

CHURCH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday -	December 14 –Children’s Pageant at 10 – No Sunday School
8:30	Worship, Rev. Linda Barnes preaching
10:00	Worship, Children’s Christmas Pageant
11:15	Junior Choir Rehearsal
11:45	Hand Chimes Rehearsal
Monday -	December 15
10:15	Bible Study (Office)
	Mom’s Group – Pepper Barn (Call Liza Ringuette for time)
7:00	Boy Scouts (Stage)
7:30	AA Meeting (Library)
Tuesday -	December 16
3:30	Tai Chi (Stage)
7:00	Diaconate
Wednesday-	December 17
10:00	My Brother’s Keeper (Jerusalem)
6:30	Study Group (Liberty Hall)
7:00	Yoga (Stage)
7:30	AA Step Meeting (Library)
Thursday -	December 18
10:00	AA (Library)
7:00	Senior Choir Rehearsal
Friday -	December 19
6:30	Family Event – Happy Birthday Jesus (Stage)
Saturday -	December 20
9:00	AA/AI-Anon (Stage/Jerusalem/Library)
Sunday -	December 21
8:30	Worship, Rev. Linda Barnes preaching
10:00	Worship, Candle and Carol Cantata
11:15	Junior Choir Rehearsal
11:45	Hand Chimes Rehearsal
12:30	Discipleship (Lounge)

OFFICE HOURS You may reach the church administrative assistant (Tom Evans) at the church office at 537-5189. Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 10:30 am – 3:30 pm. Church office email is colchesterfederate@sbcglobal.net. (note: no second “d”). Email for Rev. Linda Barnes is Lubarnes6@sbcglobal.net. *When the office is closed, you are welcome to call Rev. Barnes on her cell phone at 860-334-6790.*

Bulletin deadline is Tues. noon each week.
JANUARY Crier deadline WAS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12th.
(If you have something to get in, drop it off in the office today or email it by Monday morning.)

PLEDGE CAMPAIGN STATUS:

1. We have now received 58 pledge commitments, including 8 new pledging units.
2. Commitments received to date total \$98,410.
3. Compared to last year at this point, we had 62 commitments received for a total of \$117,298.
4. A final total of 77 pledge commitments were received at the end of last year’s campaign for a total of \$132,130.

We greatly appreciate all those who have returned their pledge sheets and time and talent cards. **If you have not returned yours, we would encourage you to do so at your earliest convenience** in the offering plate or to the church office. The Ministry of Stewardship is currently planning the 2009 budget, and we need your support! Extra pledge sheets and time and talent cards are available in the narthex.

The campaign committee realizes that this is a difficult year economically. If all who are able can share in the financial responsibility, you will be helping to maintain our church building, support our staff, and support the invaluable ministry and missions of our church. If you have further questions, please contact Steve Bradstreet, assistant treasurer, or Diane Capasso. Thank-you!

WORSHIP AT THE COLCHESTER FEDERATED CHURCH

www.ColchesterFederatedChurch.org Phone 537-5189

Rev. Dr. Linda U. Barnes, Pastor

Patricia Korenkiewicz, Director of Music

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2008

8:30 a.m.

TOLLING OF THE BELLS *(During the Prelude prayerfully prepare for worship.)*

PRELUDE God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen Sorenson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING THE PEACE The Peace of Christ be with you... And also with you.

INTROIT Once in Royal David's City Rev. Barnes, flute

UNISON CALL TO WORSHIP

Rejoice always! Let us rejoice with all our hearts.

God is in our midst and rejoices over us with gladness!

Lift up your hearts in praise and thanksgiving.

Come let us worship God.

INVOCATION Leader: God of all generations, You sent John the Baptizer to prepare the way for the coming of Jesus, the Christ.

People: Prepare the way of the Lord.

Leader: Like the crowds gathered at the river Jordan, we, too, are filled with questions and expectations;

People: Prepare the way of the Lord...

Leader: In this Advent time, we prepare for the time when you will dwell among us in human form, when you will come as the true Light that will enlighten the whole world.

People: Prepare the way of the Lord...

Leader: So, then, may our hearts be filled with joy and may we sing praises for all you have done on earth.

People: Prepare the way of the Lord...

