

The GOOD News

January

The Newsletter of the First Congregational Church of Haddam

2012

WHAT'S UP?

January 1, 2011

Epiphany

Worship 10:00 am

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

January 8

Baptism of Christ

Worship 10:00 am

Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

January 15

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Worship 10:00 am

1 Samuel 3:1-10
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

January 22

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Worship 10:00 am

Annual Meeting
after worship
Jonah 3:21-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

January 29

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Worship 10:00 am

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:32-38



ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

Annual Committee reports were due by the end of December. If yours is not in, please get it to the church office as soon as possible. Reports will be emailed again this year, and a small supply (about 25) hard copies will be on hand in the sanctuary. Please, if possible, print your own report at home. Thanks, the office harpy.

ANNUAL MEETING

The 312th annual meeting of the First Congregational Church of Haddam will take place on Sunday, January 22. Please be there for this significant meeting in the life of our congregation

Youth in 8th through 12th grade are going on a **Youth Services Opportunity Program** January 6 and 7. A group will go to New York City and work with programs that feed and house the homeless. Please pray for these youngsters while they are away.

WHAT'S NEW?



TEN WEEK BIBLE STUDY ON THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Beginning on January 22 and concluding on April 1, Pastor Michael will lead a Bible study from the book of Luke on Sunday evenings at 7 PM in the Lewis House. "Luke's gospel tells the story of this savior and of the truth that he brings. It is a truth that lays deep claims on the lives of those who would accept it, but that also provides salvation and life abundant" (Luke: Interpretation Bible Studies). A book will be provided for free to each participant.

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

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It is time for all of us to make our New Year resolutions, so let me offer these as possibilities for all of us to consider.

1. Healthier living for the New Year. Would anyone be interested in starting a support ministry in our church that would focus on diet and exercise?
2. Study the Bible on a daily basis. I will be offering a Bible study beginning January 22 at 7 PM on the Gospel of Luke.
3. Read more, watch TV less. Would you be interested in starting a book discussion group?
4. Think about why your faith is important and share it with a friend. Then invite them to church.
5. Think and talk more positively. Be less judgmental of self and others.
6. Find new ways to get involved in your faith community.
7. Let others know how grateful you are for what they do.
8. Get to know someone in the church whom you do not know.
9. Promise to pray for the ministries of the church, including the staff and the lay leaders.
10. Discover what unique gifts God has given to you and use those gifts for the benefit of others.

May you have a truly blessed and productive New Year!

Pastor Michael



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

The following children and youth will be celebrating a birthday this month:

Anna Mercier	January 2	Andrew Nichols	January 20
Alyson Campbell	January 6	Alexander Thompson	January 21
Audrey LaRosa	January 8	Mitchell Stack	January 24
Melissa Thompson	January 12	Colton Soneson	January 30

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



When you are hospitalized, you or your family members should notify the church as soon as possible. Upon admission to the hospital, you will be asked if you desire to have your religious affiliation as part of your medical record, and for permission to make your name available to clergy. Please state both your denomination and church name.

Please remember the following in your prayers: **Sally Marston**; **Liz Anderson**, who had a heart attack; **Helen Steinhilper**, Rob's mom as she recovers from knee surgery; **Larry Manning**, who broke his ankle; **Steven Geromin**, who has pneumonia; **Dottie Donigan**, Jan Berry's friend who had open heart surgery; **Bob Duval**, recovering from surgery; the Duvals' friend **Julie** awaiting a liver transplant; **Charles Mitchell**, Asst. manager of Amazing Grace diagnosed with lung cancer; **Andrea Deane** recovering at home.

MILESTONES

BAPTISM

Skylar Rayne Ford, daughter of Katie Corkum and Thomas Ford, was baptized on Dec. 24, 2011.

WEDDING

Kelly Popolizio and Michael Diana were married on Dec. 31, with Cynthia Nicastro presiding.



EMERGENCY CANCELLATION NOTICE

With winter upon us, it's wise to review the church's policy on church activity cancellations. If the weather is bad, you can check for cancellation notices of FCC-Haddam events by watching WFSB TV (CBS, channel 3) in Hartford or by tuning in WTIC (1080 AM) on your radio.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Total income for 2011 was \$194,724 which exceeded the budget by \$12,558. While 2011 pledge income was \$8,843 lower than expected, loose offerings and prior year pledges exceeded the budget by \$16,005. Also contributing to the surplus was the rental of the Trinity House (\$3,000), other unbudgeted facility rentals (\$963), and special gifts (\$1,035). Included in total income were a \$35,557 endowment distribution authorized by our By-Laws and a \$20,000 endowment grant authorized by the Governing Body at the May special congregational meeting.

