

Voice of the Hills

January 2012

Shepherd of the Hills Evangelical Lutheran Church 7 Wescott Road, Simsbury, CT 06070
www.shelc.org office@shelc.org

860-658-0583

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Your Council Connection...

By Jack Vanderbilt

[The goal of this new column is to provide our members with a more transparent view of Church Council activity. The column content will mix items of major interest and some not so major, but perhaps interesting none the less. Because the column will be printed before the Council Minutes are formally approved (usually at the next meeting) some content will be held until the following month, if needed. When the Council meets more than once a month, all information will be included in a single report. Also note that the Call Committee will separately publish any public information relating to a Pastoral Call.]

The business of the December Council meeting included:

1. The 5th Blueprint for Change (BfC) meeting will be (was) held on Monday, Dec. 19 from 7-9pm. The Council will continue the process of re-organization of itself and the committees.
2. We learned that the 'Life Church' that had planned to use our facilities had abandoned that plan and removed their property.
3. Several property issues are being pursued, including:
 - a. Sanctuary Fan repair (storm burnout of control)
 - b. Fire Alarm repair (normal maintenance)
 - c. Storm clean-up outside (thanks to all who helped)
 - d. Shed removal and disposal, and acquisition and installation of new shed (new shed will be located close to the rear of the building)
 - e. Siding and Soffit repair (extensive deterioration in several areas)
4. We rejoiced in the success of "Mrs. Claus' Kitchen" in Simsbury (thanks to all the participants)
5. Accepted the Audit Report for 2010, and made minor corrections in procedures as noted.
6. Approved a Temporary Operating Authority (TOA) for presentation to the membership at the January 29 Congregational Meeting. This TOA allows the Council to operate 'outside' the constitution during the BfC changes.
7. Made a first review of the 2012 Budget (to be finalized in January)
8. Agreed to purchase copies of a book on Spiritual Gifts for Council members.
9. Discussed the overall storage problem and determined to review all storage before the end of the year. (See separate "Storage" article)



A NEVER ENDING JOY

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

As I write this the world is frantically trying to “get ready for Christmas.” As I write this, some people are still baking, shopping decorating and wrapping. Many are still working frantically to create a Christmas celebration filled with joy. And that’s a very good thing, for the heart of Christmas gives us much reason to be joyful.

But in writing this and thinking about that, I’m struck by the reality created by the time delay between my writing this and when you will read it. By the time most of you will read this, the world’s version of Christmas will be over. For the world Christmas ends when the last gift is torn open or the last cookie or last drop of eggnog is consumed. All that will remain for much of the world is the exchanges, excess weight and bags full of discarded wrapping paper. For many, the joy we pass as quickly as the tearing open the presents.

To be sure, at my house and yours, there will likely be trash bags of wrappings and empty cookies tins, but when the world’s Christmas is over, ours is not. For us who are in Christ, the joy of Christmas is not manufactured or printed like so much wrapping paper. It endures – and I’m not just talking about the twelve day of Christmas in the church calendar.

For us who are in Christ, the reality of Emmanuel, God-with-us, the incarnation, of God taking on flesh in Jesus, is a reality that lays claim to us every moment of every day. Long after the tree is down and the lights are packed away, our identity as the sons and daughters of the Child born in Bethlehem will still endure.

I read a poem recently by Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a 20th century martyr, that expresses this very well.

*Joy abides with God,
and it comes down from God
and embraces spirit, soul, and body;
and where this joy has seized a person,
there it spreads,
there it carries one away,
there it bursts closed doors.
A sort of joy exists
that knows nothing at all
of the heart’s pain, anguish, and dread;
it does not last,
it can only numb a person for the
moment.
The joy of God has gone through
the poverty of the manger
and the agony of the cross;
that is why it is invincible,
irrefutable.*

As the day of Christmas comes, and even more, after it goes, take the time to remember that all the pleasant memories, all the sweetness, all the gathered family, all the gifts, all the seasonal goodness, is but the slightest taste of the true joy that is already ours in Christ Jesus.

