



# The First Congregational Church of Reading

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST • AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

Produced by our Church Family

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## First ChurchNEWS

### Statement of Purpose

We gather as a faith community to love and magnify God. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we will love our neighbors as ourselves, advocating for peace and justice. We will go out and share our faith in Christ, inviting others to join us. We will be nurturers of the spirit and teachers of the Word. We will welcome and provide sanctuary to all.

### Cocoa and Cookies, Sunday November 30th



Our 5th annual Cocoa and Cookies will take place on November 30th. Our tradition continues with FCCR opening its doors for cocoa and cookies after the Christmas Tree Lighting on the Common. Please plan to join us and be sure to invite your neighbors and friends back to FCCR, UCC—for warm goodies and a few carols to get us in the mood for the season of light following the tree lighting!

This is a great opportunity to show hospitality to our neighbors, welcome them into our building and tell them about our church. We need folks to meet and greet and chat people up. If you are able to help in any way—baking cookies, making cocoa, organizing and lighting the luminaries, singing, passing out flyers on the common and be extravagantly welcoming! Last year over 300 people joined us and we expect even more this year. Contact Joyce Burnham, 781-424-1595, email: [jaeburnham@comcast.net](mailto:jaeburnham@comcast.net), to help out.

Very Important Serve Safe Changes: We can continue to bake our cookies at home. If you are baking any bar cookies, or brownies please bring them to the church in the pan (disposable foil recommended) and we will cut them for you. When any item is transported to the church by car, special care should be taken in enclosing the entire outside of the item in wrap—dish towel, foil, or clear wrap.

We greatly appreciate all of your contributions to this important outreach opportunity to our wider community!

### Sermon Series for December

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The In Between Time	2
Updates from NOW and Search	3
MAC UCC Annual Mtg. Report	4
Outreach	5
Church Life	6-8
Prayers	9
Calendar	10

#### Sunday, November 30 *First Sunday in Advent*

*"The Hanging of the Greens"*

Isaiah 64:1-9  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
I Corinthians 1: 3-9  
Mark 13: 24-37

#### Sunday, December 7 *Holy Communion* *Second Sunday in Advent*

*"Prepare the Way"*  
Isaiah 40: 1-11  
Psalm: 85: 1-2, 8-13  
2 Peter 3: 8-15a  
Mark 1: 1-8

#### Sunday, December 14 *Third Sunday in Advent* *"The Upside Down Kingdom"*

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11  
Psalm 126  
I Thessalonians 5: 16-24  
Luke 1: 47-55

#### Sunday, December 21 *Fourth Sunday in Advent* *"Birthing a Promise"*

2 Samuel: 7: 1-11  
Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26  
Romans 16: 25-17  
Luke 1: 47-55

#### Thursday, December 24 *5 pm Christmas Pageant* *10 pm Candlelight Lessons & Carols*

*"One of Us"*  
Isaiah 52: 1-7  
Psalm 98  
Hebrews 1: 1-4 (5-12)  
John 1: 1-14

#### Sunday, December 28 *First Sunday after Christmas*

*"Long Awaited Gift"*  
Isaiah 61: 10-62  
Psalm 148  
Galatians 4: 4-7  
Luke 2: 22-40

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# The In Between Time...

## Imperfect Christmas Trees

When I was a kid, my family would go to the local Christmas tree farm or Lion's Club selling trees in a school parking lot and pick one out. We usually set up our tree two weeks before Christmas. So, when we woke up on the Saturday morning of Christmas tree shopping day, it was quite exciting. It meant there were only fourteen more agonizing days to wait until Christmas.

Inevitably, my Dad, being a thrifty Yankee, would pick out what we thought was the scrawniest tree imaginable. We were in despair. What would our friends think? Charlie Brown's tree would put ours to shame.

He always got an armload of boughs and branches with the tree. We wondered why. We would put the tree in its stand and then dad would work his magic. Wherever there was a gap or a thin part in the tree, Dad would drill a hole, whittle down the end of a branch to just the right size, and slip it in. When he was done, the tree was full and lush. With the lights and decorations on it, it was the best looking tree in the neighborhood.

