



# THE CRITER

*A Monthly Publication of  
The First Church in Marlborough (Congregational)  
United Church of Christ  
December 2009*

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

6:00 PM

Family Service  
with pageant

11:00 PM

Traditional Candlelight Service  
with bell and flute duet



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*The Journey...* This is my Advent gift to you.

### Magnificat of Acceptance

*by Ann Johnson*

My soul trembles in the presence of the loving Creator  
and my spirit prepares itself to walk hand in hand  
with the God who saves Israel  
because I have been accepted by God  
as a simple helpmate.

Yes, forever in the life of humankind  
people will sing of this loving encounter;  
through remembering this moment, the faithful  
will know all things are possible in God.

Holy is the place within me where God lives.  
God's tender fingers reach out from age to age  
to touch the softened inner spaces of those  
who open their souls in hope.

I have experienced the creative power of God's embracing arms  
and I know the cleansing fire of unconditional love.

I am freed from all earthly authority  
and know my bonding to the Author of all earthly things.

I am filled with the news of good things;  
my favor with God,

faithful trust in the gentle shadow of the Most High,  
the mystery of my son, Jesus,

the gift of companionship with my beloved kinswoman,  
Elizabeth. who believes as I believe.

The place in my heart that I had filled  
with thoughts of fear and inadequacy  
has been emptied and I am quiet within.

God comes to save Israel, our holy family,  
remembering that we are the ones who remember,  
... according to the kinship we have known ...  
remembering that we are the ones who remember  
and that where God and people trust each other  
there is home.

*Rev. Betsy*

## **Our Church Staff**

*Reverend Betsy Waters Senior Pastor*

*Russ Goliger Music Director*

*Jim Duncan Organist*

*Diane Burke Joyful Ringers Director*

*Steve Kotsopoulos UpPraisers Director*

*Anne Tennyson, Sue Buckingham,*

*and Vicki Taylor Sunday School Team*

*Jenn Bastien Senior High Youth Director*

*Amy Lapetina Church Secretary*

*Deb Marino Clerk*

*Cindy Vail Moderator*

*Chip Horne Computer Systems Director*

*Joanne Kotsopoulos Treasurer*

*Cliff Fenton Sexton*

*Sue Pellerin Collector*

*Steven Levy Multi-Media Director*



## **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

**DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>**

7:30 pm in the parish hall

Come and enjoy

SWEET ADELINES

Refreshments to follow

Devotions: Barbara McElman

Hostesses: Mary Wenzel, Laura Lane, and

Bev Fiske

## **Core Values**

### **Compassion**

- \* Caring
- \* Acceptance
- \* In-reach
- \* Respect

### **Discipleship**

- \* Witness to your faith
- \* Passion and joy for Christ
- \* Walking the walk not just talking the talk

### **Hospitality**

- \* Open to diversity
- \* A climate of belonging
- \* Extravagant welcome

### **Mission**

- \* Outreach
- \* Local, regional, and global
- \* Time, talent, and treasure
- \* Spiritual Growth
- \* Faith
- \* Support/sharing of all stages of spiritual journeys
- \* Worship in community

**CRIER POLICY:** The CRIER welcomes all material submitted on a timely basis for publication. Every effort will be made to include all works submitted, however, the Editors need to reserve the right to make corrections to ensure quality of presentation and correctness of information, and to use a consistent format throughout. All material should be submitted with the writer's name and daytime phone number. When major corrections are necessary, we will make every attempt to contact the writer. Personal notes, such as thank yous, etc., will be printed as submitted. Overly long items may be shortened for space considerations. All material should be submitted before the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication.

**Date:** November 18, 2009

**Name of Church and Location:**

First Church in Marlborough (Congregational) United Church of Christ. 37 High Street in Marlborough, MA 01752

**Position:** Settled Pastor

**Ad:** First Church in Marlborough (Congregational) United Church of Christ is a historic, multi-generational church seeking a minister who is a 'people person', works collaboratively, empowers and supports our active lay leadership. The pastor we are looking for needs to be supportive of the discernment process as well as to a congregation who is in transition to a ministry based structure. We are on a multi-year spiritual journey and our pastor should help guide the way, not drive us there; let us swim in these unchartered waters, but not let us drown.

