

ORGANS AND TRUMPETS AND BELLS, OH MY!

Folks at Faith Church know how to throw a party. This is a very good thing. Take the trumpet and organ concert for example. Lots of churches sponsor concerts and you can take my word for it because I go to a lot of them. But not everyone does it well. Well?

Well, in the first place, the concert was great. Those young men really put on a show for us and made us all feel glad that we came. But it wasn't just the music that impressed me. There was a certain air of hospitality about the evening, a sense that folks can come here to Faith Church and have a good time and go home with a blessing.

That sense comes from the people of this congregation who worked hard to make the evening what it was and who went the extra mile to be sure that guests who came here to be with us would know they are welcome.

Like Joe, for example, standing at the end of the driveway with a flashlight guiding cars into our parking lot. Because God knows it's hard to find our driveway in the dark even if you already know where it is.

And the folks who brought the food and made the displays that tell about what our life in this congregation is like, all worked together to make the evening great. I met a lot of folks that night who were here for the first time. They were all glad they came.

On December 3 we're having another concert, this time featuring a bell choir. I hear they're really good and I'm looking forward to hearing them play. But even more so I'm looking forward to seeing you do this "concert host thing" again.

When my friends ask me how I like it in East Hartford I tell them stories about how well you do things and how good you are to each other and to your neighbors. I tell them about the prayer blankets and the German food. I tell them how the teenagers go around helping folks with the heavy yard work they can no longer do themselves.

I mention these things because they impress me. Since I am new here, I am seeing things with fresh eyes. And I can tell you flat out, from where I stand things look good.

Henry Morris, Pastor

Pastor Henry Morris
405 Fountain Street
New Haven, CT. 06515
203-389-2585

ALL ARTICLES FOR THE JANUARY VOICE OF FAITH NEED TO BE IN THE
OFFICE BY DECEMBER 17TH



Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Ed Larson Lucille Brooks Karen Lamontagne-O'Brien Michael Kay
Norma Sandberg Carrie Heuser-Spruill Linda Hartl



December:

01	Melissa Dubiel	17	Thomas Tedford, Jr.
	Barbara Sukosky	18	Robert Cousineau
	Sharon Chu	24	Keryl Robinson
06	Brian Godwin	25	Kyle Lewis Marineau
	Chuck Sack		Terry Zocco
08	Lucille Brooks	27	Dick Taylor
10	Erik Sack	29	Jesse Morreau
11	Kathryn Neumeister		
13	Annette Bolt		
15	Lori Johnson		
16	George VanOstrand		

One Sunday morning as I drove into the church driveway - after the November elections - I noticed something different on the church sign. Instead of the normal and, in my opinion, always great "attention getting" greetings, I saw only "PROVERBS 31: vs. 10 - 31". My curiosity (or was it the Holy Spirit tickling me) got the best of me and as soon as I got into church I opened a Bible. What I read was the most amazing testimony to someone that I'd ever read. But what in the world did it have to do with Faith or my spiritual journey? Back from Joe Carlson came this prompt email reply: "I had to change the sign quickly because it still said "VOTE TODAY" (which obviously became very outdated very soon). I have been sick and couldn't make it to the funeral last week so this became my memorial to/for Arline Henry. Every once in a while I like to put up a Scripture citation just to know that someone is going to be curious enough to look it up. Thanks for noticing." Well, Joe's words more than satisfied my curiosity. But I wondered how many others read the passage. If you haven't read PROV 31: 10-31, please do, especially if you have a female loved one - which most of us do - as it could apply to a daughter, wife, or mother. I read it aloud to my wife and said something to the effect, "I didn't know the author of Proverbs knew you." And she smiled a very satisfying smile. This may be a season of thanksgiving and joy, but everyday is a season of love. And the definition of Love is to give.

