

The Steeple

Federated Church of Castleton
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Castleton, VT 05735
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The Rev. Robert Noble III
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December 2011/ January 2012

Call for Congregational Meeting

The Church Council hereby calls a meeting of the congregation to be held on
Sunday, December 11, 2011,
following the morning worship service for the purpose of voting on a church budget for 2012.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY WITH REV. BERRY

December 4, 11, 18; 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

The Advent Bible Study will focus on the historical roots of Advent with primary attention placed on the Gospel Birth narratives found in Matthew and Luke which are the only two Gospels that begin with Jesus' conception and birth. Considering that a mere four chapters out of eighty-nine Gospel chapters speak about Jesus' coming into the world, these writings are far more significant than their length indicates. This is because they embody the central paradox of our faith, which is, that Jesus is both Human and Divine.

As an added point of interest we will travel pictorially to the Catacomb of Pricilla in Rome where the oldest Christian fresco of the Madonna and child was discovered only 500 years ago. There are some extraordinarily interesting aspects to this fresco which may uncover a mystery as to the exact date that Jesus was born. Come to class as a way of preparing for each Sunday's service of worship.

DECEMBER 18, 2011

As Christmas approaches there are two very simple theological truisms that bear reflection. The first is: God comes into ordinary events, ordinary relationships, ordinary experiences. The second is: that a very important part of you is your spirit, you soul, your heart. Christmas is about the ordinary, but behind the ordinary is the miracle that God discloses. Adeste Fidelis.

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY TO...

- 2 Ema McKie
- 3 Karla Tomasi
- 3 Kim Ramey
- 6 Ryan Murphy
- 6 Lance Coltey
- 7 Casey Williams
- 7 Kevin Barker
- 8 Ron Beayon
- 9 Lacey Timmerman
- 11 Donald Baird
- 12 Patricia Taggart
- 13 Lori-Anna Mason
- 14 Clarence Beayon
- 15 Brian "Buddy" Ladd Jr.
- 15 Raquel Beayon
- 15 Michelle Britt
- 16 Robert Mason
- 18 Joe Beayon
- 23 Kelsey Patch
- 26 David McGalliard
- 28 Paula Beayon
- 29 Elaine Greenough
- 30 Norman Williams
- 30 Dan Beayon

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...

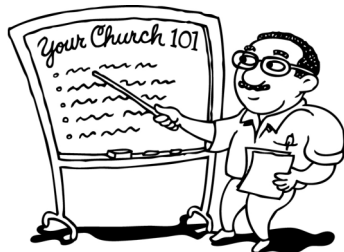
- 2 Dorothy & Jim Babinski
- 3 Mary Ellen & Paul Barker

HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAY TO...

- 3 David Taggart
- 7 Bonnie Crossman
- 8 Mark Kelley
- 11 Normandie Keller
- 12 Noah Beayon
- 13 Samantha Mulholland
- 13 Jason Coltey
- 13 Molly Ward
- 14 Joyce Thomas
- 14 Winfred Pike
- 15 Josh Mulholland
- 19 Dante Bassette
- 21 Betty Borden
- 22 Melaina Bassette
- 22 Ray Ladd
- 24 Elizabeth Dimick
- 25 Mollie Coltey
- 27 Heather Christian
- 29 Richard Coltey
- 30 Jessica Spaulding

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...

- 1 Don & Charlene Baird
- 9 Norm & Casey Williams
- 11 Steve & Carol Berry
- 15 Stan & Marianne Patch
- 18 John & Linda Garrison
- 24 Barry & Cynthia Stoodley
- 24 Peggy & William Greene
- 25 Joseph & Sara Grey
- 30 Frank & Betty Taggart



**Inquirer's Gathering
January 14, 2012**

Have you ever considered church membership? We will be welcoming new members in January and on January 14 between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. we will hold an Inquirer's Gathering for those of you might be interested in learning about church membership.

What does it mean to be a church member? Come and enjoy a light, informal luncheon and discussion with Rev. Noble and other church leaders.

C'mon Ring Those Bells!