Church Members	Average Worship Attendance	CE Participation	Adult Ed Participation
216	105	28	14

2008 Income	2008 Local Expenses	2008 Mission Giving	Reserves & Endowments	Compensation being offered
\$234,260	\$244,000	\$5,000	\$658,500	UCC conference guidelines

**Brief Description of the Church:**

First Church in Marlborough (Congregational) United Church of Christ is a historic church located adjacent to the tree-lined Union Common on Main Street, near City Hall. Marlborough is located in central Massachusetts, on a crossroads of highways (Mass Turnpike, Route 290 and Route 495) within convenient driving distance to Boston and Worcester. Our church is multi-generational and includes young families, professional, technical, and business people, as well as a large number of retirees. Our music program has diverse offerings: the Chancel Choir (traditional), the Bell Choir, the UpPraisers (contemporary), the children's choir, Faith We Sing (a small praise group) and gifted vocal and instrumental soloists. We are a church with energy and pursue various outreach activities on local as well as global levels. We are active in efforts addressing hunger and homelessness, the rebuilding of New Orleans and support the mission project, Angels of Hope, in Uganda. God is calling our church to strengthen our commitment to discipleship, implement ministry based teams, grow our Sunday school, and discern direction in utilizing building and financial resources.

**Brief Statement on Leadership in Ministry:**

The First Church in Marlborough is in the midst of a revitalization process including a move from a committee based structure to one that is ministry-led. Our current interim pastor has provided discernment skills allowing our dedicated, hard-working, faithful lay leaders to work collaboratively as we strive to grow our membership and continue to increase our spiritual practice. We seek a settled pastor who possesses the interpersonal skills and wisdom to enter into a partnership with our lay leaders and the congregation. He/She will build on our generational diversity and provide guidance as we continue to discern the financial challenges of the church. Experience dealing with capital campaigns would be beneficial. We are searching for a pastor who will be a leader for spiritual practice, is open-minded and has strength as a preacher, (a strong voice for preaching). We seek a pastor who relates to children as well as adults while guiding us forward with passion and grace.

**Associate Conference Minister: The Rev. Dr. Peter Wells 413 589 7034 email: [wells@macucc.org](mailto:wells@macucc.org)**

## **Adult Spiritual Formation: A Year of Commitment**

Some folks have been discussing "an adult confirmation" style process for several years. So, that is going to happen starting in January 2010.

The group will be set up with several different components, just like youth confirmation. People will have a spiritual partner/confidant. Much of what happens will be done in this two-some. We will use a confirmation book to provide the topics and focus for these scheduled conversations.

There will be a list of additional resources for each topic. The pair will select from these options. There will be shared reading of the Bible, and several books are likely, with journaling. The whole group will also meet regularly for wider conversation. The group will decide the frequency. They will decide whether they might do a retreat together.

Since it is likely this will conclude under the new pastor, the final form and celebration will be shaped by that relationship.

There are six to eight people who have already expressed an interest. If you are interested as well, please speak to Rev Betsy before December 15<sup>th</sup>.



## **WANTED!**

### **Angels and Shepherds**

We are looking for children interested in being angels and shepherds for the  
6:00 pm Christmas Eve service.

No rehearsal necessary. Be at church 30 minutes before the service to get your  
wings or costume.

**WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR AN ADULT TO OVERSEE COORRDINATION OF  
THIS EVENT.**

Please see Anne Tennyson (508 393-0446) or  
Sue Buckingham (508 481-7794)

## First Church Christmas Party

We are changing the kids' Christmas Party on **December 5<sup>th</sup>** a bit. We are opening it up to everyone at church, so even if you don't have kids in Sunday School you are welcome to join us in celebrating Christmas with the Worcester Fellowship.

Our celebration will run from 10:30am-12:30pm. Members of Worcester Fellowship (adults to the best of my knowledge) will arrive at First Church with chaperones for 10:30am and we will have the opportunity to share four 'stations' together and then share lunch.

