

BAD NEWS FOR DUCTAPE FANS...

Last month, at a meeting of the Congregation, it was voted unanimously to banish duct tape from the sanctuary floor! Yes, we decided that the current carpeting had done its job for long enough. As you probably have noticed, we use abundant amounts of red duct tape to keep the seams of the carpeting together. If you take a close look at the Pulpit area, you will notice that the carpeting is frayed at the edges.

Our request for a five-year loan from the American Baptist Churches of Connecticut has been approved. We will be receiving the proceeds of that \$25,000 loan soon. And along with the initial pledges that have been made to date, we will have the \$30,544.21 to do the total project that includes:

- Replacing the carpeting in the narthex and sanctuary
- Replacing the carpeting in the basement, includ-

ing the three sets of stairs that lead to the basement; Installing new flooring in the kitchen in the basement; Installing a laminate floor in the Dining Room;

- Replacing 14 smoke sensor units and 7 heat detectors in our fire alarm system; and
- Repainting the ceiling in the Gathering Room to eradicate the unsightly water stains (this part of the project has already been completed!).

As mentioned, we have already received pledges... totaling more than \$21,280. Some are creative, like committing to do certain activities that will raise \$500 a year toward the repayment of the loan we are taking to complete the project.

Although the project will have a huge impact on the appearance of our facilities, it is not far out of our reach. We have over 120

members in our Church. Attendance at our Sunday worship services averages around 75. If we take the amount of pledges received to date and subtract it from the total cost of the project, and divide that over 50 people (attendance on a "quiet Sunday"), we would need each of those 50 contributors to pledge \$8.00 per month over the 5-year loan period to repay the entire loan. That's less than \$100 a year, or \$500 over the period of the loan.

What each of us can contribute will vary. Some will be able to give more, others a little less. But the amount doesn't matter nearly as much as everyone pitching in to get the job done. We hope you'll consider making a pledge to the Carpeting and Building Renovation Project!

*Yours in Christ,
The Church Cabinet & The
Property Maintenance Board*

Pledge Card Page 5



**September
2009**

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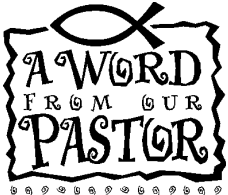
Movie Night - at Kohl's Plaza Sept 5th

The Youth Group is planning a movie night to take place at Kohl's Plaza in Canton. Kohl's Plaza? You ask... Yep...apparently they show movies on the side of the old barn that used to be

part of the Golf Course! The movies for the evening will be: Sami the Robot and Roaming Mime. Please call Ashley Jones if you are planning to attend, so they can arrange enough

cars to transport. Leaving the church parking lot at 5:30 on the 5th... Snacks and drinks will be provided! Bring a friend!

PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Greetings in the name of Christ,

I recall from my elementary school days that by mid-August I would begin to get bored with the summer routine and I would begin to get excited about going back to school. Back in the "old days" the school would send out post cards in August telling us which class we were assigned to. Going to the mailbox to see whether the postcard arrived became a regular routine in August. Why? Not that I wanted to do homework again or that I wanted to get up early in the morning. Rather, it was the excitement of a new beginning. It was exciting to be in a new grade with a new teacher and with new students. And with the excitement of a new year came hope. New beginnings are an opportunity to do things differently, to move beyond mistakes and hang-ups of the past.

As a parent, I was equally excited to be able to go back-to-school shopping with our children. I have no idea if

they were as excited as I was, but the new school year was a reminder that the kids were growing up and becoming young adults. Even though they were growing up each and every day of the year, the beginning of the school year was the time that I really noticed how much they had grown. And to this day I wonder whether I was more excited than they were as we moved them into their college dorm to begin a new phase of their lives. So late August and September have always been a special time with so many memories. It has always been a month of hope and new beginnings.

For reasons that I cannot explain, September also seems to be the beginning of the Church year. In theory, the first Sunday in Advent is officially the beginning of the year for Christians. And the calendar year obviously begins on January 1st. But in the life of the Church, it really seems that September is the beginning of the year! Why? Maybe for some of the same reasons that excited me about the beginning of the school year. In the life of our congregation,

it is also a time of new beginnings and hope and new opportunities.

As we return in September, you'll notice that the flower beds in the front of the Church have received tender, loving, care. A lot of work was put into sprucing up the grounds around the Children's Discovery Center. As you walk in the door of the Church building, you will find new carpeting in the sanctuary and in the basement, new paint on the walls in the basement, a new floor in the dining room, and our "Conference Center" in the place where Head Start used to meet. But one thing that will not change is the love and care shared by the First Church family. Whether or not there are changes to any of the physical aspects of our Church, there will always be hope and an opportunity for a new beginning. We are not encumbered by our past and the challenges of the present, but rather we are infused with hope and joy through the love of Christ. I look forward to seeing you soon as we begin another Church year!

God bless you,

Mike

Rally Day - September 13th - Don't Miss it!

