

Colebrook Congregational Church

The friendly church on the green



The Messenger

November/December
2006

REFLECTIONS

As I prepared this newsletter, I was surprised by the long list of events we have scheduled for the season of Advent. There is everything going on from two chances to sing carols, to Breakfast with Santa, to the Christmas Fair, to the joy and energy of the Children's Pageant, to the blissful peace Christmas Eve brings. It was tiring just thinking about all we would like to accomplish. But, it seems that during this time of year, which is fast upon us, we have an extra bit of energy, an extra bit of love flowing through us all that carries us through the hectic days and night. We are often at our very best as we handle many challenges with calm and certain hearts.

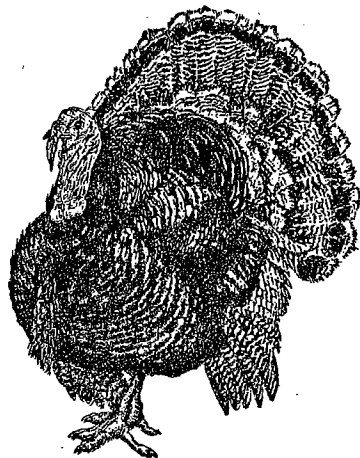
Why do we do this so well? Because, I believe, that deep down within each of us, in spite of the hustle and bustle all around, we truly understand the great gift we are given for Christmas. We understand the Christmas Story we have heard year after year. While it seems that at times we just give a nod to the coming of the Christ Child, something resonates within our beings that ties us to one another through the baby that came into the world to show us the way to hope and peace; not only hope and peace for our world but hope and peace for each of us and for our community of faith. God has blessed us with this gift. God has helped us see the way, the truth and the life that exists for us when we choose to follow Christ.

It all seems so simple and it could be if we become able to set aside all that separates us and seek instead all that unites us in life. Join in some of the activities of the season and light anew the spark of Christ that burns deep within.

Grace and Peace,

Alice

Pastor Alice



IMPORTANT DATES

- November 16, Thursday, **Auxiliary Meeting**, 7PM, at the Church
- November 19, --Thanksgiving Sunday, Lay Speakers; **Please bring non-perishable food items** for our local food pantries
- NO CHURCH COMMITTEE MEETING, Nov. 21—rescheduled for December 5.**
- December 3, 1st Sunday in Advent
Carol Sing, 6:30PM, Everyone invited to attend, please bring a plate of cookies.
- December 5, Church Committee Meeting 7PM**
- December 9, Saturday, **Breakfast with Santa, 8:30 AM at the Church**
Colebrook Christmas Fair, 9:30AM
- December 15, Friday, **Caroling in the Center, 7PM—refreshments at Church following—everyone invited to come and sing along**
- December 17, **Sunday school pageant**
- December 24, **Worship at 10:30AM**
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 5PM
- January 21, **Congregational Meeting, Budget, immediately following worship (snow date January 28)**

THANKSGIVING DONATIONS

Please remember to bring non-perishable food items to Church on or before **November 19**. Your donations will be delivered to local food pantries, FISH and the Salvation Army, as well as shared in our community baskets for Thanksgiving.

Remember, too, that we collect food year round for those less fortunate. The Deacons ensure that it is delivered each week.

PRAYER and MEDITATION

The Prayer and Meditation group now meets on **Wednesday mornings at 10AM**. Feel free to join the group at any time.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Church will have 2 projects going on during the Colebrook Christmas Fair on **December 9 beginning at 9:30AM**. The **Wrapping Table** handled by Liz Blum, 379-5007, Abrah Carroll 379-4089 and Sheila Postlethwait, 738-7701 and the **Christmas Craft Table** managed by Bev Bucy, Cindy Aiudi and Pastor Alice. The wrappers will wrap gift packages (that seems fairly obvious). They do a beautiful and professional job. If you are a backward wrapper, like the Pastor, they will save you from yourself.

The **Christmas Craft Table** needs the input of many hands, hearts and minds. We will be featuring candy (caramels, toffee, peppermint bark, fudge, etc.), caramel sauce, Christmas crafts, knit items and whatever else you can imagine. Items need to be at the table in Town Hall by 8:30 AM the morning of the Fair. Or, they may be dropped off at the parsonage any time. If you have any questions, please call Bev, 379-7917, Cindi, 738-3573 or Pastor Alice 379-2517.

SUNDAY SCHOOL EVENTS

-Children are bringing in weekly donations of food for Thanksgiving Sunday, **November 19**

-**Nov. 18th** - Children to help set up table for Thanksgiving at 10:00

-C.E. will be doing the **Christmas Angel** wishes for the Winsted YMCA for all church members to participate - look for sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall

-**Dec. 15th - Church-wide caroling 7:00** - refreshments after in Fellowship Hall - inspired by the Sunday School - look for sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall

-**Dec. 16th Pageant Dress Rehearsal - 10:00**

-**Dec. 17th - Pageant**

No Sunday school 11/ 26, 12/24, 12/31



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

This is one of those new initiatives that the Auxiliary is sponsoring. This event is for fun more than for funds. It will be held at the Church on **December 9, at 8:30 AM**. The men are cooking and others are welcome to help. Santa will be here. Reservations for breakfast are necessary due to limited space. To reserve a space call Abrah Carroll, 379-4089. The cost will be \$5 for adults, \$3 for children 6-12 and children under 6 free. Breakfast will consist of pancakes, sausage, juice, milk, coffee. If you would like to help with this project, please call Pastor Alice 379-2517.

PLEDGE CARDS

The pledge cards and letters for fiscal year 2007 have been mailed to our Church Members and Friends. Several have already been returned and the Finance Committee is grateful to those who have renewed or increased their pledges. If you have not returned your pledge card, please do so at your earliest convenience.

There are also some outstanding pledges for 2006. If possible, the Committee would appreciate having those pledges completed by the end of this year. In planning the budget for next year, it is important to have a clear picture of our giving patterns from this past year. This was a time of making new history as we moved to a new fiscal year.

Please prayerfully consider your commitment to the Church as you respond to this stewardship request.

POINSETTIA SALE

If you would like to order a poinsettia for Christmas, in honor or memory of loved ones, order forms are available at Church. The single plants will cost \$10.00 and the double plants cost \$20.00. If you will not be in Church but would like to order a plant, please contact Abrah Carroll 379-4089. Checks should be made out to Colebrook Church Auxiliary.