I like to think of Christmas like that. We are like those trees with thin spots, gaps, and missing parts. We each have our own pet sins, peccadilloes, weaknesses, addictions, bad habits, regrets, wounds and hurts we have received or inflicted upon others. We are not the people we should be or God intends us to be. We settle our insecurities and fears by waging wars, we care more about having our needs met than sharing for the common good, we glorify the starlet and the politician rather than the cleaning lady or the plumber, and we divorce one another instead of working hard at our relationships. You could add your own issues to this list.

If we didn't need saving, God wouldn't have sent a Savior. But, hallelujah, God has come to us in Christ.

Theologians have always made a distinction between general and special revelation. In the former, God is revealed through nature. By it, we can see that the Creator loves beauty, order, design, and diversity. This One is intelligent, powerful, creative, and awe-inspiring. But we would not know if this Supreme Being was merciful or just, loving or indifferent toward us, had plan or designs for us or just created the cosmos and cut it loose.

This is why God had to explain the Divine nature to us. If you wanted to know more about me, you could guess, but you might not be right. I would have to disclose myself to you. This is what God in Christ has done for us. We call this reality the "Incarnation." God is enfleshed with our flesh. God takes on our problems. God shares our hopes, dreams, and joys. But most especially, God will, in God's time, bring them to pass.

During the weeks ahead, we will focus our attention on the coming of Jesus Christ into our world. We will consider the words of the prophets and their expectations for the coming Messiah. We will ponder the meaning of those strange texts in the New Testament that speak of Christ's return to rule, to judge, and to save. And, of course, we will hear again those wonderful birth stories.

Preparing for Christmas tends to be a time of stress...scurrying, shopping, and worrying. Try some peace this season by worshipping with your church family and participate in some of the wonderful events described in this newsletter.

May God grant you a rich and blessed Advent and Christmas!

Advent Blessings,  
Norman B. Bendroth  
Interim Pastor

### Confirmation Class Schedule

**Sunday, December 7**


6 pm Dinner in the Dining Hall  
"Jesus: Human and Divine"

**Sunday, December 14**

11:30 am in Chapel  
Confirmands and Mentors Meet

**Sunday, December 21**

10:15 am in the Youth Lounge  
"Jesus: Human and Divine"



### Christmas Pageant— Christmas Eve, 5 pm

One of the great pleasures of the Christmas season is to see faces aglow with hope and joy. Please share this experience at our annual pageant on Christmas Eve at 5:00pm in the Sanctuary. The children and youth of our Church School will retell the story of the birth of Jesus, and we will join in singing favorite carols. Donations of non-perishable foods and household supplies will be collected on behalf of the Reading Food Pantry.

You keep getting invited to NOW meetings—but not really sure what kind of invitation that is? Let me help you understand what you are being invited to.

When we all got together to focus our mission and vision—we selected as the compass point—N—O—W—Nurture Outreach and Witness—as directions for our congregation.

The NOW Group meets on the third Monday of each month—with the next meeting at 7:30 on Monday, December 15th. It is a loose group of interested people interested in moving the church forward using the navigational tools created in the Goalden Days meetings. The NOW group will use their energy to back any ideas that supports Nurture Outreach and Witness.

Right now, the NOW group is coordinating the Co-coas and Cookies and working with the deacons to support all the Advent activities—especially the Christmas eve services. And we are definitely re-introducing the Mother's group and doing research into having an author come in to speak out his writings. And Reading Cares—a ministry to con-

nect our neighbors with opportunities to volunteer in our neighborhood—is becoming an established community organization.