Have you ever considered joining the Steeple Bells Handbell Choir but thought you didn't have any musical talent? Well think again. Anyone can learn to play the bells.

"I have had many members who have never read music and they learned through the bells. Bells give you a good chance to learn to read music and play an instrument even if you did not have the chance earlier in life," says Nate.

There is room in The Handbell Choir for additional ringers. Speak to Nate if you are interested.



Carols Around Piano

Higley House Museum, 12/11, 2pm

Holly Hitchcock wants you to know that the Castleton Historical Society is hosting a **Carols Around Piano** event at the Higley House Museum on Main Street in Castleton.

The date is Sunday, December 11, beginning at 2:00 p.m.

All Are Welcome

Refreshments will be served.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

11:00 WORSHIP SERVICE
(NURSERY AVAILABLE)

HOW TO CONTACT US

THE REV. ROBERT A. NOBLE, III, PASTOR
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NATHANIEL DE YOUNG, ORGANIST & MUSIC DIRECTOR

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STEPHANIE STOODLEY, CHILDREN AND YOUTH
STEPHANIESTOODLEY@GMAIL.COM

LOIS AND RAY LADD, CUSTODIANS
802.468.5072

BEVERLY CARROLL, ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY
BEVCARROLL@BEVCARROLL.COM, 518.795-5436

FEDERATED CHURCH OF CASTLETON
PO BOX 57, CASTLETON, VT 05735

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OFFICE EMAIL: CASTLETONCHURCH@YAHOO.COM



It's time we took a look at and update our church directory and the church database in general. If you notice an error in the birthday or anniversary list, please notify Bev of the changes that need to be made.

If you are a new family or person attending church over the past year and we don't have your information and you'd like to be included in the newsletter mailing or birthday list, let us know. The information will be updated regularly.

If you need an updated roster, just let us know. You can reach Bev at the church email, castleton-church@yahoo.com.

Thanks for helping keep our information up-to-date.

Traveling Light
By Lynn Olcott

Angels and Shepherds

*When the angels went away from them to Heaven, the shepherds said to one another
"Let us go to Bethlehem..."
Luke 2:15*

This time of year, angels and shepherds are much on my mind. That the highest of messengers would alert humble people to a magnificent event seems to me entirely believable. What dazzles me is that the shepherds actually honored the message, took the journey, followed the star.

We are given powerful messages of good all the time. We are prompted to feel concern for a friend or give our efforts to a cause or believe a miracle. Too often we ignore the messages and stay in our fields, leaning on our sticks of habit. What were the lives of the shepherds like after their journey? What adventures await us beyond the field?

God, help me hear your messages and give me courage to act on them. Amen



LIBRARY NEWS

Rev. Charlene Baird

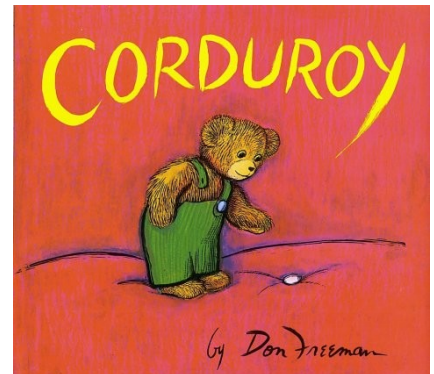
Our great-granddaughter Emily who is now on the edge of two years has reminded me that there are wonderful children's books perfect for reading on a snowy day.

Here are a few:

A Snowy Day, Corduroy, Good Night Moon, are forever classics.

You may find some wonderful books

in the grocery store which are inexpensive too. For older kids there's Winnie the Pooh. You must remember the cheerful stories of a little boy and his animal friends. And for the much older, *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*. Nothing can replace the feeling of hearing or reading a story in the old fashioned way. Give a gift that lasts a lifetime this Christmas.



From the Boards

MISSION NEWS

Thank you to everyone who generously donated to the **UCC Neighbors in Need** offering. Also, thank you for the generous support through out the year in sponsoring the mission projects at our church.

We have received thank you letters (on bulletin board) from Back Bay Mission and United Methodist Committee on Relief. Here are excerpts from them:

"Your gift of ...is quick response to meet emergency needs around the word. Because you gave, UMCOR is able to 'Be There' and "Be Hope' on your behalf."

