

Word from the Pastor

Lenten Greetings,

As I previously noted, many of the religious traditions that are practiced during Lent (the 40 days, excluding Sundays, between Ash Wednesday and Easter Day) are focused on sacrifice. Many people will give up a favorite food or activity, others will not eat meat on Fridays, and in our Church we don't sing hymns that include the word "Alleluia". The objective is to not only remind us of the sacrifice Christ made for all of us, but it is also intended to remind us of our humanity and to enable us to better appreciate the joy of the Easter event.

Just before Christmas, my other employer provided me with a different vehicle to use. That's why you don't see me anymore in the blue Ford Escape. The new vehicle, like the Escape, has all-wheel drive. But shortly after getting the new vehicle, I started using the Chevrolet Malibu that our daughter Jessica used to drive. It does not have all-wheel drive, and to the amazement of just about everyone, I have used the Chevy even in the worst of the winter storms that have graced us in the past month.

I admit that I am a bit of a "gear-head" and love the latest in automotive technology. With all-wheel drive vehicles, I never think twice about staying late at work during a snow storm. I also know that traction control will automatically "pump" my brakes if the car began to skid during a stop. And with electronic stability control, the car would take over on its own if I lost control. But like so many other things in our lives, once you become accustomed to these new technological advances, you begin to feel that you can do anything. You are not limited by your humanity. You even find yourself doing stupid things because you rely on those technological gizmos to counteract your carelessness. One late, dark snowy night, I found myself driving down a hill in Farmington and approaching a 90 degree turn and a stop sign. The car began to skid as I applied the brakes. Thank God no one else was on the road. I was able to control the skid, but not without driving on the wrong side of the road and running the stop sign. In a flash, I was reminded that I was human and but for God's intervention, I could have been in an accident.

There is way too much technology in our lives that can lull us into forgetting that we need God each and every day. I hope that as we approach Easter, you'll remember that technology is no substitute for God. And I also hope you won't have to be reminded the same way I was...

Yours in Christ,

Mike



MARCH 2010

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To request a copy
sent to your inbox
send an email to:
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THINK SPRING!!



Check us out online! www.firstchurchofwinsted.org

CHANGE YOUR THINKING?

Two men, both seriously ill, occupied the same hospital room.

One man was allowed to sit up in his bed for an hour each afternoon to help drain the fluid from his lungs.

His bed was next to the room's only window.

The other man had to spend all his time flat on his back.

The men talked for hours on end.

They spoke of their wives and families, their homes, their jobs, their involvement in the military service, where they had been on vacation..

Every afternoon, when the man in the bed by the window could sit up, he would pass the time by describing to his roommate all the things he could see outside the window.

The man in the other bed began to live for those one hour periods where his world would be broadened and enlivened by all the activity and color of the world outside.

The window overlooked a park with a lovely lake.

Ducks and swans played on the water while children sailed their model boats. Young lovers walked arm in arm amidst flowers of every color and a fine view of the city skyline could be seen in the distance.

As the man by the window described all this in exquisite details, the man on the other side of the room would close his eyes and imagine this picturesque scene.

One warm afternoon, the man by the window described a parade passing by.

Although the other man could not hear the band - he could see it in his mind's eye as the gentleman by the window portrayed it with descriptive words.

Days, weeks and months passed.

One morning, the day nurse arrived to bring water for their baths only to find the lifeless body of the man by the window, who had died peacefully in his sleep.

She was saddened and called the hospital attendants to take the body away.

As soon as it seemed appropriate, the other man asked if he could be moved next to the window. The nurse was happy to make the switch, and after making sure he was comfortable, she left him alone.

Slowly, painfully, he propped himself up on one elbow to take his first look at the real world outside.

He strained to slowly turn to look out the window besides the bed.

It faced a blank wall.

The man asked the nurse what could have compelled his deceased roommate who had described such wonderful things outside this window.

The nurse responded that the man was blind and could not even see the wall.

She said, 'Perhaps he just wanted to encourage you.'

Epilogue:

There is tremendous happiness in making others happy, despite our own situations.

Shared grief is half the sorrow, but happiness when shared, is doubled.



Beef Stew & Bingo

MARCH 20th at 5:30 PM

Great Family Fun and Fellowship!

Bring a Pot to Share!
and with a bit 'o luck, you might even win prize...

Today's Riddle...

Eighty percent of Kindergartners solved this riddle, but only 5% of Stanford graduates figured it out!

Can you answer the following questions with the same word?

1. The word has seven letters...
2. Preceded God...
3. Greater than God...
4. More Evil than the devil...
5. All poor people have it...
6. Wealthy people need it...
7. If you eat it, you will die.

Answer on page 4

Helpful Hints...