Stations will include:

decorating Christmas cookies,  
making polar fleece blankets together for the guests to take with them,  
watching *The Grinch*, while stuffing socks with small toiletry items, and  
playing Christmas music together with some handbells.



If you are planning to attend would you please contact me by December 1<sup>st</sup> to let me know how many people will be coming with you so we can order enough food. You can e-mail me at [pellerin@tarealty.com](mailto:pellerin@tarealty.com) or leave a message at home 977-562-8699.

If you are the parent or a mentor of a current confirmand,  
this is a wonderful mission opportunity for you!



**"Bells, Whistles, Bongos, Synthesizers....oh my!!"**

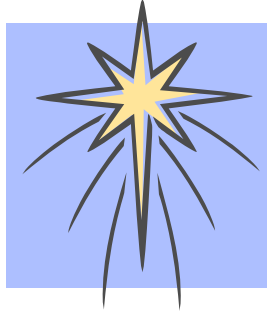
**SAVE THE DATE!!**



On December 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm, First Church is excited to again be hosting a Holiday concert by the Merrimack Valley Ringers, an auditioned community handbell choir based in Chelmsford, MA. MVR has a full complement of 17 ringers from Massachusetts and New Hampshire, and their instrumentation for this performance includes 6 octaves of handbells, 6 octaves of handchimes, windchimes, bongos, and a synthesizer.

You'll be treated to an array of holiday favorites by the group, as well as ensemble performances by their trio and quartet. MVR released its first Holiday CD, "Season's Ringings," in 2006, and is pleased to announce that their second CD, "Kaleidoscope", will also be available for this concert.

Best of all ... **Admission is FREE!** So, gather your family and friends and come and enjoy an evening that is sure to put you in the mood for this very special time of year!! And if you want more information about MVR, check out the MVR website at [mvringers.org](http://mvringers.org).



## LUKE 2:1-20

### KING JAMES VERSION

**1** And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. **2** (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) **3** And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. **4** And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) **5** To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. **6** And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. **7** And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

**8** And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. **10** And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. **11** For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. **12** And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

**14** Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

**15** And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. **16** And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. **17** And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. **18** And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. **19** But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. **20** And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

## Did you know?

On average,  
it costs approximately  
\$1,000 per person (not including  
children under 15) to make our shared  
ministry possible.

Our community changes lives - our life is richer,  
more meaningful, connected to God, other people we  
see, and others we don't.

This church changes the lives of people we know and many  
beyond our walls. With our shared funds we have regular, life-giving  
worship, a wide variety of music, our worship service televised on local cable  
two times a week,  
spiritual-formation programming for all ages (including Sunday morning work-  
shops, two weekly Bible Studies, and a confirmation class,) friendship circles for all  
ages, a supportive network of caring and prayer that happens almost every day, rituals  
and celebrations that mark the seasons of the year and the joys and concerns of living, a  
building we share with the community, outreach to a wide variety of programs to support  
feeding and sheltering people, a deep commitment to the rebuilding of New Orleans, people  
that support the outdoor ministry of Worcester Fellowship, an over fifteen year commitment  
to Westborough State Hospital, an environmental team that winterizes houses, connections  
to a wide range of world ministries efforts, participation in interfaith conversations within  
Hudson/Marlborough area, a website that shares our story with the world and more.

At First Church in Marlborough,  
each person has opportunities  
to share his or her gifts of time,  
talent, and treasure,  
initiating a new ministry,  
or supporting one in progress.

Thank you! Together, we are changing lives.

God doesn't call the qualified,  
He qualifies the called.

The Will of God never takes you to where the  
Grace of God will not protect you.

The task ahead of us is never as  
great as the Power behind us



## Summary of the Revised Organizational Structure

We are proposing a combination of 15 three-year positions and 15 one-year positions. All remaining tasks will be teams of volunteers who determine their own length of service.

Council would become "The Elected Leadership Circle." It would have ten members, plus the pastor. All members of this group would be voted by the annual meeting. Three would make three-year commitments. The remainder would make one-year commitments.