And we are inviting guest speakers and putting together resources and timelines to present a potential reorganized structure in the spring. Paul Nickerson—from the MAUCC—met with us on November 11 and talked to us about how we can navigate the waters to lead us to restructuring. I think the most significant thought he shared with us was that those working for the change—whatever that is—get too far ahead of the rest of the congregation because when they have been living with the ideas for a much longer time than those not working to develop that change. And the congregation is presented with a full formed idea and is expect to accept it immediately. This was an excellent lesson...and our leaders of the change are going to be very conscious that they don't get too far ahead of the others.

Please join this loose affiliation of people interested in moving forward...7:30 on Monday, December 15th.

### FCCR Pastoral Search Committee Update

Thank you to all those who attended the question and answer forum, "Soup with Search", on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. The event was well attended and provided an opportunity for members and friends to discuss the pastoral search process with committee members.

The 8-member committee is working on completing the church profile, which is a lengthy document that serves as an introduction to our congregation to potential ministerial candidates who have passed an initial screening process. The completed profile is one extremely important tool by which interested candidates may get an accurate picture of who we are as a congregation.

The various elements of the profile take a great deal of time, research, and prayerful consideration to complete. The results of the most recent "Pastoral Search Inventory" survey, which was mailed to over 300 members and friends of FCCR, are expected back mid-December. This will help the committee to complete the descriptive portion of the profile, at which point a final draft will be sent to the Rev. Wendy Vander Hart, Acting Associate Conference Minister, for her input. Once the profile is finalized, it is made available to potential candidates who have been recommended through the Metropolitan Boston Association Committee on Ministerial Standing. Also, a 100 word précis of the profile is listed by the United Church of Christ, so that potential candidates from other areas of the country are alerted to the open position.

Although they have been working hard since early summer, the Search Committee is scheduled to be formally commissioned in church Sunday December 14<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendar!

If anyone has any questions about the search process, please feel free to contact any of the members on the committee: Joyce Burnham, Ginny Davenport, Christine Hylan (co-chair), Jane McCord, Bob Svensson, Craig Taylor, Laurie Tucker (co-chair) and Steve Viegas.

#### Newcomers Classes to Meet

Interested in exploring church membership? Dr. Bendroth will hold classes in January. Please let him or the church office know of your interest. Attending does not require you make a commitment to joining the church. It's a chance to explore!

# “Fomenting a Revolution” ... and other MAC UCC Annual Mtg. Reflections

Now that's a startling way to introduce you to Annual Meeting, isn't it? No political or social overthrow in mind, only thoughts around revolutionizing the way we conduct meetings in our churches! Rev. Martin Copenhaver, Pastor of the Wellesley Congregational Church was the keynote speaker at this year's gathering and it was he who proposed the revolution; I think we all need to sign on to be a part of it too.

Rev. Copenhaver spoke about the background of Robert's Rules, the brainchild of Henry Robert introduced to bring order and efficiency to meetings; they do however, create problems of their own. We've all been in meetings (perhaps even here) where a motion is put forward, seconded, discussion follows which leads to an amendment which must be seconded and voted on, calls of being "out of order" when discussion has ended, and the famous – and infamous – "calling of the question." He told us a humorous story about someone who indicated she had a question – after "the" question had been called – being told by the moderator that it was not clear when she could ask her question; turns out she asked it in the parking lot (you will recall "parking lot conversations" in our work with Ann Walker).

Copenhaver offered up spiritual discernment as an alternative approach. Discernment is a Quaker spiritual practice of finding the "sense of the meeting." Discernment is as well an early Congregational tradition, recognizing that the working of the Holy Spirit is discerned *in community*. Discernment is about finding out what God is up to, and what God would have us do in response.

One of the most helpful things I heard in that presentation applies to our coming together in a meeting – whether it's a Deacons' meeting or one of Church Admin's meetings or a meeting of the church body. In each instance we should consider 1) Why are we here? (why did I show up this particular night/day/morning?), 2) What are we doing? (what do we hope to address in this meeting/gathering?), and 3) Where are we going? (how will what we do today influence our future?) At one point we had a chance to work in small groups of 4

practicing spiritual discernment. The key points were to start and end with prayer, to allow one person to speak the whole of their thought without interruption, and to allow a moment of silence after one person's saying something, followed by a unison response of "May the Holy Spirit speak through us." This was both challenging and helpful – it's hard to hold back from jumping in, but powerful to do so, as well as affirming the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst. Copenhaver pointed out that spiritual discernment is not an "efficient" process, but that does not mean that spiritual discernment necessarily takes more time than other methods of decision-making. In spiritual discernment the journey is *as important* as the destination! That's helpful isn't it?