- Take your bananas apart when you get home from the store. If you leave them connected at the stem, they ripen faster.
- Store your opened chunks of cheese in aluminum foil. It will stay fresh much longer and not mold!
- Peppers with 3 bumps on the bottom are sweeter and better for eating. Peppers with 4 bumps on the bottom are firmer and better for cooking.
- Add a teaspoon of water when frying ground beef. It will help pull the grease away from the meat while cooking.
- To really make scrambled eggs or omelets rich add a couple of spoonfuls of sour cream, cream cheese, or heavy cream in and then beat them up. For a cool brownie treat, make brownies as directed. Melt Andes mints in double broiler and pour over warm brownies. Let set for a wonderful minty frosting.
- Add garlic immediately to a recipe if you want a light taste of garlic and at the end of the recipe if you want a stronger taste of garlic.

- Leftover snickers bars from Halloween make a delicious dessert. Simply chop them up with the food chopper. Peel, core and slice a few apples. Place them in a baking dish and sprinkle the chopped candy bars over the apples. Bake at 350 for 15 minutes!!! Serve alone or with vanilla ice cream. Yummm!
- Heat up leftover pizza in a nonstick skillet on top of the stove, set heat to med-low and heat till warm. This keeps the crust crispy. No soggy micro pizza. I saw this on the cooking channel and it really works.
- Put cooked egg yolks in a zip lock bag. Seal, mash till they are all broken up. Add remainder of ingredients, reseal, keep mashing it up mixing thoroughly, cut the tip of the baggy, squeeze mixture into egg. Just throw bag away when done easy clean up.
- When you buy a container of cake frosting from the store, whip it with your mixer for a few minutes. You can double it in size. You get to frost more cake/cupcakes with the same amount. You also eat less sugar and calories per serving.

- To warm biscuits, pancakes, or muffins that were refrigerated, place them in a microwave with a cup of water. The increased moisture will keep the food moist and help it reheat faster.
- Start putting in your plants, work the nutrients in your soil. Wet newspapers, put layers around the plants overlapping as you go cover with mulch and forget about weeds. Weeds will get through some gardening plastic they will not get through wet newspapers.
- To keep squirrels from eating your plants, sprinkle your plants with cayenne pepper. The cayenne pepper doesn't hurt the plant and the squirrels won't come near it.
- Put small piles of cornmeal where you see ants. They eat it, take it 'home,' can't digest it so it kills them. It may take a week or so, especially if it rains, but it works and you don't have the worry about pets or small children being harmed!
- To get rid of pesky fruit flies, take a small glass, fill it 1/2' with Apple Cider Vinegar and 2 drops of dish washing liquid; mix well. You will find those flies drawn to the cup and gone forever!
- Use your hair conditioner to shave your legs. It's cheaper than shaving cream and leaves your legs really smooth. It's also a great way to use up the conditioner you bought but didn't like when you tried it in your hair.
- Clean the filter in your dryer about every 6 month with warm soapy water and a nylon brush. The film caused by using dryer sheets, blocks airflow and can burn out your heating unit and cause the dryer to catch on fire. It takes 30 seconds...and can save your home. Test it by running hot water over it...if the water doesn't run right through, it needs to be cleaned!

Board of Christian Education Updates...

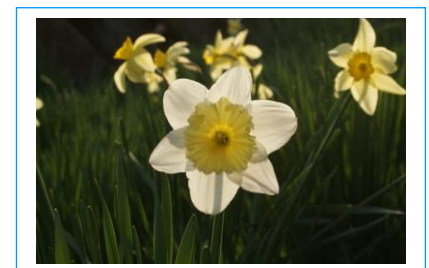
Munson Easter Candy delivered Sunday, March 28th.

Easter Egg Hunt after worship service on Easter Sunday.



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED!

If anyone is interested please see Tanya Mongitore or call her at 860-738-2279. Make a difference in the life of a child!



STEAM VENT



Coffee House

Musician Showcase!

Saturday, March 13th

6-9:30 PM

First Church of Winsted
95 North Main Street

Bring your Friends!

SCHEDULED PERFORMERS

6:15 Don Jones
6:45 Kim Newkirk/Trish Schlosser
7:00 Fortune's Gale
7:30 Jim Palermo
8:00 Dark Horse
8:30 Sunset Ridge
9:00 Open Mic / Open Jam
Suggested Donation \$10
But give what you can!



9-10 PM

OPEN MIC / OPEN Jam
Equipment Provided
Sign-up night of event!

Steam Vent Café
Serving Chinese Food!
6-8 PM

Info: 860-482-3491
www.firstchurchofwinsted.org



Board of Christian Education will be selling Easter Flowers. Order forms will be placed in bulletin during the month of March. Order form page 5



Due for your spring bath...?

YMCA Swim/Pizza Party Saturday, March 20th 2 PM-4PM.



Please sign up in the gathering room by March 14th.

THE BAGPIPER'S TALE

As a bagpiper, I'm often called upon to play at weddings, military events, and funerals. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. The man had no family or friends, so the service was set at the county pauper's cemetery in the Kentucky back woods.

I was not familiar with the backwoods and soon found myself lost. Being a typical man I didn't stop to ask for directions. I finally arrived an hour late – the staff from the funeral home was long gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight.