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY

Leader: We have lit again the two candles in our Advent wreath, to remind us of God's gifts of hope and peace. Today we will light the third candle, representing joy.

People: **The book of Isaiah describes the joy that will come with the dawning of Shalom. The broken hearted will be healed, the captives released, grief will turn to gladness, and justice will come to all the people**

Leader: Jesus came to bring good news to the poor, sight to the blind, and release to the captives. We light this candle in joy and thanksgiving for the gift of Jesus who sets us free. *(Light the third candle.)*

People: **O God, help us to remember that true joy comes when the lowly are lifted up, when the hungry are filled with good things, and relationships are restored. May your love flow through us, out into the world, giving birth to great joy.**

*OPENING HYMN

Lift Up Your Heads

#8

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: In this Season of Advent, we are called to wait.

Waiting is hard... We expect things instantly...

We are very busy, and there is so much to do.

People: **Calm us down, O God. Help us to listen to the voices of this season.**

Help us to be open to Jesus coming into our lives in a new way.

Help us to be patient with one another, and with ourselves.

Hear us now, O God, as we pray in silence, asking for strength, for patience.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God promises to be with us, always—to turn our deserts into gardens of blessing.

Let us be patient therefore, and trust in God. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI **No. 579**

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 *(p 603)*; Psalm 126 *(p 499)*; John 1:6-8 *(p 862)*

SERMON

Shouts of Joy

*HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

#23

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (trespasses)

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY The Holly and The Ivy Keveren

*DOXOLOGY **All praise, eternal Christ, to thee
Whose Advent sets thy people free:
Once more upon thy people shine,
And fill the world with love divine. Amen (*tune of #591*)**

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Receive these gifts and use them by the power of your Spirit to spread your love throughout the world. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN **God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen** insert

BENEDICTION (*Please form a circle in the center aisle for the benediction.*)

Leader: Go forth as preparers and proclaimers and dreamers!

Let us go to make ready for the birth of Christ in our midst.

Let us go to announce the Good News of Christ's coming.

And may the blessing of God, who created the world and all that lives,

the blessing of the Child, who releases in us new visions of hope,

the blessing of the Holy Spirit, who guides us into new ways of living

be with us all, now and forever. Amen.

POSTLUDE Carol of the Bells Keveren

**Indicates that all who are able may stand*

WORSHIP AT THE COLCHESTER FEDERATED CHURCH

www.ColchesterFederatedChurch.org Phone 537-5189

Rev. Dr. Linda U. Barnes, Pastor

Patricia Korenkiewicz, Director of Music

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

December 14, 2008

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen Sorenson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING THE PEACE The Peace of Christ be with you... And also with you.

UNISON CALL TO WORSHIP

**Rejoice always! Let us rejoice with all our hearts.
God is in our midst and rejoices over us with gladness!
Lift up your hearts in praise and thanksgiving.
Come let us worship God.**

INVOCATION

Leader: God of all generations, You sent John the Baptizer to prepare the way for the coming of Jesus, the Christ.

People: Prepare the way of the Lord.

Leader: Like the crowds gathered at the river Jordan, we, too, are filled with questions and expectations;

People: Prepare the way of the Lord...

Leader: In this Advent time, we prepare for the time when you will dwell among us in human form, when you will come as the true Light that will enlighten the whole world.

People: Prepare the way of the Lord...

Leader: So, then, may our hearts be filled with joy and may we sing praises for all you have done on earth.

People: Prepare the way of the Lord...

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY by the Sanford family

Child: We have lit again the two candles in our Advent wreath, to remind us of God's gifts of hope and peace. Today we will light the third candle, representing joy.

Adult: The book of Isaiah describes the joy that will come with the dawning of Shalom. The broken hearted will be healed, the captives released, grief will turn to gladness, and justice will come to all the people

Child: Jesus came to bring good news to the poor, sight to the blind, and release to the captives. We light this candle in joy and thanksgiving for the gift of Jesus who sets us free. *(Child and adult light the third candle.)*

Congregational Prayer: O God, help us to remember that true joy comes when the lowly are lifted up, when the hungry are filled with good things, and relationships are restored. May your love flow through us, out into the world, giving birth to great joy.