Operating expenses were \$4,327 under budget. Electricity was \$1,266 under budget and heating oil \$3,146 under budget. We benefited from oil credits for unused gallons paid under our 2010 monthly payment plan. Repairs and maintenance exceeded budget by \$1,301 and office supplies by \$426 primarily due to higher copier expenses.

Salaries exceeded the budget by \$1,274 due primarily to an unexpected increase in the pastor's health insurance premium and because 13 annuity installments were paid rather than the budgeted 12 (the payments due Jan 1, 2011 and Jan 1, 2012 were both paid in 2011).

\$1,867 of 2010 expenses was paid in 2011. These expenses were for organ tuning and property casualty insurance. The end result is that the church had \$15,538 in net income for 2011 which will be carried into 2012 as retained earnings.

At year end, the checking account balance was \$15,815.52 and the restricted savings account balance was \$21,242.58. \$14,868.55 of restricted savings is the remaining balance of the flow through accounts which will be used to pay for 2012 Christian Education expenses, The Costa Rica Mission Trip, Christian Service Outreach, and Nursery School care and other expenses. Flow through account revenue comes from fund raising activities such as the quilt show, roast beef dinner, green envelopes, bread sales, and the tag sale, among others.

Walt Zilahy, Treasurer

COMMITTEES

Diaconate

New Flower and Acolyte Charts New charts are available. Please sign up if you would like to bring flowers on Sunday or if you are interested in becoming an acolyte. Please see Laurie Malone or Kristin Battistoni if you have any questions.

Christmas Flowers Thank you to everyone who ordered Christmas flowers. The church was beautiful. A special thanks to Laurie Malone and Ann Buracchi for ordering and arranging the flowers.

Caring Connection If you are interested in helping prepare a meal or in delivering a meal, please drop it off at the Lewis House during normal office hours (Wed. and Thurs. 9 to 2) or to Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings. Please label all food with contents and cooking instructions. This program is available to all members of the congregation. If you would like a meal delivered please talk to Pastor Michael or Kristin Battistoni. Please let us know if you or someone you know would like a meal delivered.

Visitation If you would like to receive a visit from the pastor or know of someone who is in need, please contact the church office or sign up in the church vestibule. If you are signing up a friend, please make sure they are aware they will be receiving a visit before you sign them up.

Bulletin Board Please note the bulletin board as you walk into church. It has been placed so that new important information and goings on in the church are easier to find. If you have something you would like to post please feel free to use the bulletin board.

Large Print Bulletins Did you forget your glasses? Large print bulletins as well as large print bibles are available. If you would like large copies of hymns, please let us know. Ask a deacon for a copy if you are interested.

Stewardship

The Stewardship formal campaign has been over for a month now and I can report that to date we have 45 commitments with a total of \$90,295.

We remain far from our goal of 70 commitments and \$120,000 but the good news is that folks who commit remain generous. We are very hopeful that those who have not committed will do so very soon. Our annual meeting is this month and of course the Prudential committee will be presenting our 2012 budget for the missions of First Congregational Church of Haddam. They would be able to do their work better if they had all commitments prior to the meeting.

Of equal importance to our committee is that we were able to convey to you the importance of sharing your time, talent and treasure as a member of the First Congregational Church of Haddam during our campaign. Your commitment to First Congregational Church of Haddam shows your generosity and your discipleship to Jesus Christ.

We hope you all enjoyed Christmas and will continue to share joy with each other and with our congregation as we enter into a new year. May each of us come to a better understanding of the abundance of good and God in our lives, and let us each continue to "Count Ourselves Blessed" and join actively in the Stewardship of our church.

