

Forest Street Union Church
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Forest Street *Footprints*

DECEMBER 2009



Dear Friends in Christ,

How would you describe a small town? Someone has said that a small town is a place where

you speak to each dog you pass by name; you can't walk for exercise because every car that passes offers you a ride; you can name everyone you graduated with; there is no town idiot because everybody takes turns.

Small towns are wonderful in many ways and I am thinking that December would be a good month to honor them because Bethlehem was a small town and it is where Jesus was born. I love to sing Phillip Brooks' special hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem". Let me suggest to you a few thoughts about that small town.

Bethlehem reminds us that God can use ordinary people and places in an extraordinary way. Bethlehem also reminds us that we are part of a sacred history and we need to take it seriously and faithfully. Most important of all.....Bethlehem reminds us that God is with us. Emmanuel!

Christ seeks to be born anew in the small towns of our hearts. May it be so for all of us this special month.

Yours in God's love.....Scott

Council Meeting
December 14, 2009
7:00PM

We are looking forward to seeing someone from every committee at the meeting.

Nancy Pollock, Moderator
978-681-8976 or nancyandjim95@comcast.net

Liturgists

are needed to read at Sunday service.
Please sign up
on the sheet on the board
in the vestry.



We need your voice!

NOTICE OF ALL CHURCH

**2010 BUDGET
MEETING**

FOREST STREET UNION CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2009

The Annual Budget Meeting for fiscal year 2010 will be held immediately following the morning service on Sunday, December 6, 2009.

Frances L. Lajoie
Church Clerk



Friendship Circle

December 17 , 2009

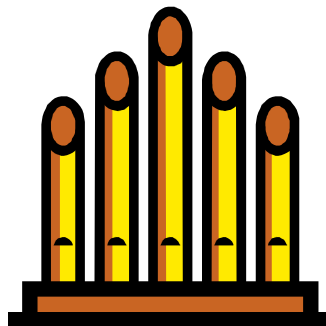
12:00PM

We are going out to lunch.

All ladies of the church and their friends are welcome!

DID YOU KNOW

...that on Saturday afternoon October 24 our beautiful pipe organ was visited by 18 members of the Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO)? They were on a tour of significant pipe organs in the Methuen, Lawrence and Andover areas. Several of them played our organ and said what a gem it is, and were very impressed by its sounds. Norma and Bob Reich and Shirley MacKenzie were on hand to welcome the visitors. Norma, Bob and Shirley are active members of the Merrimack Valley Chapter of the AGO.





Stewardship Committee



Sunday, November 22 was Pledge Sunday. Sunday, December 6th will be the all-church financial meeting, at which time we will vote on a budget for 2010. Although we hope there will be more pledges coming in, at this time we are looking at a sizeable budget deficit. In September the church members made a commitment to work toward hiring a full-time settled pastor, using a portion of our invested funds to cover a part of the additional expenses. Remember, as our invested dollars shrink, so does our investment income. Our income is decreasing at the same time our expenses are increasing. Some increases are beyond our control and some because our church cannot grow without incurring additional costs. One of these costs is a new line item for search committee expenses. We are asking everyone to pray earnestly, and then decide on your financial commitment. During our pledge campaign, our speakers have focused on what good stewardship really is... the diligent care of something that belongs to someone else. Everything we have belongs to God, because God created everything. It has been given into our care, and now we must return the first portion of what we have to God. If you have not already made your pledge, please do so. And if you possibly can, increase your giving over what you have given in the past. The future of Forest Street Union Church is in our hands.
Stewardship Committee



Meeting Thursday 6:00PM

Weigh in starts at 5:30PM

Friday 9:30AM

Weigh in starts at 9:00AM



WORSHIP WATCH



- December 6 Advent II Peace
Communion
Food Cart, Best Wishes
Scripture for the Day: Luke 3:1-6
Sermon: "A Voice In the Wilderness"
Liturgist: Mary-Ann Thibeault-Vandette
- December 13 Advent III Joy
Church School Christmas Play
Christmas Pot-Luck Luncheon
Liturgist:
- December 20 Advent IV Love
Collection of Gifts for the Shelter
Scripture for the Day: Zephaniah 3:14-18a
Sermon: "A Time For Singing "
Liturgist:
- December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE
Service of Carols and Candles 7:00PM
- December 27 Scripture for the Day: Luke 2:41-52
Sermon: "Family Issues"
Liturgist:



Forest Street Fellowship (a.k.a. Youth Group) News

Youth Group has been meeting every Sunday from 6pm to 8:30. Grades 5 through 8 leave after the first hour.

On Dec 13 we will be going Christmas Caroling and Ice Skating. We are opening the Ice Skating up to all ages. We will be going to: ICENTER
60 Lowell Road - Route 38 in Salem, NH. They have not posted public skate time yet for December. Please stay tuned. We will make an announcement in church.

We have many ideas for upcoming events but have not finalized new year schedule yet. Some suggestions are: In-house Dance, Talent Show, Hiking, and Soccer Game.

We plan to do a service project for Bread and Roses. In January we will be baking to deliver food to them for one evening. Also we will be collecting hygiene products. More to come on this once we set the date that we are delivering.

Also, we love to talk about a variety of topics and would love for the church members to come and be involved in our discussions. We really need you. Sometimes Zach has to work on Sunday evenings and we need a second adult. Any adults who are interested in being involved for a night, please let Susan Walko know so she can call you when Zach can't make it.

Also, if you didn't notice this week during coffee hour, we made a poster of the church's core values and hung it on the bulletin board above the table where coffee is served. Check it out.

Susan and Zach



The Hospitality Committee

Thank you to all the persons and committees that have hosted the Fellowship Time during the month of November. It was wonderful to have the schedule calendar filled so quickly the first week of November with all the committees and persons who have volunteered for a Sunday.

November 1st -Carolyn Keating and Ruth Hattori (Hospitality Committee)

November 8th - Sunday School

November 15th - Trudy and George Driscoll

November 22th - Stewardship Committee

November 29th: Barbara Lewis and Ruth Hattori

Fellowship Time will still be held each Sunday in December,

Please, won't you sign up for a Sunday !

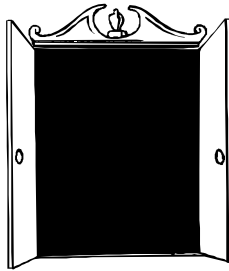
It's cold out there, and that hot cup of coffee will keep us warm after we have left the church.

Have a wonderful December and enjoy the Christmas season !! And may the New Year bring you much happiness and good health.

Be with God, always!

The Hospitality committee:

Charlotte Eichner, Carolyn Keating, Ruth Yanagi and Ruth H



FROM THE DEACON'S CLOSET

Deacons have a busy month in December.

We will be decorating the church, both inside and out on DEC 5th Sat 9AM –for Christmas.

DEC 6th Sun 10AM – at the Church Service with Holy Communion there will be a dedication of

The Dossal Curtain in memory of Mary B Campbell, The Paraments – in memory of Cindy Valera Crocker and liturgical season colored altar cloths in memory of Evelyn Herold.

DEC 19th Sat 9AM – Poinsettias will be delivered and will be placed for the Sunday and Christmas Eve services. We ask that they be left following the service on Sunday the 20th so that our altar and church look as beautiful as ever for Christmas Eve.

Deacons for December are Robin Lattorre, David Vose, Trudi Driscoll and Bill Mackenzie

Jim Hathaway is to be contacted in Trudi's absence during the holidays. May your holidays be

Blessed with the true spirit of the birth of Christ.