Worship, Lessons and Music for December

Dec. 3rd – Advent 1

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalms 25

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36

Hymns: #25 “Rejoice! Rejoice Believers”

#31 “Wake! Awake for Night is Flying”

#27 “Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending”

Dec. 10th – Advent 2

Malachi 3:1-4

Psalms: Luke 1:68-79

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

Hymns: #26 “Prepare the Royal Highway”

#36 “On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry”

#35 “Hark the Glad Sound”

Dec. 17th – Advent 3

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Psalms Isaiah 12:2-6

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

Hymns: #33 “The King Shall Come”

#30 “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Dec. 24th – 10:30 AM – Advent 4

Micah 5:2-5a

Psalms Luke 1:46b-55

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

Hymns: #34 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

#28 “Savior of the Nations Come”

#730 “My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness
Lord”

Dec. 24th – 11:00 PM – Nativity of Our Lord

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalms 96

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

Dec. 31st – First Sunday of Christmas

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Psalms 148

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52

Hymns: #50 “Angels from the Realms of
Glory”

#53 “Cold December Flies Away”

#55 “Good Christian Friends Rejoice and Sing”

You may be asking why? Why are we putting this information in the Voice of Faith if it's what you will hear when you come to church on Sunday, and here's the answer... Suppose you miss a Sunday, or want to do a bit of practicing for the hymns, or want to include it in your daily devotions? Seeing what we have to look forward to, is often times a way to look ahead!!



The Sunday Church School Program will be on December 17th during the 10:30 Service. There will be a rehearsal on Saturday December 16th. Please make sure all children are here on the 17th at their regular scheduled time of 9:15.

Faith Council Structure:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Kent Tedford

DIVISION I VICE PRESIDENT

Hans DePold

DIVISION II VICE PRESIDENT

Annette Bolt

COUNCIL SECRETARY

Barbara Lewis

DIVISION I COMMITTEES

Worship and Music:

Merlin Christianson

Christian Education:

Denise Turner

Ursula Delemos

Youth:

Evangelism:

Joyce Lamontagne

Social Ministry:

Youth Deacons Eric Bolt - Alaina Tobin

DIVISION II COMMITTEES

Stewardship:

Joe Carlson

Finance:

Jim Bevins

Property:

Publicity:

Caryn Furbush

At Your Service Schedule – December 2006 – 10:30 AM

<u>DATE</u>	<u>USHERS</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>COMMUNION ASSISTANTS</u>	<u>ACOLYTES</u>	<u>ALTAR GUILD</u>	<u>TELLERS</u>
Dec. 3 rd 10:30 AM	Bob & Kathryn Neumeister	Hans & Susan DePold	Sarah Jaworski	Gene & Janina Johnkoski	Eric, John, Megan, David	Frida Nordgren	Kent Tedford & Barbara Lewis
Dec. 10 th 10:30 AM	Charles Turner & Kurt Christensen	Brian Godwin & Cathy Kay	Janet Holowczak	Bruce Weston & Martha McKerley	Eric, John, Megan, David	Frida Nordgren	Cathy Kay & Kent Tedford
Dec. 17 th 10:30 AM	Jim Bevins & Lynn Tobin	Adell Kenyon & Donna Hubbs	Fred Schoenfeld	Annette & Craig Bolt	Eric, John, Megan, David	Melissa Golden	Craig Bolt & Chuck Sack
Dec. 24 th 10:30 AM	Frida Nordgren & Barbara Lewis	Kendra Dubiel & Debbie Carr	Joe Carlson	Joyce Lamontagne & Caryn Furbush	Eric, John, Megan, David	Melissa Golden	Jim Bevins & Lynn Tobin
Dec. 24 th 11:00 PM	Bruce Weston & Tom Benoit	Mike Myette & Beth Warren	Kent Tedford	Matt Scoles and Kirsten Scoles	Ron, Eric, Megan, Matt	Frida Nordgren & Cathy Kay	
Dec. 31 st 10:30 AM	Donna & Dennis Hubbs	Joe Carlson & Kendra	Joyce Lamontagne	Ken & Linda Parkany	Eric, John, Megan, David	Keryl Robinson	Jay & Brian Godwin

WANTED



Shepherds

Good Shepherds are mentors who are committed to helping others discover and discuss their faith issues. Together they talk, pray, seeking God's will as they share from their heart. They offer their time, support, knowledge, wisdom, and friendship. They give others a sense of belonging to the church. More Good Shepherds are needed in several areas.