May the joy of the Nativity of our Lord remind you of the joy that is ours every day.

Your fellow servant in Christ,



✠ PRAYER CONCERNS ✠

LET US PRAY

FOR OUR MEMBERS:

Pray for:

Doug Endorf
Barbara Holtkamp
Marc Latonie

Reason:

Recovery from elbow surgery
Severe shoulder pain
Recovery from eye surgery

Pray for:

Marilyn Havighorst
Mavis Lenentine

Reason:

Polymyosistis
Cataract surgery



FOR THOSE THAT MOURN:

Pray for the family & friends of:

Sam Mercurio

Relation:

K. McGurn former student

IN THANKSGIVING FOR

Linda McGurn's new job

FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS (CURRENT CONCERNS):

<u>Pray for:</u>	<u>Requested by:</u>	<u>Relation:</u>	<u>Reason:</u>	<u>Pray for:</u>	<u>Requested by:</u>	<u>Relation:</u>	<u>Reason:</u>
Linda Parks	Granstrand	Friend	Brain tumor, in Hospice care	Jack Chambers	Scott Chambers	Father	Dementia and broken hip
Cheri King	C. King	Daughter	Esophageal spasms and pain	Mary Vittori	K. Zacharias	Sister	Heart & Back problems
Kyla Pkorney	C. Gajewski	Friend	Cancer	Heidi Geithner	K. Gajewski	Step sister	Breast Cancer
Ross Smith	Scott. Smith	Father	Frailty, aging, withdrawing medical treatment	Mary Moule	K. Gajewski	Mother	Breast surgery (12/27)
Jackie Downes	P. Smith	Friend	Health concerns	Jenna Czarnota	Garrett	Niece	Health concerns
Marian McLaughlin	M. Lenentine	Friend	Lung Cancer (stage 4)	Bob Roderick	M. Lenentine	Friend	Cancer & diabetes
Andrew Mynette	L. McGurn	Friend	Cancer	Ervin Lenentine	M. Lenentine	Brother	Recovery from heart surgery
Rev. Cyril Wimar	Holtman	Friend	Aging	Cheryl Fields	Ligouri	Mother	Cancer
Sharee Culin	K. Gajewski	Friend	Melanoma	Bill Carmon	McGurn	Friend	Cancer
Deb Chase	L. McGurn	Colleague	Breast cancer metastasized	Alicia Ann (21 yr. old)	Granstrand	Friend	Cancer
Gary Pomper	Mary Schianca	Son	Recovery from heart surgery	Florrie Martel	Vanderbilt	Niece	Awaiting kidney transplant

FOR THOSE THAT ARE ON OUR SHUT-IN LIST. PLEASE TAKE A FEW MOMENTS TO SEND A CARD OR GIVE THE GIFT OF A VISIT.

Shirley Buckley	Governor's House	36 Firetown Road	Simsbury CT 06070
Rita & Bill Dailey		23 West Point Terrace	Tariffville CT 06081
Mavis Lenentine		24 Sarah Lane	Simsbury CT 06070
Edna McCarthy	Meadowbrook of Granby	350 Salmon Brook St	Granby CT 06035
Dorothy & Joseph Puglise		47 North Main Street A1	East Granby CT 06026

FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS THAT ARE LISTED IN OUR BULLETIN EACH WEEK.

FOR THOSE IN MILITARY SERVICE THAT ARE LISTED IN OUR BULLETIN EACH WEEK.

PLEASE FORWARD YOUR PRAYER REQUESTS TO THE OFFICE. WE WILL FORWARD THEM TO THE PRAYER CHAIN.