I am happy to report to you that at 8:15 the number of folks in attendance at the annual meeting was announced as 646. My suspicion is that by the time everyone had arrived (finding a place to lose your car was a challenge) the number was probably at about 700. I was encouraged by the turnout, and encouraged as well by the intergenerational makeup of the audience. We are blessed to be a part of such an active larger church community.

There were a number of workshops offered for individual participation – I attended the one on Spiritual Journal Writing, and at one point wondered why I had signed up for it since I have done this for quite some time. But one always learns something! See what you think of this Chinese proverb that I heard: *I listen, and I hear. I look, and I see. I write, and I understand.*

I would encourage others to consider serving as a delegate from our church at future annual meetings. Blessings abound!

*Gay Williams*



### Self-Help Groups at FCCR

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS meet in the **Music Room** on Saturday mornings, from 7:00-8:00 am, and from 10:00-11:30 am in the **Music Room**.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS meet on Sunday evenings, from 8:00-9:30 pm in **Pilgrim Hall**.

EMOTIONS ANONYMOUS meet on Saturdays, 10:00-11:30 am in the **Conference Room**.

**NOV. 30 ~ CITY MISSION SOCIETY****CHILDREN**

New items for children: Infant clothing and layette items, stuffed animals, toys, games, brown/black/white dolls, backpacks, soccer or footballs, educational toys, art supplies, craft kits, clothing (especially larger sizes), hats & mittens, gift cards.

**DEC. 7 ~ CITY MISSION SOCIETY****ADULTS**

New items for adults: Clothing, wallets, perfume, scarves, hats, gloves, socks, electric razors, bathrobes, afghans, fleece blankets, and gift cards.

**DEC. 14 ~ EMMAUS HOUSE**

All types of toiletries (including hygiene products) for men, women, and children. Shampoo, razors, toothbrushes and toothpaste, etc.

**DEC. 21 ~ READING FOOD PANTRY**

Nonperishable food items, coffee (reg. and instant), tea (reg. and decaf.), juice and juice boxes, mayo, salad dressings, cookies, crackers, sugar, jam and jelly, brownie mix, pasta, and cereal. Also dish and laundry detergent, toilet paper, Kleenex, and paper towels. Cash donations are also welcome.

This holiday season, the **Commission on Christian Outreach** will again be conducting four collections – one on each Sunday of Advent – to help social-service agencies minister to needy individuals and families.

The first two weeks, we will be collecting items for the City Mission Society's annual Christmas Shop, which brings hope and joy to families and individuals during the holiday season. The CMS invites needy families and individuals to come and select gifts for themselves and their children. The gifts are donated by partner churches such as ours, and then sorted and packed by volunteers. In 2007 almost 2,000 adults and children benefited, thanks to the generosity of more than 45 local churches, groups, and organizations. On November 30<sup>th</sup>, we will collect items for children and on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, we will receive items for adults. *Anyone interested in traveling to Winchester after the service to help sort should contact Sharon Ofenstein ([skofenstein@charter.net](mailto:skofenstein@charter.net)).*

The third Sunday in Advent – December 14<sup>th</sup> – the we will be soliciting toiletries for the residents and clients of Emmaus in Haverhill. Services provided by this nonprofit organization include emergency shelter and meals, counseling and substance-abuse treatment, and job training and placement. Over the past 20 years, the agency has grown to become a significant service provider and developer of affordable housing. Emmaus House, its best-known facility, is a family emergency shelter.