Can it be that summer has so soon ended? OK, not officially until mid September.

Well...as we once again get back to normal (and we use that term loosely) schedules...with work, school, sports, dancing, singing, band, and the countless other activities we have during the week, Rally Day is upon us!

There could be some surprises during worship service...at the very least it will be interesting to see how Mike ties chocolate into the day!

There will be a picnic immediately following at Tanya and Tony Mongitores house at 328 Winchester Road!

Old Fashion Rally Day

Events include: Simon Says, Musical Chairs, Egg toss/Balloon Toss, Water transfer game, 3-legged race, watermelon pit throwing contest Horse shoe pits and badminton/volley ball net. Swimming too..... don't forget your towel!

Just bring your favorite dish to share and the burgers and dogs will

be provided.

Please register on sign up sheet in the Gathering Room or call Denise Jones at 379-6332.





Children's Discovery Center

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped in the beautification of the property surrounding the school building- the play-yard, front entrance,

secret garden and bistro! If you haven't seen it yet, please come and take a look!

We have an exciting year planned with increasing enrollment to compliment our brightened appearance. The school has been well cared for and presently need little. We can, however, always use extra hands in the kitchen to prepare snacks or art ma-

terials. Spending a few hours being in touch with young children - can be an uplifting and inspiring experience - it can make you feel younger (or older).

I am delighted to return as Head Teacher/Director and am grateful to all the kindness and support extended to me. It is obvious that the Center has received loving care since it's inception in 1976. I will continue to work this goodness.

Karen Sovak

If you know of anyone who would benefit from a

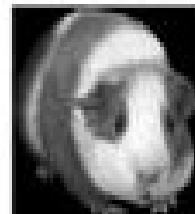
Discovery Center Education

have them contact us

860.379.4838

FREE TO GOOD HOME!

Quiet, lovable, cuddly guinea pig! The Discovery Center has a guinea pig to give away.



If you are interested please speak to Kim Janak

or

Email:

info@firstchurchofwinsted.org

Laurel City Singers - WLCS 95FM Litchfield County Sampler!

Laurel City Singers will resume rehearsals on **September 10 from 7 until 9 PM** for our November 8th concert which will be a take off on Garrison Keeler's Prairie Home Companion...

Yep...complete with guest performers, down home country stories, some good old fashion musical selections... AND even commercials featuring the Rivertones.

We are not sure about sound effects yet, and are still working on that. If you know of anyone who loves making silly noises, please let Debbie Storrs know!

We are also perhaps looking for some

set creation folks...we are open to suggestions...and willing hands!

It will be a very interesting evening... to say the least.

Accepting New Members!

If you would like to participate in this evening of Radio mayhem. If you are interested in joining Laurel City Singers, please contact our secretary, Denise Torson at denisetorson@hotmail.com or 379-2655.

So...Mark you calendars for November 8...and join us for some good ole hometown fun in the Laurel City... where the gals are all gorgeous, the guys are all handsome...and the singers hardly ever sing off-key!



Yep...one man's junk is another man's treasure. We have learned that lesson well! The Fall Tag sale is scheduled for Saturday, October 3rd from 8am until 3pm. Great time to start cleaning out those garages... basements...or attics! A real clean sweep! Items maybe dropped off the week before.

There will also be a bake sale...and you can help out by dropping off some of your best baked stuff. Cookies... pastries...cuppy cakes too! Yum!

Long Range Planning Committee Asked to Consider New Topics



The Long Range Planning Committee, which will begin meeting again in September, has been asked by the Church Cabinet to reflect on three topics:

1. The Youth - What can we do to enhance our ministries to the young people in our Church family and in our community? Are we "in touch" with their thoughts and ideas and feelings? What can we do to open more

communication with them? Are they an untapped resource for the Church?

2. The Elderly - Are there new ministries we should begin that are specifically for the elderly in our Church family and in our community? How do we make sure that we are "in touch" with them?

3. Our Community - What more can we be doing for and in our community? Should we be focusing on new things

as the community around us changes? Are there needs of which we are not aware?

4. Ministry Model - Is there anything we can do to spend more time on ministry and outreach and less time on administration and upkeep?

If you have any ideas on the above topics, feel free to speak with any member of the Long Range Planning Committee!

STEAM VENT Coffee House Plans Party for September 25th

CELEBRATE our Mexico Mission's success with us...! Mark your calendars! September 25th PARTY! The Steam Vent Café will be dishing up Mexican Food for the evening, and some of our old friends will be playing.



The preliminary line-up includes: Fran & Zephyr, Dark Horse, Mad River Crossing, Doug Mahard, River Road, Cece & Ruth, with others signing up all the time.

We have a new sound board, and the sound has greatly improved. Not too loud for those of you who don't like loud...but loud enough to hear. Great

folky, blue-grassy, bluesy music! John Eggering is doing a great job setting the bands up. Everything ran like clockwork for the August Steam Vent which raised \$407.25 towards our new carpets!

