

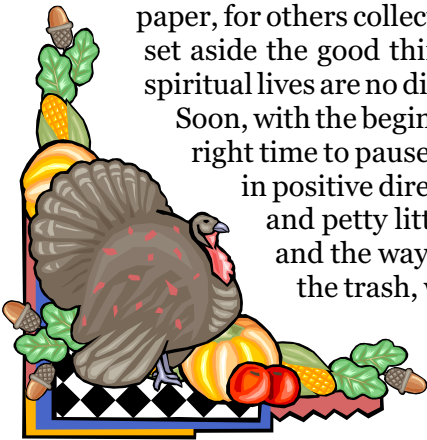
REFLECTIONS

For the last week or so I have been in a strange mode of existence for me. I told a friend I have been “shoveling out” the study. I suspect this burst of energy in such an interesting direction will last a bit longer and will possibly spill over into the rest of the parsonage. Trash pickers, beware!

In the course of this action I have discovered that I am sort of a “pack rat.” I thought I was one of those folks that managed to live minimally but from the amount of things I have accumulated, I guess I had better take another look at myself.

All of us hang on to things we no longer need in life. For some of us it seems to be great amounts of paper, for others collections of one sort or another. We all need to set aside time to sift and winnow and set aside the good things we want to hold on to until the next time of sifting and winnowing. Our spiritual lives are no different than our physical lives.

Soon, with the beginning of Advent (December 2), the new church year begins. Maybe this is just the right time to pause in our busy lives and sort out some of the things that have kept us from growing in positive directions. Perhaps, it is time to set aside painful old memories, unresolved injuries and petty little resentments. Maybe it is time to become a little more open to the teachings and the ways of Christ and to incorporate them more fully into our lives. When we toss out the trash, we find a lot more room for the treasures. Of course, as in all of life, the decision to do this is our own. We can stay where we are or begin to move forward. Remember to choose wisely.



Colebrook Congregational Church

The Friendly Church on the Green

Peace and Grace, Pastor Alice

MITTEN TREE

Once again this year we will be collecting mittens, scarves, and hats for the cold fingers and heads in our community. Beginning on December 2, please bring your donations to church to hang on the tree.

CAROL SING

The annual Carol Sing will be held on December 2 at 5:30 PM. Please plan on gathering in Fellowship Hall for cookies and hot chocolate and an opportunity to begin Advent through enjoying wonderful music. Bring a plate of Christmas cookies to share. Astrid and her elves will be hosting us.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

The church will have a table and a half at the Christmas Fair from 9:30AM-2PM on December 8. We will be selling candy, jelly, Christmas craft items, some knit items and.....

There will also be a silent auction for a Gingerbread House crafted by Liz Blum and her elves. Please be sure to support this fundraising effort. If you have any questions, call Pastor Alice, 379-2517.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

On December 8, 8:30-10:30 AM the Auxiliary will be sponsoring the Second Annual Breakfast with Santa. Linda Farnham is overseeing this project. Santa is set to attend and the cooks are all in order. If you would be willing to help out with this fun project, contact Linda at 379-9308.



COMMUNITY COOKIE SALE



Instead of a Community Bake sale this year, the Community and Senior Center will be holding a cookie sale on the 2nd floor of Town Hall during the Christmas Fair. To make this a success and raise money for a community project, Christmas cookies are needed. If you are willing to donate 3 dozen cookies or more, bring them to the Town Hall on Friday, December 7.

OPEN HOUSE



There will be an Open House sponsored by the Deacons held at Tom and Elizabeth Vergo's, 48 Old Colebrook Rd., on December 30 from 2-4PM. Everyone is invited

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS



Sunday school is moving along with plans for a Christmas program on December 16, and the yearly donation of food items on November 18. The teachers and children will also be putting together baskets of holiday goodies for people in retirement homes and our older members. This is a labor of love that is appreciated by those who receive the baskets.



YOUTH GROUP NOTES



Youth group is starting on November 30th with a lock-in. During the lock in we will watch and discuss some inspirational movies. The lock-in starts at 8:30 p.m. at the church basement. Please bring a sleeping bag, a pillow, and a pad if you have one. The lock-in will end with us cooking breakfast on Saturday morning. Parents are to pick up their children by 9:00 a.m.

The Youth Group will continue for the rest of the school year, meeting on the fourth Thursday of every month. It will be from 7 -8 p.m. and is open to all young people of the church in grades 6-9. If you have any questions please call Tammy Johnson at 379-8366.

THANKSGIVING FOOD GATHERING



Please remember to bring non-perishable food items to church with you on November 18. Your donations will be distributed to hungry people in the area. Our congregation has been very generous in years past. Let's keep up the tradition.

MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE



At last count we had matched \$1925 of our \$4000 goal. The challenge is in effect until December 31.

If you would like to make a donation to the Matching Gift Challenge, just make out a check to the church and note "matching gift" in the memo space. All matching gifts should be in addition to your regular yearly donations.



Please visit us at...



www.colebrookchurch.org

The Messenger



November 2007