"...services of Back Bay Mission are in extremely high demand. Every cut to social services at local, State and Federal levels has real consequences for those we serve...Thank you so much for your generous gift! We are praying for those in VT who were impacted by the flooding from Hurricane Irene. Blessings."

In December, we will be sponsoring the annual **Giving Tree** and providing gifts to area seniors through the **SW Council on Aging**. To participate please select a tag from the tree and bring your wrapped gift to church by **Sunday, December 11th**. If you have any questions please see Tamra.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Mission Committee.

DEACON NEWS

RADA CUTLERY SALE

Rada Cutlery has been making quality kitchen knives and utensils since 1948. We will be selling from a catalog of over 100 items including kitchen knives, utensils, gift sets, cook-books, stoneware, soy wax candles and Quick Mixes. You can see samples of some of this cutlery in our church kitchen. Pat and Bernie Jones (273-2892) are coordinating this fundraiser. Please see them if you'd like to see a catalog.

GIFTS FOR BABY JESUS

We will be collecting a gift offering of non-perishable food items for the food shelf. We will provide a cradle in which to place your wrapped gifts the Third Sunday in Advent , December 11. Tissue paper will be available for wrapping.



Advent Season at Federated Church

All are Welcome!



Christmas Tree Ornament Workshop **Saturday, December 3, 2011, from 1 to 3 pm**

An old-fashioned time of craft making and fellowship for all ages. Several craft tables will be prepared with the 'ingredients' to make different tree ornaments. Each table will display examples of the suggested crafts. There will be some written instructions as well as available assistance for those who feel a bit insecure about cutting, gluing and glittering. Everyone can pick and choose to make one or several or all of the ornaments, or create totally different innovative ones! This is a chance to get into the Christmas spirit as we plan our festive decorations for our own use or for small hand-made gifts to gladden the hearts of others. There will be light refreshments.

Christmas Concert and Carol Sing **Friday Night, December 16, 7:00 PM**

At 7pm on December 16, 2011, the Church will be hosting our 3rd Annual Christmas Concert and Carol Sing. The evening will begin with musical selections from our Choir, Handbell Choir and Junior Choir, followed by a community carol sing. Audience members will pick their favorite Christmas carols to be sung by the entire audience and led by our director, Nate De Young. Homemade refreshments and treats will follow after in the fellowship hall! Come join us for a special tradition in the church!

Christmas Gathering and Celebration at Rehlen Home **Monday, December 19, 5:00—7:00 PM**

Pam and John Rehlen have graciously invited everyone to a Christmas Gathering and Dinner at their home at 475 Main Street on Monday, December 19 from 5 to 7 p.m. Why not take a break from your last minute hustle and bustle to enjoy good food and the company of your neighbors?! Thank you for the invitation, Pam and John!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service **Saturday, December 24, 7:00 PM**

This is our traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service. Gather with us as we sing familiar Christmas Carols, hear the nativity Scriptures and worship the birth of our Savior.





Christmas Poinsettia Memorial and Celebration

It's the season! Those wishing to have a dedication in the Christmas Sunday and Christmas Eve bulletin can send their dedication and check made out to the Federated Church of Castleton, Flower Fund by December 11, 2011.

Please print all information on the following form and mail with your check to one of the addresses below or give to Shirley Beayon at church. This year the plants will cost \$12 each (6.5 inch pot) Thank you.

Shirley Beayon, 305 Birdseye Road, Castleton, VT 05735 (468-5839)
Lois Ladd, PO Box 21, Castleton, VT 05735 (468-5072)

I would like to order _____ poinsettias

In loving memory of _____

In celebration of _____

From _____

_____ I will pick up my poinsettia(s) following the Christmas Eve service.

_____ I will not pick up my poinsettia(s) but will leave it (them) as gifts.

_____ I will leave my poinsettia(s) to decorate the church.

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

U.S. Postage Paid
Nonprofit Organization
PERMIT #4
CASTLETON, VT

Visit us at: <http://www.castletonchurch.org>

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