*OPENING HYMN **Lift Up Your Heads** #8

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Holy and Loving God, we come to worship today full of excitement and anticipation. It is almost time to celebrate the birth of your Child, Jesus.

People: **Help us to see the love all around us in family and friends. Help us to understand the special love that came into the world in the birth of Jesus.**

Leader: Sometimes we're so busy thinking about gifts--we forget that we ourselves are gifts--meant to be shared with others around us.

People: **We're sorry we sometimes forget what Christmas is for. Slow us down, turn us in the right direction so that we are ready to be surprised and amazed at the birth of your Child, Jesus—Emmanuel, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: One fact remains unchanging—God has loved us, is loving us, and will always love us. That's the good news that brings us new life.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

*GLORIA PATRI

SCRIPTURE 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 *(p 961)* Dylan Bausum

CALL TO OFFERING & OFFERTORY The Holly and The Ivy Keveren

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION **Receive these gifts and use them by the power of your Spirit to spread your joy throughout the world. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen**

THE PAGEANT **"LIVE! From Bethlehem"** (All Carols on insert)

Scene 1 Bethlehem Broadcasting System News Station and live news reports from just outside of Bethlehem

CAROL ***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

Scene 2 One of the foremost inns of Bethlehem’s hotel industry

CAROL ***Away in a Manger***
Baa Baa Little Sheep (Sung by our cute little sheep)

Scene 3 Back at the news station

Scene 4 Downtown Bethlehem

CAROL ***We Three Kings***

Scene 5 Back at the news station

Scene 6 The hills outside of Bethlehem

CAROL ***Angels We Have Heard on High***

Scene 7 A small manger on a backstreet of Bethlehem

CAROL ***Silent Night*** (Featuring Jake Poulios singing verse 1)
Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Scene 8 FINALE – Back at the news station

*CLOSING CAROL ***Joy to the World***

*BENEDICTION
Leader: Go forth as preparers and proclaimers and dreamers!
**People: Let us go to make ready for the birth of Christ in our midst.
Let us go to announce the Good News of Christ’s coming.**
Leader: And may the blessing of God, who created the world and all that lives,
the blessing of the Child, who releases in us new visions of hope,
the blessing of the Holy Spirit, who guides us into new ways of living
be with us all, now and forever. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE Carol of the Bells Keveren

**Indicates that all who are able please stand.*

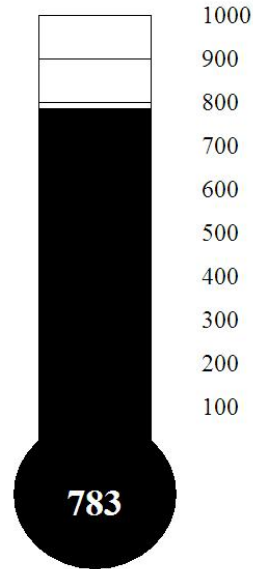
BOTTLES/CANS FOR GERRY

Gerry has moved to Liberty Hall to continue his recovery from surgery. We are still collecting receipts from bottle/can returns to help him out. Please return those empties and put the credit receipts in the jar on Tom's desk. Every little bit helps. THANKS!

MOM'S GROUP MEETING

The Mom's Group will be meeting at The Pepperbarn for dinner on Monday, December 15th (please call Liza Ringuette at 537-3424 or email at elizabethringuette@sbcglobal.net for the meeting time). We'd love for you to join us! Take a few moments for yourself during this busy holiday season to enjoy some comfort food and games with fellow moms!

COLCHESTER FOOD BANK CHALLENGE



Help us meet our goal of 1,000 items by Christmas!

ONE MORE WEEK TO GO AND WE ARE BEHIND in our Food Bank Challenge! Last week we only collected 81 food items, bringing our total to 783 items. Next week is the last week of the challenge, so if you have items you've been holding on to please bring them in! If we can come up with 217 more items, we will reach our goal of supplying 1,000 items to the Colchester Food Bank before Christmas. Collection bins are located at both main entrances to the church.

Anything you can provide is always welcome, but the items most needed are protein sources (like dry or canned beans, tuna, soups/stews, peanut butter, rice), 100% juice products, and paper goods (toilet paper, paper towels). Thanks to everyone for your continued support. Let's keep up the good work toward our

goal of providing this precious gift to those in need in our community!

