

Don't you just love this time of the year ... 'tis the season!!

For me Advent is the heart of faith. In Advent we Church-folk experience a real boost in activity level -- practicing for Church School pageant, music expression traditions, holiday crafts, fresh green decorating our worship space, Advent Candle wreath lighting each Sunday as we move toward the Christ event. Advent is all about trust and hope. You can actually feel a surge of hope in the air at worship, caroling, holiday festivities.

In his book *The Audacity of Hope* (Crown Publ. 2006) Barack Obama gives pause to those who might think that the holiday season is just pomp and pageantry, hope is not naïve!

...religion too often dressed up in close-mindedness, in the garb of piety, cruelty and oppression in the cloak of righteousness. (p. 204)

President-elect Obama shares his optimism tempered by faith,

Faith doesn't mean that you don't have doubts (p. 207) ...one needs to embrace Christ precisely because you need to have an ally in your difficult journey in life. (p. 208)

Hop(ing) is by definition active, an on-going process, continual working toward the hoped-for vision. As we move into Advent we Christians watch and wait expectantly hope/full and enthusiastically preparing for evidence of God's Love among us ...Jesus Christ, preparing our hearts to receive the gift of the Incarnate Christ into our lives.

This season of Incarnation signals a beginning, an eye-opening that lets us see the work that we are about is sacred and on-going ...a way of life, an approach and commitment to covenant to be God's people and be about God's work. There is much to do among the celebrations of the season – we are not automatically free of the stigma and shame of racism and poverty whether it be the economic or social/caste variety or educational opportunity flavor or vacuous religious/moral naïveté that does not go away simply with a national election or a calendar date. Opportunities abound for us to let God in to our heart, to be kind, compassionate and generous in our out-look to others. Let's all find ways this Advent season to embrace Hope and grow in Faith that God is indeed among us. Thank you and may God bless your holiday expressions with Peace and Joy☺ DW

“The world of the generous gets larger and larger.”

Wednesday 9:00-12:00
Pastor's Office: Tues,Wed,Thurs a.m. or
by appt.

December

2008

Minister: Rev. Richard Wierwille
Worship Service: Sunday 10 AM
Church School: 10:00-11:15
Email: wlcc@valley.net
Web Site: www.westlebcc.org
Phone: 603-298-8096
Church Office Hours:
Tuesday and Thursday 8:30-3:30



- 20 Ann Collins
- 22 Lori Higgins
- 23 Lindy Hatch
- 23 Dot Greene
- 27 Ike Hartson
- 31 Forest Miller

From the Beedle

"With Winter setting in and the temperatures dropping, another way to keep our heating bills lower has been suggested. After the Christmas Season, the large front doors will be insulated and kept closed for the coldest months of the year. Access and egress to and from the church will be available through the rear entrance by the office (actually the most popular year round) or the front door near the Kilton room. In an effort to make the alternative entrances more pronounced, the front steps of the church will not be shoveled and a sign will be placed at the bottom of the stairs. Any other suggestions or comments are always welcome.

As always with the cold comes the snow. Please be careful navigating to and from church. Every effort will be made to keep the parking lot and sidewalks passable and safe."

ANNIVERSARIES
December 2008

- 1 Allan & Carol Campbell

BIRTHDAYS
December 2008

- 4 Andrew Kebalka
- 5 Kelsey Allan
- 9 Kirsten Rediker
- 10 Molly Akers
- 12 Bill Mitchell
- 12 Neil Miller
- 13 Marg Farnsworth
- 14 Jeanne May
- 18 Phil Pillsbury
- 18 April Miller
- 19 Nancy Pyer
- 19 Michael Adam

Liz Sez

Christmas always brings back precious memories

Holidays bring back memories of my grandparent's place where our entire family gathered around the table to say grace.

**Then we retired to the parlor, laughing
chatting, lovingly
as we opened all our presents by the family
Christmas tree.**

**Nibbling popcorn and candy as crumbs
treated Grandpa's beagle hound,
Gram's cat curled on the braided rug and
the children circled around.
Parents, sisters, brothers, cousins, aunts,
uncles, and some close friends
cleared their throats for the Yuletide final
when young and old voices would blend.**

**Gram would perch at the organ like a
monarch on a throne.
Gramp would pass out worn song sheets
then raise his voice of baritone.
We would all unite and our lilting voices in
familiar Yuletide carol refrain.
I'd love to join Grandma at her organ
singing Christmas carols again!**

**Happy memories and Holidays!
Sez Liz**



**Georgia L. Landry
February 26, 1921 - November 15, 2008**

Memorial contributions may be made to the
Care Unit at Harvest Hill, Lebanon, NH or
to the West Lebanon Congregation Church
in her memory.