New members: Experienced Faith shepherds are needed to guide new Faith church members through their first years at Faith and help them connect with a group of committed church friends. Contact Joyce Lamontagne

Faith Youth Group: Alumni are invited to return during spring break in 2007 to share their experiences with current Faith Youth Group members. Contact Kent Tedford

Young people: Faith shepherds are at the side of young people as they transition to adulthood and develop their own identities. More regular friendly Faith adults are needed to talk to Faith youth every Sunday, to inquire about what is new and to nurture our youth by providing positive life experiences. Just try it.

Confirmands: Pastor Morris will be starting a new Faith Confirmation class. The new confirmands will go through the process of selecting their own mentor. A mentor must be able to listen to and accept where the young people are coming from. At the same time the mentor should gently challenge and prayerfully guide them. Each mentor will be from among the congregation and may periodically go places and do things with the confirmands. Good shepherds help young people to grow spiritually so that they take responsibility and ownership of their own faith.

Division 1, Evangelism and Christian Education

WANTED

Your Children



All Faith Lutheran Church children are wanted at Sunday Church School every week and also at Faith Lutheran Church services. It is easier to teach a boy or girl the values of Christ than it is to fix a broken man or woman.

Bring us your children, yearning to learn. Give them the chance to make lasting friendships in a wholesome, safe, and stable learning environment. Give them, our young and restless, the opportunity to have Christ touch their imagination, and to build a

lifetime foundation of confidence and commitment.

Faith Lutheran Church is a place where children can learn and grow to their true potential, in an environment that fosters independent Christian values and thinking. A Faith Sunday School education encompasses the child's intellectual, emotional, social, and creative development.

Faith Sunday School is trying to be more convenient for parents because stability is important to children and stability is reflected in good attendance and other good habits. Children tend to adopt many of the habits of their parents.

Faith Lutheran Church has two bell choirs and two regular choirs for adults, youth and children that share their musical offerings at Sunday morning services. Children are offered music training every Sunday at 8:45 AM before the Sunday Church School which runs from 9:15 AM to 10:15. There are also supervised activities for children not interested in music so that parents can always drop off all their children at 8:45 AM when Sunday School is in session. Parents can then attend the Adult Forum while their children are in the Sunday classes. The Adult Forum studies and discusses current topics which the class selects from a number of excellent courses. Then at 9:45AM the adult choir rehearses. All members of Faith are welcome to participate.

Division 1, Christian Education and Music and Worship

Holiday Fest Handbell Concert Sunday, Dec 3 at 4:30 PM.

Faith Lutheran Church will host the Merrimack Valley Ringers (MVR) whom will delight you in a hand bell concert on Sunday, December 3, 2006 at 4:30 PM. This special talented group of sixteen Merrimack Valley Ringers will perform a variety of the classical and contemporary Christmas music that will literally ring in our Christmas Season during the 2006 East Hartford Holiday Fest. This is the second time this year that the MVR will be at our church and if you missed them the first time you will not want to miss them again.

During Christmas 2005 the Merrimack Valley Ringers performed in the "Bells of Boston" at Faneuil Hall Marketplace. Each ringer is either a bell choir director or an experienced hand bell ringer for a New England church, and had to audition for their part. After the concert you can stay a while and meet and talk to the musicians and enjoy refreshments and cakes, cookies and other treats made with recipes from around the world. Each treat bears the flag of the nation from which the receipt comes.

The cost of admission to the concert will be one nonperishable food item for the needy. There will also be a free will offering.