Pledges, Tithes and Offerings

As we close out 2011, we encourage you to turn in your 2012 pledge card, if you have not already done so. Please contact the church office for one if you are unable to find the one that was mailed to you in early December. Blank cards can also be found in the track rack in the narthex. Your pledge will help the Council to develop the 2012 proposed budget which will be voted on at the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting on January 29th.

PLEASE NOTE THAT IN ORDER TO RECEIVE TAX CREDIT FOR CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2011, ALL CONTRIBUTIONS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE NO LATER THAN THIS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29TH. THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON DECEMBER 30TH & 31ST.

2012 OFFERING ENVELOPES – Please pick up your 2012 envelopes. Please discard your 2011 envelopes on January 1, 2012.



Happy New Year ♡ *Happy New Year* ♡ *Happy New Year*

Storage Problems ... You ~~can~~ must help!

It is no secret that SHELCH has a storage problem. We have too little, most of it is poorly organized, and we have too much stuff that we don't use. With the impetus provided by the destruction of the shed, we are seizing the moment to review all of the church's storage.

Another forcing factor in our need to clean up is that we are overdue for a visit by the Fire Marshall. In our present condition, we could be subject to penalties and/or a shutdown order. It is therefore very important that each of us review any stored materials for which we are responsible.

The council requests that all stored materials, tools, teaching aids, spare parts, kitchen goods, and so on, and so on, be reviewed, reorganized, and, where possible, scrapped by the middle of January.

Spaces to consider include, the new boiler room, the old 'boiler' (really electrical) room, the Fellowship Hall closets, all class room and meeting room cabinets, the loft, the attic spaces, the kitchen, and ... wherever you have 'stashed' your 'stuff.'

If you have surplus that might be of use to others or to individual members, put it in the Fellowship Hall with a "free – take me" sign.

Remember, if you haven't used it in 2-3 years, you probably don't need it, and we simply don't have the space for the "I might need it later ... sometime" stuff.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

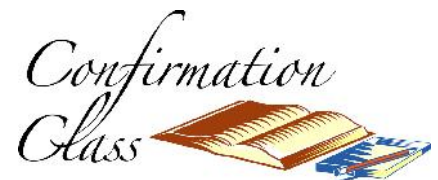
Mark Your Calendar

Please mark your calendar for our annual Winter Retreat to Pilgrim Pines in Swanzey, NH. The date for the weekend is February 3rd-5th and the total cost is \$100 due on Sunday January 29th. Please make the checks payable to SHELCH and submit them to Scott. This retreat includes 5 delicious meals, overnight accommodations in their brand new Squanto Dining with our very own chef, 4 sessions of God-talk with Holy Communion, afternoon tubing at Granite Gorge, plenty of games, laughs, and fellowship. This weekend is for both Middle and High School students. If you have any questions please speak to Scott.



Fast-Food Progressive Dinner

On the weekend of January 21st & 22 we will be having our Middle and High School fast-food progressive dinner. The evenings will begin at 5:30PM at SHLEC and conclude by 8:00PM at SHELCH. The evening includes wonton soup at The Granby Chinese Restaurant, appetizers at Racho Vejo, sandwich at Subway, and ice-cream at McDonalds. We walk to each of the restaurants and the total cost is \$20.00. On Saturday evening January 21st the Middle School students get to enjoy the fun and on Sunday January 22nd the Senior Highers enjoy the fun. It is a wonderful evening of fun, food, and fellowship so invite your friends.



Confirmation Classes In Session

The seventh and eighth grade Confirmation classes with Pastor and Scott Chambers have resumed. Classes are on Thursdays. To the right is the schedule for Jasnaury.