GROWTH COMMITTEE

Growth committee met November 11, 2008.
We are planning another Movie Night for
December 12th at 5:30 and will show The
Nativity Story. We are hoping to have a light
supper along with the usual Movie Night
Goodies. We encourage all kids, parents,
friends, etc to attend for a great night of
fellowship. Our Halloween Movie Night was
attended by approx. 16 people and we had a
fun filled evening watching Charlie Brown's
Great Pumpkin and Monsters, Inc. We
continue planning ways for Growth within
the church and a way to reach out to others.
We have two vacancies on our committee if
anyone is interested in joining. Please let
Barbie Hazlett or Linda Maynard know if
you are interested.

Thanks and God Bless.

Growth Committee

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Many thanks for your generous response to
the Listen Holiday Basket project.
Everything donated was just perfect!

On December 20, there will be an envelope
in your bulletin to enable you to make a
contribution to the Christmas Fund of the
UCC. This fund was created in response to a
need for support for retired UCC clergy who
struggle financially. I know we all realize
that our clergy do not choose the ministry if
looking for a road to wealth, but from a
genuine commitment to service. The
demonstration of our appreciation through a
contribution to the Christmas Fund will be
much valued.

Thanks for bringing in your Shaw's receipts. The amount raised for the NH Food Bank (1% of receipts) thanks to the generosity of Shaw's is growing, and much needed – especially this year.

The Missions Committee

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Relations Committee, together with Rev. Wierwille, has been developing a written job description for the pastor's position.

As we wrote this document, we felt it important to revisit and extract data from both the March, 2004 Church Profile (prepared as the primary "search" document") and the church-wide assessment taken in the Fall of 2007 by our committee and shared with Rev. Wierwille.

Following is our recent effort.

***** West Lebanon Congregational Church –
Job Description for the

Minister

O Plan and lead Sunday services and conduct special services (i.e., weddings, funerals, baptisms, etc.)

O Conduct visitations to homes, hospitals and nursing homes offering pastoral counseling, as needed.

O Support and lead adult Christian education and, in conjunction with the Christian Education Committee, insure that the spiritual needs of the children and the church families are met.

O Maintain a visible and positive presence in the community as the spiritual leader representing WLCC. Attend UCC meetings, as needed, and be involved with local mission activities, ecumenical endeavors and local business groups.

O Together with the support of the church secretary, maintain the activities of the office. This includes responding, in a timely fashion, to all written and telephoned communications and developing the monthly Steeple, weekly bulletins and Annual Reports, etc.

O Attend as many WLCC board and committee meetings as possible, acting in an advisory capacity to the various chairpersons and committee members.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Stewardship Committee is thankful once again for the wonderful spiritual leadership provided by Matt Van Wagner on Stewardship Sunday. It is always a blessing to have Matt with us.

The committee is also most grateful to JoAnn and Scott Allan and Lisa George for the delicious buffet breakfast they provided and served after the service.

If you were unable to attend church on Sunday, pledge cards will be available in the stewardship slot in the office or in a basket at the back of the sanctuary for the next few weeks. If you would like to have one mailed to you please contact the office or anyone on the Stewardship Committee. Completed cards may be placed in an offering envelope.



We are delighted to welcome three new members who joined our church family on November 23rd:

Louise Kremzner
Cassandra Russ
Doris Smith

If you have not yet had a chance to meet and welcome them, please do so as soon as possible.

Ps 116.12 "What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me?"

TRUSTEES COMMITTEE

The last month has been a tough month on the pocket book; our steeple is in dire need of repairs. We got in touch with Robert Morgan (Steeplejack) to inspect our steeple. He advised us that rain has been getting into the church through the steeple and into the ceiling in the balcony which is literally falling down. Robert Morgan gave us a temporary fix to seal up the areas where the water has been getting which will keep us dry through the winter. We will begin getting quotes to restore the steeple which will have a significant price tag. The chair lift also needs to be fixed. It was discovered that a MP3 earphone cord had gotten caught in the gears which broke some of the gear cams; this has to be fixed as well. We need to register the chair with the state which is a new regulation. We are all set with heat this winter; we would like to extend our appreciation to Phil Gomez for meeting with Patriot Fuel at the church and spending most of his day inspecting our heating system with them. There are also a few rotted basement windows that will be either fixed or replaced. The 2009 budget is nearly complete and we thank everyone for being as frugal with their budgets as possible for this tough economic year ahead.