On December 21<sup>st</sup>, we will be collecting items for the Reading Food Pantry – just in time for Christmas dinner! We hope that all of you will join us in these collections to share our blessings with those in need this holiday season. Thank you!

## CWF News

**Sock and Mitten Tree:** On Sunday, December 7, the Sock and Mitten Tree will be set up in the Dining Room. Everyone is invited to bring socks, hats and mittens for children to use to decorate the tree on that morning. These items will be delivered to the City Mission Society along with the other gifts that are donated over the two Sundays. We also encourage CWF members, along with the rest of the Church, to support the other collections for children and adults gathered by the Outreach Committee.

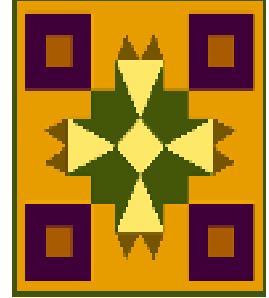
**Cookie Walk:** Sunday, December 14, 2008, will be the much-anticipated Cookie Walk. This offers those in the church a chance to take home, for a modest price, a wonderful selection of cookies. And it is an opportunity for you to bake and donate your favorite recipe for others to enjoy. Remember: Calories don't count over the holidays!

**Emmaus House:** Sharon Ofenstein of Outreach Committee is still hoping another circle or circles will offer to prepare and deliver a meal on a Sunday to the Emmaus House in Haverhill. If anyone is willing, please contact Sharon to give her a date.

## Women 'n' Stitches

Women 'n' Stitches is raffling a beautiful quilt that was hand-quilted by Anne Cusolito. The quilt top was donated to our group and is made from vintage blue and pink fabrics. We will be selling raffle tickets during coffee hours at the end of November and beginning of December. The winning name will be drawn during coffee hour on December 14, 2008.

If you would like to buy raffle tickets and will not be going to coffee hour, you can contact Lisa Engelbrecht at 781-944-5517. The tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Good Luck and buy a ticket—you can't win if you don't buy one!



## Squares, Squares, and More Squares!



Thank you to the many folk who participated in creating 9-inch squares for the Pine Street Inn Knit-a-thon. All of the squares that were created by folks across the state were put together to make blankets for Pine Street Inn clients. FCCR sent in (get ready for this count!) **140** squares! We are especially indebted to Anne and Oiy Iwen, Grace Faulkner and Shirley Fairchild for their abundant gifts to this worthy cause. We also sent in two completed blankets, and have three other afghans that will be gifted to the City Mission Society Christmas collection. Many thanks to Carol Patterson for seeing to it that these things got into Boston for the "joining" event.

Wanna get in on the fun of knitting, crocheting, kibitzing? Talk to either Carol Patterson or Gay Williams. Everyone's welcome!

## Prayer Shawl Blessings

The Prayer Shawl ministry recently found itself with many shawls to be shared – about ten in total – so we talked about recipients and included Chad Kidd's ministry at Union Hospital as one. We are pleased to support his ministry there, mindful of our special relationship with him. This thank you note was received in response to Shirley Holden's delivery:

*Dear Shirley:*

*I wanted to let you know that the shawls you brought me from the church have caused quite a stir around the hospital.*

*One of our Physical Therapists had the great idea of giving one of them to one of our patients who has spend quite a bit of time at Union Hospital. In about a month, though, he will be traveling to MO with his family to receive some experimental treatment. She thought we could give him a Prayer Shawl to provide him a sense of peace and comfort on his journey, and that we would take it around the entire hospital asking folks who have worked with him while he's been a patient here to add their blessings and prayer to the Shawl.*

*So, I picked out the blue/purple shawl that you gave me and I have had it draped over one of the chairs in my office all week because we are going to take it around the hospital on Friday. It has been like a magnet...so many people have walked by my office and have had to come to see the shawl, admire its beauty and touch its softness. I proudly tell them it was made at my church!!!!*

*Please share this with the rest of the knitters and thank you so much for extending your ministry to Union Hospital in Lynn!*

*Many, many thanks,*

*Chad*



## Pommern Village Choir

What a great night we had with our Nov. 1st Ham and Bean Dinner followed by the gift of music from the Pommern Village Choir, touring the US from Tanzania, Africa. There were 100 or more folk at both the meal and the coffee house. Those in attendance had a chance to learn a bit about life in the village of Pommern, and to hear some heart-felt testimonies from several young people who had worked with the people there. For our part we were blessed with some very wonderful music. Our free will collection took in about \$650, a goodly amount toward a new water well which costs on the order of \$2200.