** Parents participation meetings.*

Date	Time	Snack
Jan 5	3:45-5:15	Barrows
Jan. 12	3:45-5:15	Havighorst
Jan. 19	3:45-5:15	Candito
Jan. 26*	3:45-5:15	Havighorst

Sunday School

Our Sunday School class spent the month of December preparing for Christmas. Early in the month, the students made ornaments. Then we turned our attention to the Christmas tableau. Starring in our tableau were the following students:

- Mary Shelby Proto
- Joseph Collin Crowe
- Angel Gabriel Megan Candito
- Angels Livia Valentino
- Laiken Cormier
- Shepherds Mason Valentino
- Jordan Valentino
- Gianna Valentino
- Ethan Shepherd
- Thomas Chambers



Susan Garrett (860-651-6506)
Lynn Svindland (860-653-0211)

Lee Anne Candito (860-408-0965)
Shari Rourke (860-653-7307)

Thank You

December 1, 2011

Dear Pastor Robert McGurn,

On behalf of the Simsbury Celebrates 2011! 10th anniversary planning committee, I would like to thank you for once again helping make Simsbury Celebrates 2011! a huge success. As you know, Mrs. Claus' Kitchen is an annual favorite for the little ones. It is church groups like yours, who's members volunteer their time, that make Simsbury Celebrates, Simsbury's, favorite town wide event and a true "Celebration of Community"!

The committee would like you to extend to your members our Best Wishes for a Wonderful Holiday Season, and we look forward to having you participate again next year at Simsbury Celebrates 2012!.

Carol Brown

Marketing and Publicity

Simsbury Celebrates 2011!



December 15, 2011

Attn: Linda Ferrari

Dear Friends of Enfield Loaves and Fishes:

On behalf of Enfield Loaves and Fishes (Soup Kitchen) we want to thank you for your wonderful generosity just in time for our annual Christmas celebration. Your donation of Christmas gifts is a blessing at this special time of the year. Thanks also to your husband for delivering the gifts. We appreciate his hard work. We get more and more guests arriving at our doors each day and we are so thankful for your kind donation. Thank you for thinking of us and sharing with the less fortunate. We would like to wish everyone at Shepard of the Hill a very Merry Christmas and a happy healthy new year.



It is people like you who hold hope for those in need as "Hunger Has No Season." Without the help of the community, many people would go hungry. We are blessed to be able to serve meals seven (7) days a week and it is your generosity that makes this possible.

Last year, we served 53,048 meals, of which 27,684 were to children along with 50,341 snacks. Additionally, more than 10,815 meals were provided for home consumption. We thank you for helping to feed those in need.

With a grateful heart, we at the soup kitchen thank you.

Sincerely

Priscilla M. Brayson, Director

Birthdays and Anniversaries



John Warhola	01/01	Jonathan Gordon	01/17
Michael Christensen	01/03	Lucy Bremer	01/19
Steve Crosset	01/04	Paul Huffman	01/22
Rebakah Morris-Milliken	01/05	Michael Clark	01/24
Emmalee Smith	01/07	Lori O'Neil	01/25
Nicholas Liguori	01/11	Jim Clark	01/26
Ryan Elizabeth O'Neil	01/15	Carolyn Calhoun	01/27
		Kat Smith	01/28

Dennis & Megan Proto 01/01
Paul & Carole Weill 01/19

Philip & Charlotte Couchon 01/26



Deadlines

Bulletin Deadline

Wednesdays at noon the week before.

Newsletter Deadline

For the February issue --- January 22nd.

You may submit your articles either by email (preferred) or by leaving a hard copy on Claudia's desk.



Instead of a Christmas card this year I wanted to send a more personal message to all of you. I don't think we could have gotten through the last two years without your support, love and concern. My heartfelt thanks to all who wrote, visited, called or attended one of Paul's memorial services. You have no idea how what it meant to us. Each time you called or visited, Paul's face would just light up and he would have the most beautiful smile. We are so blessed to have people like you in our lives. The respect you showed to my children's father and grandfather and my Paul has brought such peace to me. I will always miss him but I will also carry such wonderful memories in my heart.

May you have a most wonderful holiday and a Healthy, Happy New Year.