Wishing you all good things,
The Stewardship Committee:

Cynthia Nicastro, Scott Thompson, John Anderson and Sue Twachtman

Christian Service

We hope you were able to visit the Christmas Quilt show on 12-3-2011. As the door to the sanctuary was opened, the only word that could express what I saw was WOW!! Check the church web site for terrific pictures of the event. THANK YOU to everyone who helped to make this event a success. The Quilt Show earned just over \$2000 which will be used for mission activities on behalf of the church. The committee is planning to have a quilt show next year and will begin working on it early in the year. Extra help is always appreciated. Come and lend a hand.

The Christian Service committee purchased new outfits for each child in our Christmas Family project. Warm hats and gloves were provided for all eight family members.

At the end of the year, the Christian Service committee donates money to various charities on behalf of the congregation. This year \$200 was sent to New Horizon's domestic violence program, \$200 to Middlesex coalition to end homelessness, \$150 to Middlesex Habitat for Humanity, and \$50 to the Middlesex Hospital Chaplaincy program.

Happy New Year-we wish you all a happy and healthy one.

Christian Education

Sunday School SCHEDULE

January 1 No Sunday School classes, No nursery coverage
January 8 Multi-age lesson, Nursery care provided
Jan 15-Feb 5 Jesus Teaches on the Mount Rotation, Nursery provided

Christmas Pageant



On Sunday, December 11th, over forty Sunday school children presented the traditional Christmas Story during the morning worship. A big thank you to all the children and youth that participated in this wonderful production.

After the pageant, families enjoyed a joyous Christmas party in Fellowship Hall. There were lots of delicious food and crafts projects for all.

The CE committee would like to thank everyone who helped at rehearsals, the morning of the pageant, and with the Christmas party that followed. A special thank you to Liz Anderson for directing the pageant once again this year.

Teacher's Meeting

There will be a meeting for all teachers and assistants for the rotation, *Jesus Teaches on the Mountain*, on Sunday, January 15th at 9:15 a.m. in the Lewis House. Lesson plans will be emailed to the teachers by January 6th.

Hat and Mitten Tree

This year's hat and mitten collection was once again a big success. We had over 50 items donated! Thank you to all who donated hats & mittens (we had over 20 hand knit items!)

Thank you to all who donated Christmas gifts for the family of eight that the church "adopted" through Youth and Family Services. If you didn't get a chance to see all the wonderful gifts that were given, you missed quite a sight! The area before the chancel was overflowing with the congregation's generosity. Thank you to the Christian Service committee for purchasing pants/shirts/hats & mittens for all six children! Thank you, also, to the people who also donated gently used winter coats, toys, clothes, and furniture. You made one family's Christmas very joyous this year!

Middle School Youth Group

January 22nd – Bowling at Old Saybrook Lanes following church.

February 4th – Souper Bowl of Caring Service Blitz at St. Vincent De Paul

February 5th – Souper Bowl of Caring collection

COMMUNITY NEWS

Do You Want to Know More About Some of the Issues Facing Your Child?

In October of 2011, local parents of Haddam and Killingworth youth came together for a free four part series, The Courage to Speak-Courageous Parenting 101®. Parents learned effective communication strategies; gained confidence to talk to their children about the dangers of drugs; gained understanding of how to set clear rules and boundaries with their children related to use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs; and gain confidence in knowing how to deal with substance use among their children. This series was well attended by parents who would like to an information receiving/sharing group for parents continue.

This group will be continuing once monthly on the third Wednesday of the month from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Haddam Killingworth Middle School. New parents/guardians are welcome. The first meeting will be on January 18, 2012. The group will be facilitated by Liz Young, Guidance Counselor at Haddam-Killingworth Middle School, and Cheryl Chandler, Director of Youth and Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth. If school is cancelled for any reason (weather), the meeting will be also. The group is free, but please pre-register by calling 860-345-7498.

The Healthy Communities-Healthy Kids Coalition is hosting the Race to Nowhere on Tuesday, January 10, 2012

At the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School in the auditorium at 7pm-9pm. Admission is free for this event. Race to Nowhere is the story of what happens when, through healthy, normal, developmental needs, a gap develops between inner needs and the high stakes, unyielding demands of today's preparation for young people to enter society. It is a groundbreaking documentary feature film that examines the colossal price being paid, by today's students, for the achievement-obsessed way of life that permeates America. A community discussion will follow the documentary. The snow date for this event is January 11, 2012. For more information or questions please visit www.hc-hk.org or call Prevention Coordinator, Kathryn Glendon at 860-345-7498.