## A “Thank You”...complete with Stewardship Lesson

You will undoubtedly remember with fondness the Matin Youth Choir that toured New England this past June, and spent several days with us, participating in worship here and performing at Peter Sanborn Place. Maybe you donated or loaned towels...or made cookies...or helped prepare and serve Mexican dinner the night they arrived...or loaned your air mattress...or gifted your oversight and hospitality to breakfast. Whatever you did, you shared out of your abundance. And it made a big difference to the youth and their leaders. And the donated towels later were passed on to Emmaus House, and made a difference for families there.

Here is the thank you note the church received early in November:

Dear Friends at First Congregational Church:

Once again, our thanks to all of you for the overwhelming and radical hospitality you extended to us on our choir tour last June. The kids are still talking about the great food and wonderful people at your church.

Each April, the Matins and the youth at Plymouth put on a “Variety Show”. We pick a theme and decorate the Sanctuary. Kids sign up to share their talents – anything from singing, playing the piano or instrument to juggling and various forms of acting. The program ends with a slideshow of the past year and all of the ways the kids were involved in the life of the church. Youth also display their artwork that evening in Waveland Hall where everyone gathers afterwards for dessert. All-in-all it is quite an event. Each year the kids decide where the funds raised from that event will go and it is all with the intent of giving back to community.

The youth at Plymouth and the Matins choir wanted to give back the gift they so generously received from you and give a donation to your youth program at First Congregational. We all feel such gratitude for the welcome we received from your church and feel truly blessed for the opportunity to worship together.

Blessings to you today and always

*Susan Waller, Director of Youth & Children’s Music*

The stewardship lesson, the return gift to us for our “radical hospitality” is this from 2 Corinthians, chapter 9: “the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” Thanks to all for being such good stewards of welcome and hospitality!

## Book Group Selections— December and January

### December 2 – What the Gospels Meant and What Jesus Meant by Garry Wills

Jane McCord will lead the first selection and Jennifer Sousa will lead the second one. Garry Wills is a biblical scholar and author of many well regarded books interpreting the bible. Wills brings us to what he perceives as the intention of “Jesus’ startlingly radical message.” He also takes a new look at the four gospels. The gospels are seen in the light of “Sacred History.”

### January 6 – Replay by Ken Grimwood

Bev Cook will guide discussion of this novel where the main character, Jeff Winston, lives and dies again in a continuous 25 year cycle. It provides opportunities to speculate about the nature of time and it asks the question: “What if you could live your life over again?”

Thus it fits well with the self improvement thoughts many of us have at the beginning of each new year!

## Christmas CDs on Sale during Fellowship Coffee Hour on December 7, 14, and 21

Listen to an eclectic selection of songs sung by our own chancel choir and bell choir, as well as the K2 choir, the Joyful Noises choir (chimes) and members of the congregation. The CD also includes many of our own talented instrumentalists playing violin, English horn, flute, brass and more! These make great Christmas gifts and help support our Music Ministry at FCCR. Cost: \$12.00



### Come Along for Caroling!

All who are able are invited to meet at Longwood Place on Friday evening, December 12th shortly before 6 pm to begin a round of caroling. The Tuckers will welcome participants back to their home in the afterward. If you have questions, please call Laurie at 781.944.6786.

## Thank You Notes

We would like to thank Tim Adams, our Sexton, and his wife Debbie for thinking of us when the company Debbie works for was having a sale on paper. Deb called me and picked up some supplies for us at their sale. In conversations with the owner, Warren Jennings, Tim and Debbie told them they were purchasing paper for the church where Tim works and the owner told them he would also donate some to us. We now have 7 cases of colored paper, card stock, and regular paper.