Fondly,
Jessie Huffman



Shepherd of the Hills Evangelical Lutheran Church

7 Wescott Road

Simsbury CT 06070

Phone: 860-658-0583

Fax: 860-408-0073

E-mail: office@shelc.org

Website: www.shelc.org

January 2012



Sunday Schedule

9:00 am Holy Communion

10:00 am Coffee Hour

10:20 am Christian

Education Hour for all ages

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, Jan. 29, 2012, following
worship

Annual Reports

Temporary Operating Authority

Call Committee Update

Blueprint for Change Update

2011 Treasurer's Report

2012 Budget

Congregational Meeting



January

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 New Year's Day 9:00am Holy Communion 10:00am Coffee Break	2 10:00am Homeschoolers -- Biology 7:00pm Council	3 5:30pm Tails- U-Win	4 9:45am Bible Study with Pastor 10:00am AA 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	5 10:00am Warm-Up America 3:45pm Confirmation	6 10:00am Home Schoolers 2:45pm Home Schoolers -- Writing	7
8 9:00am Holy Communion 10:00am Coffee Break 10:20am Christian Education Hour for all ages 6:00pm Senior High Nights	9 7:00pm Possible Council Meeting	10 5:30pm Tails- U-Win	11 9:45am Bible Study with Pastor 10:00am AA 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	12 3:45pm Confirmation 7:00pm BfC meeting	13 10:00am Home Schoolers 2:45pm Home Schoolers -- Writing	14
15 9:00am Holy Communion 10:00am Coffee Break 10:20am Christian Education Hour for all ages 6:00pm Senior High Nights	16	17 5:30pm Tails- U-Win	18 9:45am Bible Study with Pastor 10:00am AA 12:00pm Granby Clergy 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	19 3:45pm Confirmation	20 10:00am Home Schoolers 2:45pm Home Schoolers -- Writing	21 5:30 Middle School Progressive Dinner
22 9:00am Holy Communion 10:00am Coffee Break 10:20am Christian Education Hour for all ages 5:30pm Senior High Progressive Dinner	23	24 5:30pm Tails- U-Win	25 9:45am Bible Study with Pastor 10:00am AA 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	26 3:45pm Confirmation	27 10:00am Home Schoolers 2:45pm Home Schoolers -- Writing	28
29 9:00am Holy Communion 10:00am Coffee Break 10:20am Christian Education Hour for all ages 6:00pm Senior High Nights	30	31 5:30pm Tails- U-Win	OFFICE HOURS (unless otherwise noted above) Mon. & Tues.: Noon – 4:00 p.m.; Wed. & Thurs. 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.			

2012

**Shepherd of the Hills Evangelical Lutheran Church
Worship Servers Schedule**

	01/01/2012	01/08/2012	01/15/2012	01/22/2012	01/29/2012
Acolyte	N. Liguori	N. Liguori	N. Liguori	M. Liguori	M. Liguori
Worship Assistant					
Communion Assistant	L. Hoar <i>(needed)</i>	S. Garrett D. Endorf	S. Crosset C. Calhoun	N. Clark R. Johnson	R. Rourke G. Baier
Ushers	LaFreniere	Crowe	Rourke	Crosset	Christensen
Lector	D. Granstrand	L. McGurn	S. Rourke	N. Clark	R. Rourke
Nursery		S. Rourke	B. Tschiegg	K. Endorf	K. Moon
Nursery Asst					
Coffee Hour Host	<i>(needed)</i>	Endorf	LaFreniere	<i>(needed)</i>	<i>(needed)</i>
Sound Tech	K. Smith	G. Levan	R. Rourke	P. Smith	C. Gajewski
Altar Guild	M. Vanderbilt	M. Vanderbilt	M. Vanderbilt	M. Vanderbilt	M. Vanderbilt
Tellers	R. Rourke P. Crowe	R. Bremer R. Rourke	S. Rourke D. Holtman	E. Chambers E. Holtman	R. Bremer P. Crowe