The Elected Leadership Circle would have three "at larger" members. In year one, they would serve as scribe to the Leadership Circle. In year two they would be vice-chair. In year three, they would chair the Leadership Circle. The Leadership Circle would include one designated member from each of the five ministry teams, one from Volunteer Development (formally Nominating), and the church moderator.

There would be five ministry teams: Worship, Stability, Spiritual Formation, Fellowship, and Outreach, plus Volunteer Development. Worship and Stability would each have six members, two members elected each year, for a total commitment of three years. One from each of these teams would be a member of the Elected Leadership Circle.

Spiritual Formation, Fellowship, and Outreach would have three people each, elected for one year terms. Each person would have an area of focus to resource and empower. In Spiritual Formation there would be one person focused on programs for children and youth, one focused on adult ministries, and one a member of the Elected Leadership Circle. For Fellowship, there would one focused on food ministries (e.g. coffee hour, church potlucks), one focused on pastoral care, and one member of the Elected Leadership circle. For Outreach, there would be three elected, with one person focused on ongoing mission projects, one focused on new mission projects, and one member of the Elected Leadership circle.

Volunteer Development would have one person focused on encouraging the gifts and connection of newer members and attendees, one focused on spiritual gifts coaching, and one who is a member of Elected Leadership circle. Each ministry team will meet at least once/ quarter at a time that is announced to the whole congregation.

The next step is to turn this structure into written by-laws. Please contact Cindy Vail if you are interested in working on this project.

## WHITE SOCKS

Many of you will recall the inspiring message that Rev. Elizabeth Magill delivered about the good work being done through the Worcester Fellowship, and the dire need for white socks for the homeless population in Worcester.

During the upcoming holiday season, the Missions Ministry will be collecting adult, white socks that we will later deliver to the Worcester Fellowship organization to distribute. Baskets will be available in the Church Narthex during the month of December to collect the socks.

As you are shopping during this holiday season, please remember people far less fortunate. Your gift of white socks will be very much appreciated.

The Worcester Fellowship is dedicated to ending isolation through spiritual care and community. You can learn more about this group at <http://www.worcesterfellowship.org/>

Thank you in advance for your gift of white socks.



## Month of DECEMBER 2009

2nd Sunday in Advent      12/ 6/ 2009

### Communion

Lay Leader    Marnie Hooker  
Greeters      Richard Rowell,  
                    Christina Fehlow  
Lead Deacon   Bill Davis  
Usher #2      Steve Ziegler  
Usher#3      Andrea Merritt  
Usher #4      John Merritt  
Usher #5      Marcia Fitzgerald  
Usher #6      Jim Saart

4th Sunday in Advent      12/20/ 2009

### Joyful Ringers and a youth solo

Lay Leader    Karen Sullivan  
Greeters      The Hasbrouck Family  
Lead Deacon   Deb Beauregard  
Usher #2      Max Wills  
Usher#3      Pauline Wills  
Usher #4      Susan Hanahan

Sunday #4      12/ 27/ 2009

### Family Service

Lay Leader    Arnie Goodrich  
Greeter        Carol MacEwen  
Lead Deacon   Frank Marino  
Usher #2      Deb Marino  
Usher#3      Bob Murphy  
Usher #4      Vicki Taylor



3rd Sunday in Advent      12/ 13/ 2009

### Celebration of music and new members

Lay Leader    Bill Davis  
Greeters      The Crocker Family  
Lead Deacon   Frank Marino  
Usher #2      Janet Yurkus  
Usher#3      Joan Beauchemin  
Usher #4      Bob Murphy

DECEMBER 24, 2009

### Early Family Service with Children's Pageant

Greeters:      The Kinney Family  
Lead Deacon   Richard Rowell  
Usher #2      Christina Fehlow

DECEMBER 24, 2009

### Late Service

### Candlelight Service with bell and flute duet

Greeters:  
Lead Deacon   Linda Warren  
Usher #2      Bill Davis  
Usher #3      Susan Hanahan  
Usher#4      Bob Murphy



