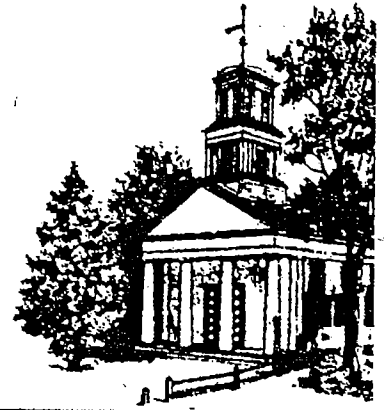


# Colebrook Congregational Church

The friendly church on the green



## The Messenger

February/March  
2007

### REFLECTIONS

As I write this column I am looking out at snow—real snow. Not a lot but enough to cover up the browns and semi-greens that have been prevalent here. It is beautiful. Of course, I am thinking of the scripture reading, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow." Pastor's minds work in unusual ways, as if you did not know.

But, I also understand that while things look so fresh and bright, a mere covering of snow will disappear in time and all will be revealed for what it is underneath. This is like life and the people who live it, isn't it? We can put a pretty cover on our selves, or act like all sweetness and light, but we can never hide forever what lies beneath all the window dressing. It is bound to come shining through.

We are approaching the season of Lent—a time of reflection upon our selves and our lives. It is a time of possible change for us if we see that what we present as the external picture does not reflect what is within. If we do not like what we see that dwells within, it is the perfect time to move toward change that we may reflect more brightly the light we called to reflect as Christians.

We have forty days and nights in which to accomplish new patterns of living based on the pattern revealed to us in Christ. Is this the year we take the first, new steps toward becoming more loving and caring, more forgiving and understanding, more patient and reflective? The choice is always ours?

Grace and Love,

Pastor Alice



### IMPORTANT DATES

February 18, Sunday, 4PM, "A Quick Trip to China," presented by Lynn Whelchel

February 21—Ash Wednesday

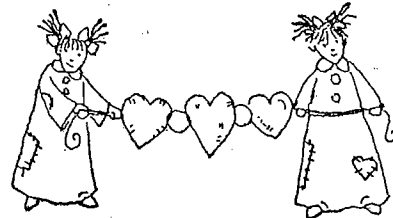
February 22, 7PM, Youth Group

March 24, Community Supper sponsored by the men of the Auxiliary, at the Community Center

April 1, Palm Sunday

April 5, Maundy Thursday service, 7PM

April 8, Easter Sunday service 10:30 AM



### ARMCHAIR TRAVEL

The Members-At-Large of the Church Committee sent around a survey to all members of the Church last fall. One of the events people indicated they would like to have sponsored by the church was "armchair travel." The first trip we will be taking will be to **China** with Lynn Whelchel on **Sunday, February 18, 4PM**. Everyone is invited to attend this interesting program that will celebrate Chinese New Year, which is on February 18, and which welcomes in the Year of the Pig or DingHai. It is the year 4704 on the Chinese calendar. Please plan on attending this informative and fun event.

### COMMUNITY SUPPER

The men of the Colebrook Church Auxiliary will be sponsoring a Community Supper at the Community Center on **March 24**. The women will be making desserts of all kinds. Tom McKeon has volunteered to act as chair of this event. If you would like to help out with this fundraising project, please call Tom at 738-0850. Further details will be announced.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Sunday School has had a great year thus far! We began using new curriculum, Live B.I.G. (Believe in God) and children from all grades are very enthusiastic! The new curriculum was a big undertaking from a financial standpoint as it included three televisions with DVD players as well as a year's worth of DVD's and curriculum for the three classrooms, and we truly thank the church for allowing us the funding. It has proven to be well worth the expense.

The Sunday School continues its good will with baskets for our shut-ins. We made and delivered ten baskets two weeks before Christmas which contained lots of goodies and a picture of our children's choir, Joyful Noises, in their new robes, in frames decorated by the children. William McNeil's basket was hand delivered by the entire Sunday School on foot singing Christmas carols as we walked to and from his house. What a sight to behold! If anyone has any suggestions as to who may benefit from the cheer the baskets bring, please let us know!

Joyful Noises continues to sing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month. In January the children sang from the Choir loft with the Senior Choir for back-up! Many thanks to Vima for her continued support in providing us music!

The Sunday School has received funding from the Ross Foundation towards the procurement of portable, retractable walls for the classrooms! We are very excited about this additional investment in our Sunday School program, and we again thank the church for encouraging us to put in a request for our program.

With the Christmas pageant and the holidays behind us, the Sunday School is busy planning events and activities for the remainder of the school year. Among these activities will be two field trips. The first will be to Lourdes in Litchfield to walk the Stations of the Cross as we did last year. The date for this trip is Sunday March 25th, after church services. Families will provide their own transportation and car pool as they wish. The second field trip takes place in late spring to Overlook Farm, a Heifer International farm in Rutland, Massachusetts. As you know, the Sunday School children have been taking a collection and donating to the Heifer International program for years. We feel this will be a great opportunity for the children to get a taste of the work that is accomplished through their generous donations. For this field trip, Christian Education has received \$300.00 in our 2007 budget to go towards transportation. We are going to hire a bus for the 2 ¼ hour drive which will cost us approximately \$900.00. We will be raising the remaining funds through bake sales and donations. The first bake sale will be occurring on February 4<sup>th</sup>, a Bake and Super Bowl Sub sale. Both trips will be inspirational, and all are welcome! Please look for sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall.



## Treasurer's Corner

Happy New Year!

As our Church begins the New Year, we have several challenges ahead of us. The first is fundraising and the second is fundraising. The total amount of money to be raised for 2007 through our efforts is **\$50,200** through pledges, donations to the collection plate, and fundraising through events.

Pledges are the largest component of the church income and the most dependable. Thank you to all of you who have sent in your pledges. To date we have received pledges in the amount of **\$25,300**. We are about half way towards our total goal. I am confident that we can increase our pledge total as we progress through the month of January. If you need a pledge card, there are some in the vestibule. They should be filled out and placed in the collection plate or sent to me.

Through the newsletter, I will keep you updated on our progress. Together I am hopeful that we can reach our goal. If you have any ideas, please feel free to contact me, or other members of the Church Committee.

Sincerely,

Alison Jassen  
Treasurer

## DEACONS EVENTS

The Deacons have sponsored two very successful fellowship events in the past month. The first was a wonderful Open House at Tom and Elizabeth Vergo's home. The second was a very tasty brunch on January 21 following the budget meeting. All who attended these events had wonderful times sharing food and conversation. The Deacons look forward to offering such occasions on a regular basis. All members and friends of the church are invited to attend.