There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late. I went to the side of the grave and looked down. The vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play....

The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man.

And as I played 'Amazing Grace,' the workers began to weep. They wept. I wept. We all wept together.

When I finished I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car.

Though my head hung low my heart was full.

As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen nothin' like that before and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years".

Boar's Head Festival The Movie!

Our friend John Barrett made a video of the festival, and is painstakingly editing out coughs, door slams, and donkey songs, well some of them.

He has a High Definition camera, and has posted some things on You-tube. Search for 'Boar's Head Festival'. He uploaded Piper Ken and the Carolers singing "Dear Little Stranger," complete with the rooster crowing! Check it out!

When he is done with his project, we will host the Premier...we have the red carpet...why not? Stay tuned for details!

Answer: Nothing Did you get it?

1. Nothing has seven letters
2. Nothing Preceded God...
3. Nothing is Greater than God...
4. Nothing is More Evil than the devil...
5. All poor people have nothing
6. Wealthy people need nothing
7. If you eat nothing, you will die

Are you smarter than a kindergartener??



Easter Flower Sale

Tulips, Daffodils & Hyacinths \$9
 Easter Lilies \$10

Given by: _____

In ___ Memory ___ Honor of:

___ Tulips (6" pot) ___ Hyacinths(6" pot)

___ Lilies(8" pot)

Please return completed form to
 Denise Jones by Sunday, March 21st



Little Drummer Girls....Alex, Kayla, Kelly & Maggie Photos by John Eggering





48 Attend Wolfpack Game

Members of our Youth Group and friends recently attended a Wolfpack Game in Hartford. Photos (by Bonnie Geddes) below. Note Pastor Mike is not in the costume...(top left). It seems they did not go alone...check out the bottom right photo. There are at least three "orbs" in the picture. Can you see them?



Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendars!

<i>Celebrate With Us...</i>		<i>Looking Forward</i>	
Sunday - 10 am	Worship	March 5	World Day of Prayer
Monday - 6 pm	Rehearsal~Senior Choir	March 13	Steam Vent Coffee House
Tuesday - 6 pm	Rehearsal~Cherub Choir	March 13	Set Clocks Ahead
Wednesday - 7:30 pm	AA / Alanon Meetings	March 17	Happy Birthday First Church
Thursday - 7:00 pm	Rehearsal~Laurel City Singers	March 17	St. Patrick's Day
		March 20	Swim & Pizza Party
		March 20	Beef Stew & Bingo
		March 28	Palm Sunday
		April 4	Maundy Thursday
		April 5	Good Friday
		April 7	Easter
<i>Board Meetings...</i>			
	March 01 7:00 pm	PM Board	
	March 09 6:30 pm	Board of Christian Ed.	
	March 16 7:00 pm	Deacons	
	March 23 7:00 pm	Cabinet Meeting	

Birthdays

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

2/29-3/1 – Peyton Storrs
 01 – Pat Wood
 04 – Aedan McAllister
 05 – Perry Green
 06 – Steve Cassaday
 06 – Roger Hurlbut
 10 – Edna Lewis
 11 – Scott Mosley
 14 – Brandy Blische
 17 – Terry O'Neil
 17 – First Church of Winsted
 22 – Brittany Smyth
 24 – Erik Janak
 25 – Brianna Sollito
 28 – Brigitte Gilbert-Corey
 28 – Laura McCaw
 31 – Tamsin Pizinger

Another 2 feet of snow...



Bible Verses on Lent

1 Corinthians 1:25-30 March 7th

For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

John 3:14-18 March 14th

Jesus said to Nicodemus "And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God."

John 12:20-24 March 21st

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

John 12:20-24 March 28th

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."



March 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Artist: Karen Delton	1 Senior Choir 6:00 pm PM Board 6:30 pm	2 Cherub Choir 6:00 pm	3 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	4 Laurel City Singers 7-9	5 World Day Of Prayer 	6
7 Worship Service 10 am Amistad Sunday	7 No Senior Choir Rehearsal	9 Cherub Choir 6:00 pm Chris Ed 6:30	10 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	11 Laurel City Singers 7-9	12	13  STEAM VENT Coffee House 6-10 PM Set clocks ahead!
14 Worship Service 10 am Cherub Choir 9:30 Daylight Savings Begins 	15 Senior Choir 6:00 pm	16 Cherub Choir 6:00 pm Deacons 7:00 pm	17 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm St. Patrick's Day  Happy Birthday First Church!	18 Laurel City Singers 7-9	19	20  Spring Begins Beef Stew & Bingo 5:30
21 Worship Service 10 am Senior Choir 9:20 am	22 Senior Choir 6:00 pm	23 Cherub Choir 6:00 pm Cabinet Meeting 7:00 pm	24 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	25 Laurel City Singers 7:00 pm	26	27
28 Worship Service 10 am PALM SUNDAY 	28 Passover Begins	28	28	Apr 4 Maundy Thursday 	Apr 5 Good Friday 	Apr 6