# November 2009 at The First Church in Marlborough (Congregational) United Church of Christ

**Worship Service:** Sunday @ 10:00 am with Sunday School and Nursery

**Sunday Choir Rehearsals:** Chancel Choir @ 8:45am; Children's Choir @ 9:30 am

**Music: Joyful Ringers:** Monday @ 7:00 pm      **Chancel Choir:** Tuesday @ 7:00 pm

**Sweet Adelines:** Wednesday @ 7:00 pm

**Bible Studies:** Monday @ 6:00 pm, Wednesday @ 10:00 am

**AA:** Friday @ 8:00 pm, Early Risers: Saturday @ 6:45 am, Sunday @ 6:45 am

**Assembly of God Shalom: Worship** Thursday & Sunday @ 7:30 pm ; **Choir** Thursday @ 5:00 pm

**Our Father's Table (OFT):** Third Tuesday of every month

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6:00 Home for the Holidays tree lighting & concert	<b>5</b> 10:30 <b>Kid's Christmas Party</b> 7:00 MVR Concert
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 7:30 pm Women's Fellowship	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> New Members	<b>14</b> 7:00 Trustees	<b>15</b> 4:00 - 6:00 Our Father's Table  7:30 Men's Fellowship <b>Crier Deadline</b>	<b>16</b> 5:00 Spaghetti Supper	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 7:00 Deacons 7:00 Council	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6:00 Family Service  11:00 Late Service	<b>25</b> <i>MERRY CHRISTMAS</i>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<i>HAPPY NEW YEAR</i>	

# THE BOOK OF LIFE

## DECEMBER

### December Birthdays

- 2<sup>th</sup> Kelsey Hanahan  
3<sup>rd</sup> Erin Merritt  
4<sup>th</sup> Andrea Hollis  
6<sup>th</sup> Anne Tenyson  
8<sup>th</sup> Nikki Granitsas and David Youngstrom  
9<sup>th</sup> Dottie Sawtelle  
10<sup>th</sup> Peter Palmgren  
11<sup>th</sup> Kelly Ney  
12<sup>th</sup> Thomas Brossi  
13<sup>th</sup> Carol Mac Ewen  
14<sup>th</sup> Carol Palmgren  
16<sup>th</sup> Alice Olsen  
18<sup>th</sup> Mike Bracken, Jessica Merritt, and  
Kevin Murphy  
23<sup>rd</sup> Perry O'Leary  
25<sup>th</sup> Katlyn Taylor  
28<sup>th</sup> Ashley Levy  
31<sup>st</sup> Alyssa Crocker



### December Anniversaries

- 30<sup>th</sup> Anita Stetson and Tim Kinney



### WANTED

One of our members is in need of a working vacuum cleaner. If you have one you don't need (or an excuse to get a new one), please call Carol Mac Ewen at 508-4810623.



### PRAYER SHAWLS

The Outreach mission group would like to thank everyone who has made and donated prayer shawls to our ministry. Many will be given to the Notre Dame Home in Worcester this time.

If anyone knows of a friend or loved one who would like to receive one, please contact Marcia Fitchgerald, Carol MacEwen, or Rev. Betsy. We will be glad to get one to you.

We hope and pray that those who receive them will feel comforted and blessed. We pray that those who have made them will also feel blessed .





## FIRST CHURCH IN MARLBOROUGH

(Congregational)

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

37 High Street Marlborough, MA 01752

Address Service Requested

**Senior Pastor**

**Rev. M. Elizabeth Waters**

### **Worship Service**

Sunday 10:00 AM

Sunday School and Nursery Care

**All are Welcome!**

### **Church Office Hours:**

Tuesday - Friday

8:30 am - 1:30 pm

508-485-6297 has answering service

508-485-2969 rings through

Church e-mail and web addresses:

[office@firstchurchnet.com](mailto:office@firstchurchnet.com)

[crier@firstchurchnet.com](mailto:crier@firstchurchnet.com)

[B\\_waters@firstchurchnet.com](mailto:B_waters@firstchurchnet.com)

<http://www.firstchurchnet.com>

### **Newsletter Editor:**

Sandy Stetson

### **Newsletter Volunteers:**

Amy Lapetina and Anita Stetson

**CRIER DEADLINE:**

**15 December 2009**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