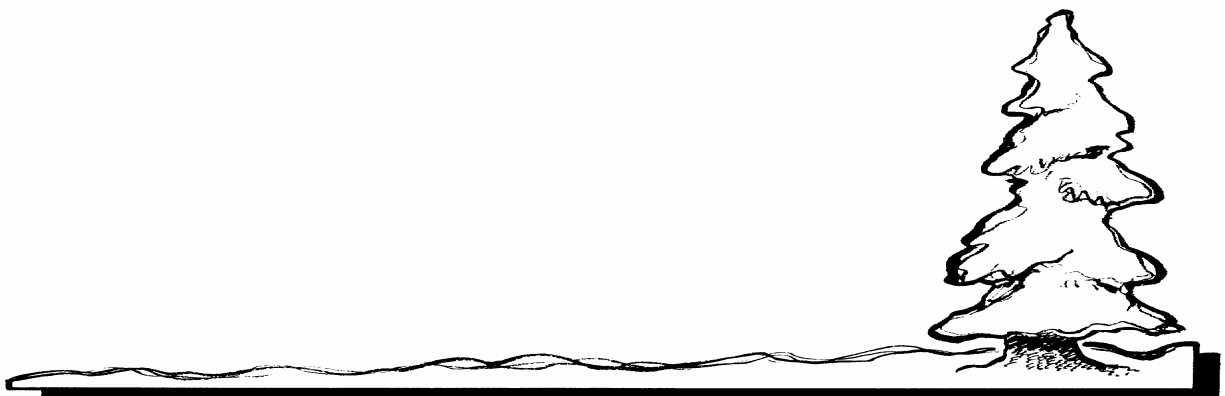
The members of Faith Lutheran Church have grown to appreciate bell music over the years and welcome all to hear this wonderful music.

The Handbell Concert needs volunteers:

- People to put up posters
- Parking attendants with flash lights
- Youth Greeters giving out free programs.
- Ushers for a free will collection.
- Poster for Social Ministry evangelism
- Contributors of cakes, cookies, and treats from around the world and refreshments.

Volunteers please sign up or contact Hans or Susan

For further information see "Events" at our web site:
<http://www.faithlutheranct.org/>



SOCIAL MINISTRY

On November 13, Cheryl Hanley and Melissa Golden delivered 16 Thanksgiving Baskets to our adopted social worker, Tawanda-Hurdle Jackson at Manchester DCF, for her families. They will be sure to have a wonderful Thanksgiving Day thanks to your efforts. Thank you to everyone who donated and especially to Melissa and Cheryl who worked so hard on this. As I was away on business the week before delivery, their help in shopping for the “leftovers off the board”, figuring out the refrigeration issues, packing boxes, and delivering was immeasurable in getting this project completed. My personal, guilt-laden, heartfelt thanks to you both!

On December 3, the Angel Tree (thanks to Doris Schoenfeld) will grace the Narthex once again and by December 17 we will be sorting and delivering the gifts to Tawanda and East Hartford Social Services for distribution. Please remember to take items off the tree on either December 3 or 10 and then RETURN THE ITEMS WITH TAGS ATTACHED to church on December 17. If you take something off the tree and don't fulfill the wish, someone will do without on Christmas because you didn't follow through SO PLEASE remember the December 17 deadline! Anyone who can help on December 17 after church is *very* welcome to stay and do so. We have about 60 gifts (between the two organizations) to fulfill this year, so please help wherever you can.

This is the time of year when we are pulled in so many directions it is hard to decide what and how we can do for others. It is my sincere hope that you will remember those we as a family of Faith have committed to care for and will be generous as usual in your giving to the Glory of God.

To all I wish a blessed Christmas surrounded by the love of Christ and family.

In Christ's name,

Donna Hubbs
Chairperson, Social Ministry

MIRACLES AND THANK YOU'S

Def Leppard. Not normally a group I would bring up in a Christian context. For those of you that are not aware – Def Leppard is a hard rock band. It is physical, lusty, non-spiritual music, to say the least. However, the Lord has worked a miracle in the midst of them and it was wonderful to see this past weekend. More in a moment.