Dear Friends at the FCC

Thank you so much for the lovely flowers that Mary Ann brought to me after church. What a lovely surprise it was.

You have been very caring for my needs while recuperating from having a knee replacement. Both Peter and I have appreciated all the meals, phone calls and fellowship.

You are a very special congregation.

Fondly, Bonnie Newhall

Adelaide Winam sent a nice thank you card with the following verse:

You are so kind and thoughtful in so many ways. Just wanted to thank you for brightening my world.. Thank you, Adelaide God Bless

Daily prayers are invited for all of our friends and members-especially those who are dealing with these special joys and concerns. They and their families are most grateful for your spiritual support and cards of greeting.



**We pray for healing, recovery, and strength for:**

- ✓ A Reading family whose 6 year old son who was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.
- ✓ Molly Rowe recuperating at home.
- ✓ John Lape's father, following surgery.
- ✓ For Jim Breadmore (The Fuller's son-in-law) that he may have a successful surgery.
- ✓ My mother-in-law who is suffering with cancer.
- ✓ Donna Ayer who had her appendix out.
- ✓ Mary Ann Higgins who had cataract surgery November 12th.
- ✓ Marcia Atkins who has breast cancer. May her surgery Dec. 1st go well.
- ✓ David Osborne that his surgery for cysts will go well.
- ✓ Shirley Osborne who anticipates surgery herself.
- ✓ Meg Bond's friend undergoing chemo for non-hodgkins lymphoma.
- ✓ Michelle, who has another cancer surgery ahead.

***We pray for those who are grieving:***

- ✓ The Rogers family, upon the passing of Doug's uncle, Wink Langston.

**We also pray for the following special concerns:**

- ✓ Our children in transition.
- ✓ That after the election we become united people in finding solutions to the pressing issues.
- ✓ The Search Committee, our pastor and the congregation.

- ✓ Chris Gazarian and his family for these several days at home—a hospital escape.
  - ✓ The parents of teenagers caught in the pull and push of love and angst.
  - ✓ My son, Kenneth, who is lost.
  - ✓ Everyone's economic future.
- There is much in our community for which we thank God and we pray in celebration for:**
- ✓ Jill's birthday.
  - ✓ The living saints among us, who stretch and inspire us.
  - ✓ Chris whose bone marrow cancer is in remission.
  - ✓ Leslie Kerr's grandmother who turned 90.
  - ✓ The Property Committee and the Boy Scouts for a successful church clean up day.
  - ✓ My Mimi whose back surgery went well.

**Our prayers continue for those who are in need of ongoing nursing care or assisted living:**

- ✓ Bertha Babb (Susan Suarez's mother) at Bear Hill.
- ✓ Doris Torppa (Susan Torppa's mother) at Bear Hill.
- ✓ John Weston at Longwood Place.
- ✓ Libby Hodges at son's in Connecticut.

**And those who are cared for at home:**

- Jane Rice Peter Thorstensen
  - Molly Rowe Grace Faulkner
- Please call the church office for these addresses if you would like to send a card or visit these friends.

## Altar Flowers in November

**Altar Flowers for November are given in loving memory of:**

- Dora Evans by Kieran and Judythe Meagher.
- Dear friends, Phyllis Morand and Eula Swain by Laurel Keith.
- Vi and Whit Woodward by Shirley Myers-Thurston and her family.
- Barbara Brown by her husband William Brown.



The cornucopia, full of the abundance of our harvest, reminds us of the many blessings that fill our lives. Given to the Glory of God by the people of our dear Church.

Jacque Little, former deacon, Faire Chairman and Altar Committee Chairman, whose birthday was November 29<sup>th</sup>. Given by her loving husband, Gordon, her daughter, Dianne and her granddaughters, Charlene and Jacquelyn.

calendar