All the donors to the mission will be issued a thank you for their support and an invitation to join in the celebration.

There will be a slide show of the activities of our latest trip to help our Mexican friends, so folks can see what they are supporting. Yes, there is a free will offering...and we suggest

\$10...if you have the means. If not... give what you can, no gift is too small! But if you can't...let your presence be your gift. Come on down and forget about life for awhile! Just come! We have some very talented musical friends donating their time and talents...and it would be great to see a bunch of church folks there to enjoy their efforts...bring the kids! Sit in the Café and chat...or enjoy "concert style" in the Sanctuary!

Just like an outside concert...except more comfortable chairs...and no bugs!



Music Makers Resume Rehearsals!

SENIOR CHOIR rehearses on Mondays from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. Everyone, 7th grade through adulthood, are invited to join us. We sing on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month, and on the 5th Sunday when there is one.

CHERUB CHOIR meets on Tuesday's from 6-6:30 and singing praises the 2nd Sunday of each month. We introduce the basics of music making to your young

person, including theory, terms, and lots of fun. This will be the year of rounds, to help introduce harmony! Open to children age 3 to 3rd grade. Grades 4 - 6 are welcome to come and be mentors to the younger ones.

HAND DRUMMING will follow Cherub Choir meeting from 6:30 until 7 PM.



FOLK CHOIR (made up of folk) is forming for Open Mic Sunday's (4th Sunday)...any one interested please speak to Debbie Storrs. Rehearsals TBA, depending on availability. Guitars, concertina's, Bass, Banjos harmonicas, whistles, nose flutes...and don't forget singers! We'll mix it all up...and make it musical! Praising God all the way!

2009 CARPETING & BUILDING RENOVATION Pledge Form:

In recognition of the blessing received from God each day, and wanting to take part in the eradication of duct tape from the carpet in the Sanctuary, I/We pledge a total of:

\$ _____

Towards the project costs.

I/We will contribute that amount:

____ Once ____ Weekly ____ Monthly ____ Annually

Over the 5 year loan repayment period.

Name: _____ Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Updated Church Directory Coming this Fall

The Church Cabinet is in the process of updating the church directory, which include the names of members and friends of the church and their families (no photos).

If you have changed your address/telephone number within the past two years, OR if you wish to participate, please complete the form on the next page. A sample page is shown below.

DOE
123 Riverside Street
Winsted, CT 06098
Home: 379-1234
Cell: 202-1234
email@hotmail.com

John (01/01)*
Mary (04/01)*
John, Jr. (06/06)*

Mailing address: _____

Telephone: _____ Cell: _____

e-mail: _____

<u>Last name</u>	<u>First name</u>	<u>Birthday (month/date)</u>

Please complete with information you wish to share. For example, if you do not wish to have your telephone number listed, leave that line blank.

Please complete and return by October 1st to:
First Church of Winsted, 95 N. Main St., Winsted 06098
OR place in offering plate
OR e-mail information to: 1stchurch.winsted@att.net

Pauline Fancher Celebrates 99th Birthday



Cutting the cake!

Pauline Fancher celebrated her 99th Birthday on August 7th. Bob Fancher threw her a party at the Winchester Center Congregational Church. There were lots of friends and First Church family on hand to wish her happy birthday.

Pauline is lovingly remembered by many as the art teacher in the Winsted school system. A sweet lady...always! Happy Birthday!

Two Horses

There is a field, with two horses in it. From a distance, each horse looks like any other horse. But if you stop your car, or are walking by, you will notice something quite amazing. Looking into the eyes of one horse will disclose that he is blind. His owner has chosen not to have him put down, but has made a good home for him. This alone is amazing.

If you stand nearby and listen, you will hear the sound of a bell. Looking around for the source of the sound, you will see that it comes from the smaller horse in the field. Attached to the horse's halter is a small bell. It lets the blind friend know where the other horse is, so he

can follow.

As you stand and watch these two horses, you'll see that the horse with the bell is always checking on the blind horse, and that the blind horse will listen for the bell and then slowly walk to where the other horse is, trusting that he will not be led astray. When the horse with the bell returns to the shelter of the barn each evening, it stops occasionally and looks back, making sure that the blind friend isn't too far behind to hear the bell.

Like the owners of these two horses, God does not throw us away just because we are not perfect or because we have problems or challenges.

He watches over us and even brings others into our lives to help us when we are in need.

Sometimes we are the blind horse being guided by the little ringing bell of those who God places in our lives. Other times we are the guide horse, helping others to find their way....

Good friends are like that... you may not always see them, but you know they are always there.

Please listen for my bell and I'll listen for yours.

And remember...be kinder than necessary - everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.

WORDS OF WISDOM:

God looks not at the quantity of the gift...but the quality of the giver!

A Christian is a living sermon, whether or not he preaches the word.

The task ahead of us is never greater than the power behind us.

**And from the wisdom of George Carlin:
May evil loose it's way before it finds your door.**