HOLIDAY CONCERTS



A small "concert" group of our Handbell members presented a musical program at the Alice Peck Day

Hospital's Celebration of Lights event on Tuesday, December 2nd.

Dec. 7th 3:00 pm. Bel Canto Chamber Singers present a Concert at WLCC.

Dec. 24th 4:00 pm. A Special Musical Concert By Mary Bonhag & Evan Premo @ WLCC.



Order Your Poinsettias

At this time every year the Flower Committee plans a special display of flowers during the Christmas season. We are now taking orders for poinsettias.

If you would like to help us make the sanctuary a beautiful setting for this celebration please complete the form below and leave it in the church office, place it in the collection plate, or mail it to WLCC, 18 Maple Street, West Lebanon, NH 03784 along

with your check made payable to **Janice Smith.**

If you have any questions feel free to call the Church at 298-8096.

In Memory of

In Honor of

Given by

Number ordering _____ at \$7.00 each

Total amount enclosed

On behalf of the Flower Committee, we thank you for your order and ask that you pick up your plant(s) after the Christmas Eve Service. Orders must be in by December 16 to guarantee delivery

DIACONATE NOTES

Christmas Tree

Mark Pageau has graciously agreed to donate a Christmas Tree to help decorate our Sanctuary for the Advent Season. Please help to decorate the

Christmas Tree by bringing in either a tree ornament, or a pair of mittens, or both, on **Sunday December 14th**. Any mittens donated to help decorate the tree, will be delivered to a local school or organization after the Advent Season.

Caroling

"Hark, I Hear the Angels Sing" . . .
You are invited to participate in some Christmas caroling after Church on **Sunday, December 21st**, starting around 12:00 noon. Carolers will gather around 12:00 and leave from WLCC to visit Maple Manor, possibly Westboro House, and homes of family and friends located in the Maple Street neighborhood who may enjoy hearing a song or two to help bring the Christmas spirit. Immediately following the caroling, you are also invited to stay for some delicious homemade pizza (compliments of Al Michalovic) in the Drake Room. We hope you can join in the fun!

Christmas Bazaar

**Annual Holiday Bazaar will be held:
Saturday, December 6, 2008
9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

Coffee and Donuts served at 9:30 a.m.

Lunch served from 11:00 – 12:30 p.m.

Features:

Wreaths	Ornaments
Knit Items	Fleece Hats
Books	Homemade Candy
Many other gift items and ideas	
Treasures from: Grannie's Attic	

Worship Opportunities for Advent and Christmas

Sunday, Nov 30th **10 a.m. First Sunday of Advent/Food Bin Sunday**
Scripture Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalms 80; Mark 13:24-37
Message *There's a Restless, Forward-Looking Posture to Christianity*
Hymns PH 108, PH 109, NCH 112

2:30 p.m. Lebanon Genesis Care Center Chapel Service

Sunday, Dec 7th **10 a.m. Second Sunday of Advent/Holy Communion**
Scripture Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalms 85; Mark 1:1-8
Message *BACK TO THE HEART...messengers of hope on the path*
Hymns NCH 107, NCH 104, PH 110

3:00 p.m. Bel Canto Chamber Singers Concert at WLCC

Sunday, Dec 14th **10:00 a.m. Third Sunday of Advent/Musical Celebration**
Scripture Isaiah 61; Psalms 126; John 1:6-8, 19-28
Message *LOOKING TO THE FUTURE...witnesses of light preparing the way*
Hymns NCH 164, NCH 609, PH Favorite Carols

Sunday, Dec 21st **10:00 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent/Church School Pageant**
Children's Story Presentation of *The Crippled Lamb* by Max Lacado
Congregation will be invited to sing along with direction by M. Bonhag

12:00n A Gentle Blue Christmas Worship In Our Sanctuary Chancel
A brief 30 min. service of comforting Scripture&Prayer for all who grieve
Acknowledging the holiday season is an especially difficult time for many

4:00 p.m. Special Musical Concert by Mary (Bonhag) & Evan Premo

Wed, Dec 24th **6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Worship Celebration**
10:00 p.m. Traditional Service of Lessons and Carols
Conclusion of each service with candlelight singing *Silent Night*
Merry Christmas From All of Us at West Lebanon Cong'l Church

Sunday, Dec 28th **10:00 a.m. First Sunday After Christmas/Baptism/Food Bin Sunday**
Scripture Isaiah 61-62; Psalms 148; Luke 2:22-40
Message *ALREADY/NOT YET...recognizing and proclaiming the Good News*
Hymns PH 120, PH 140. PH Favorite Christmas Carols