Hunger Fact: One out of five children in Connecticut, 102,000 youngsters, under the age of twelve, are hungry, or at risk of hunger.

CHRISTMAS MISSION GIVING

The Christmas Giving Tree is in front of the church. We are collecting new socks, mittens and hats to be distributed first to Santa Anonymous of Colchester and Colchester Social Services, and then to agencies in the surrounding area. This year the need is great for children in grades 4 through 7 (kids sizes 8-13 or M,L,XL approximately). Please hang the items that you bring in on the tree.



ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY GIVING

Are you wondering what the perfect gift is for someone who is hard to buy for or doesn't want anything? Are you looking for a gift that will help others? Stop by our Alternative Holiday Table December 7th, 14th, and 21st at coffee hour after the 10 am service and in the narthex after the 8:30 service. We will have alternative gifts, starting at five dollars, available from Smile Train. Millions of children in developing

countries are suffering with cleft lip and palate. The Smile Train provides life changing free cleft surgery which takes as little as 45 minutes and costs as little as \$250. It gives desperate children not just a new smile – but a new life. 100% of your donations goes toward programs – 0% goes toward overhead.

There are many local places in town that are collecting toys this year. Here is a list.

1. Hope Plumbing and Hardware has a "Tree of Hope" for Santa Anonymous of Colchester. You can stop by and pick a tag that is labeled boy or girl with an age and the child's gift. Please return all gifts to the store by December 12th.
2. Browning and Lee Hardware has a giving tree for Colchester and surrounding towns. You can go in and pick a tag off the tree, get the toy wished for, and bring it back wrapped by the Monday before Christmas.
3. William Raveis Real Estate/Liberty Mutual Real Estate are collecting for Toys for Tots. You can drop off the unwrapped toys to the real estate office at 100 Linwood Ave. until December 12th

We appreciate all your help and generosity. Thank you

CLEAN-UP BUCKETS

This time of the year there are many things to buy for. When you are out shopping please think about buying some things for our clean-up buckets to help those in need from unexpected natural disaster all over the United States. In December we will be collecting: **Five Scouring Pads and Two Pairs of Latex Gloves (like Playtex)**

We also still need five gallon buckets with a lid and handle, scrub brushes, 12oz bottles of liquid concentrated household cleaner (like Lysol), and 6-14oz bottles of insect repellent. Thank you

*** In Appreciation ***

Today's greeters are the Cook Family. Justin and Alison were married in our church 14 years ago. Alison grew up in the church and their 3 children have been baptized here. Justin owns the Curtin Insurance Agency and Alison is a stay-at-home mom and helps Justin in the agency. Justin coaches a soccer team and is in the Rotary. Alison volunteers in school and leads a Girl Scout Troop. Noah, 9, is in the 4th grade, loves soccer and is a Boy Scout. Greta, 8, is in 3rd grade, loves soccer and is a Girl Scout. Liam, 4, also loves soccer and is in preschool. As a family they enjoy playing with their golden retriever, Lucas, swimming in the pool and at the beach.

The Ushers this week are Mitch and Lori Koziol at the 8:30 service and Mark & Lorraine Tierney at the 10:00 service.



Next week
10:00 am service

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

247

God Rest Ye Merry, Irregular with Refrain
English traditional melody, 18th century
Harm. 'Christmas Carols Old and New,' 1871

English carol, 18th century, cento, alt.

1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, Let noth - ing you dis - may.
2. From God, our heav - enly Fa - ther, A bless - ed an - gel came,
3. "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let noth - ing you af - fright;
4. Now to the Lord sing prais - es, All you with - in this place,

Re - mem - ber, Christ our Sav - ior Was born on Christ - mas Day,
And un - to cer - tain shep - herds Brought ti - dings of the same:
This day is born a Sav - ior, Of a pure vir - gin bright,
And with true love and broth - er - hood Each oth - er now em - brace;

To save us all from Sa - tan's power When we were gone a - stray.
How that in Beth - le - hem was born The Son of God by name.
To free all those who trust in him From Sa - tan's power and might."
This ho - ly tide of Christ - mas All oth - er doth de - face.

Refrain
O ti - dings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy;
O ti - dings of com - fort and joy!