On December 17, 2001 I put my hand through a plate glass window severing a nerve and six tendons. I was sure that my musical career was over. The hand surgeon was not ready to give up. But he did warn me that the question would remain for months as to whether or not I would ever play the piano/organ again. We know the outcome. I returned to the Band at Peace after only 4 months of therapy. I played the organ at Faith in October. And all of this with a hand that is 85% numb. Only lacking in some fine motor skill I have returned to a normal life. And there is not a day that goes by without a “thank you” sent heavenward to God.

Let's talk about another miracle. Norman Banta. I don't know the whole story of Norm's life – just the small part that has happened since I met him through Prayer Blanket Ministry. On the display in the narthex there is a picture of Norman and all the women from the ministry. “Norm and His Harem” we call it. Norman helps set up the tables and chairs for PBM. He brings devotions to share. He prays. He knots. And he knots as good as the rest of us who can see with our eyes. It just isn't Prayer Blanket Ministry without Norm there. And I'll bet there isn't a day that goes by that Norm doesn't send a “thank you” heavenward to God.

Back to Def Leppard. The drummer for this band, Rick Allen, only has one arm. He was severely injured in a car accident and they were not able to reattach his arm. He was drumming with Def Leppard before the accident. He's drumming with Def Leppard after the accident. And he has moved from an electronic set of drums to an acoustic set with some electronic features. Rick plays his heart out. He is an amazing combination of one arm and two feet. He is a role model for everyone. The standing ovation he receives at every concert is testimony to that. Rick Allen also does charitable work to help others with loss of limb injuries. And I'll bet that not a day goes by that a "thank you" isn't sent heavenward to God.

We hear of miracles within the midst of Prayer Blanket Ministry as well. Miracles that happen to people who have received blankets – or the blanket itself being the miracle. For example – material with a whale and dolphin pattern was chosen for someone who recently lost a loved one. It was chosen to help give them a sense of peace. It turned out that the loved one who had passed had a special connection to dolphins so the blanket was much more meaningful than we could ever have imagined.

The miracle of defeat over cancer always touches us. We just got the news that Sal is cancer free! He and his wife, Betty, received blankets from the ministry last spring just as Sal began a difficult series of chemo treatments.

Another of our favorite miracles – Jordan – severely abused at six weeks of age and not expected to live. We made a blanket for him through tears and an inability to know what to pray for. He is fine – he has recovered. He approaches his first birthday and is now expected to live a normal life.

Our blankets comfort some through a difficult time, help walk the journey of an illness, and have accompanied many to their death. And with each and every blanket a miracle occurs within each of us present who knot and pray. We are changed by the Lord working through each of us. We are changed through the raw power of the prayer. We are changed with the touch of the material under our fingers. We are changed by the fellowship we have with each other.

And there is not a day that goes by without a "thank you" sent heavenward to God.

You too can have your life changed as you change the lives of others.

In Christ,

Linda Woodrow

PRAYER BLANKET MINISTRY

website: www.prayerblankets.net

email: linda@prayerblankets.net

contacts: Linda Woodrow (875-4570) or Caryn Furbush (568-2309)

meetings: Wednesdays, 6:30pm, Parish Hall



MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

As many of you know, 12 **Cottage Meetings** were held during October and early November to get members of Faith together in small groups to talk about Faith – our programs, worship, and ministries - as we begin our transition year. 106 people took advantage of the opportunity presented and were treated to good food, good discussion and good company. We are still compiling the results of these meetings and hope to have a full report available in January.

Some initial observations were:

