PM Church Council Meeting		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service Coffee Hour following Worship Service		5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	 HANUKKAH	 WINTER BEGINS		<i>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:30 PM</i> 
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
CHRISTMAS DAY 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service No Coffee Hour 						 NEW YEAR’S EVE