- People who attended the meetings found them valuable
- Many people did not make this a priority on their agendas and therefore missed out on attending a wonderful event in the life of Faith Lutheran Church.
- As we contacted people in the congregation, we got many different reactions. Some people are now attending church regularly due to these interactions and we praise God for their presence among us and hope they will continue to join us at worship on a regular basis. Others are in our directory, but are no longer members. Some are in convalescent homes, have family issues Pastor Morris is following up on, and others never answered the phone messages we left.
- Cottage Meeting hosts outdid themselves. We sincerely thank Kendra Dubiel, Jennifer & Manuel Morales, Ken & Linda Parkany, Hans & Susan DePold, Jay & Carla Stolzenthaler, Janet & John Holowczak, Melissa & Bill Golden, Beth Warren, Mary Susca and Jennie Kane, Donna & Dennis Hubbs, Keryl Robinson, Annette & Craig Bolt, and Marjorie Coons for hosting these meetings. We also thank Hilda & Bill Schiemer, Martha & Jim McKerley, and Janine & Gene Johnkoski for being willing to open their homes for meetings, but theirs ended up not being utilized. We also thank our facilitators, Kent Tedford, Joe Carlson, Chuck Sack, Jim Bevins, Hans DePold, Donna Hubbs, Keryl Robinson, Janina & Gene Johnkoski, Joyce LaMontagne, Barbara Lewis, and Annette Bolt. Without them, these meetings would have had no direction.

If you were at a meeting, we would appreciate your returning your surveys to the basket labeled for such in the Narthex, or mail them to Janina Johnkoski at 42 Jonathan Lane, South Windsor CT 06074. If you lost yours, please find a blank one with the basket in the Narthex. If you've already turned it in, thank you very much!

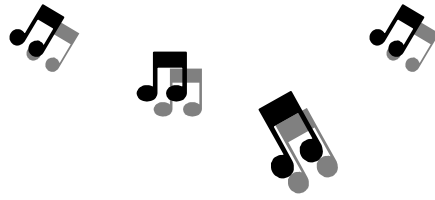
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

The Church School and the church members are joining again this year to make Christmas merrier for some East Hartford families and Covenant for Care clients, who need help. The gifts will be received and dedicated at the Church School program on December 17th during the 10:30 service.

On December 3rd during Church School, children will take an angel off the tree in the narthex (some angels have a request for a gift and some request money for Christmas dinners). Adults also may choose an angel or angels anytime before December 17th.

Each angel will have a number on it, Please sign the list on the table next to that number. These gifts should be wrapped with the angel attached on the outside. If you are giving money please put it in an envelope marked Christmas Dinners. If you are not going to be at church on December 17th would you please be sure and get the gifts to church beforehand.

We hope that this will again be a great success. If you have any questions please call Doris Schoenfeld at 568-4481.



Notes From the Balcony

Prepare for and celebrate Christmas with music. It will make you feel better!

On Sunday, December 17, the Sunday School will offer a Christmas Pageant. Special music by the Young Ringers will be included. The entire Sunday School is also working on a joyous piece of music for the program.

Join the family of Faith on Christmas Morning at 10:30 a.m. and on Christmas Eve. Special Christmas music will be presented at 10:45 p.m. to prepare for the worship service that begins at 11 p.m. The Faith Choir, Bell Choir, and instrumentalists are hard at work rehearsing a varied selection of seasonal music.

Did you know that listening to music can reduce chronic pain by up to 21 percent and depression by up to 25 percent? This information was presented in research published in the *Journal of Advanced Nursing*. Sandra Siedlecki, a nurse research at the Cleveland Clinic, and Marion Good, professor of nursing at the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case University, found that "listening to music has been shown to promote a number of positive benefits." This research adds to the growing body of evidence that music has an important role to play in health care today. Why wait until you are ill to enjoy music? If it can make you feel better when ill, it can surely help you while you are still healthy!

Music, when combined with the stirring words of a hymn or a verse from the Bible, can be powerful. Take care of your religious health. Set aside some time in your busy life to experience comfort and joy with the help of music.

Susan Lionberger

THANK YOU...

On behalf of the Henry family, we would like to express our appreciation to everyone who attended the Memorial Service for Arline on November 8th. Your warmth and strong support was overwhelming considering the short time she actually lived here. We thank the Choir and Pastor Morris for making the service the way Arline outlined it several years ago. May the Spirit of unity continue to grow in Faith in the months and years ahead.
Sincerely, Paul and Carolyn Henry

CARE PACKAGES

Thank you's were received from Allie Larson and Leslie Furbush for the "care packages" that were sent on to them at college. Allie's hope is to be able to see all of us during Christmas, and Leslie has assured us that the food will all go to good use!!