

First Community Church

Newsletter

November 2008



Our Mission Statement

We are a community of faith believing in the power of prayer and seeking earnestly to deepen our spiritual life and share the love of God with others.

The Pastor's Message

“This is a busy time of year – not only in our (or at least my) personal and professional lives, but also in our church activities and the liturgical or religious calendar.

Not long after we return to our regular services in September, our Jewish brothers and sisters celebrate Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. I wish we had the time to explore the deeper meaning of these observances and understand their implications for our own religious journey. Reformation Day, when we celebrate our identity as Protestants, and All Saints Day, when we remember those who have been an important part of our lives, are observed at the end of October.

With regard to our church calendar, not long after Rally Day we renew our covenant with God, with each other as pastor and parishioners, and with our church. In November we celebrate our annual stewardship pledge drive. Then, before we know it, we are into the Advent season and our preparation for Christmas.

There seems to be little time to reflect, at least in the kind of depth that I would like, on these holidays, celebrations, or events. Each articulates a powerful theme both historically and spiritually. Each, in its own way, provides us with an opportunity for spiritual growth.

We are an active church – more active than one might guess from our size. In addition to the regular fall meetings of our boards and committees, we hold our bottle and can drive, our annual pie sale the Saturday before Thanksgiving, and our church fair, which will be held on December 6 this year. Our Spiritual Study and Growth Group, which is meeting every Thursday night from September 25 to November 20, has been exploring the physical, emotional, and spiritual dimensions of cancer. As many as eighteen people have participated in this program!

In the midst of all our activity, we need to remember what we are all about. We need to remember Who we are all about. Everything we do in this church should be directed toward one end – deepening our relationship with God through Jesus Christ and letting our faith show in our daily lives. In addition to our worship, confirmation class, and Bible study, the care and improvement of our building, our church coffee hours and suppers, our Women’s Fellowship gatherings and projects, our stewardship campaign, our support of missions, and our pastoral care of each other are important and integral parts of this commitment.

As we approach Stewardship Sunday, which (for obvious reasons) coincides with Thanksgiving Sunday, I would like to share the following prayer that “Dear Abby” included in her column many years ago. It is a prayer of both thanksgiving and a call to service, a guideline for stewardship.

“We thank Thee for food
and remember the hungry.
We thank Thee for health
and remember the sick.
We thank Thee for friends
and remember the friendless.
We thank Thee for freedom
and remember those who are enslaved.

May these remembrances stir us to service,
that Thy gifts to us may be used for others. Amen.”

God grant that this will be our heart-felt prayer in this Thanksgiving season.

Yours in Christ,
Reverend Paul D. Sanderson

Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible Study has begun for the new Church year and our group has grown! Our discussions are open and thought provoking.

Led by Reverend Sanderson, we have been looking at the psychology of religion in general and Jung’s psychology of religion in particular as a way to approach our faith and our understanding of biblical texts.

Reverend Sanderson will be giving us a primer in Jungian psychology in preparation for the consideration of three major works: Jung’s book [Answer to Job](#); his article “Christ as a Symbol of the Self,” and Edward Edinger’s article “Christ as Paradigm of the Individuating Ego.” We will focus especially on the importance of dreams, visions, and religious experiences in our understanding of God and the deepening of our relationship with God.

We meet on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of every month from 9:30–10:15 AM. All are welcome!

Confirmation Class

As part of our world religions series, we are studying Buddhism this year. Through readings and videos, we are exploring those ways in which Buddhism is similar to and different from Christianity.

We meet every Thursday afternoon from 5:00 – 6:00 PM. All young people 7th grade through high school are welcome!

Missions Offering

For the month of November, we reach out with our gifts to support three Missions, two international organizations and one local.

On November 23, **Thanksgiving Sunday**, we will collect our “filled” *World Vision Love Loaves*. Half of the donations collected from the loaves will be given for the *Heifer Project* and the other half to *World Vision International*.



Love Loaf became a part of World Vision's United States programs in 1973. Donations to the Love Loaf program go to orphans and vulnerable children around the world. According to the U.N., there are over 108 million orphans under age 15 around the world. By donating \$1 a day through Love Loaf - only \$28 - you will provide an orphan or vulnerable child with life-saving assistance for a month, such as food and clean water, access to education and vocational training, health care, and caregivers who show Christ's love. One of every seven people on earth suffers the pangs of hunger every day of his or her life. More than 800 million people are malnourished. That means that every time you take a breath, a child dies of hunger or hunger-related diseases.



The *Heifer Project* was founded on a simple belief: ending hunger begins with giving people the means to feed themselves. Since 1944, Heifer has helped more than 4 million hungry families in the United States and 118 other countries move toward self-reliance through the gift of food and income-producing animals and training. Every family and community receiving animals also receives training in environmentally sound, sustainable agriculture. Recipient families “Pass on the Gift” by sharing one or more of their animals' offspring with other struggling families. Each recipient becomes a donor. This process enhances self-esteem, ensures project continuity, builds solidarity and multiplies the benefits of the original gift for generations to come.



If you wish to write a check in support of either of these outreach efforts, please make it payable to the church, note that it is for “Heifer Project” or “World Vision.” and place it in one of the envelopes that will be available in the pews.

**S O U T H B O R O U G H
F O O D
P A N T R Y**

Our third Mission is our local Southborough Food Pantry. Last year we concentrated our efforts on a particular “need” each week. This was met with great success and it was decided we would do it again. This helped to fill the shelves with much needed items that are not traditionally donated during the month of November.



To help you remember what item(s) to bring on which week, the Diaconate will be putting “Coupons” in the Sunday morning bulletins to post at home on the refrigerator with your grocery list. If each of us can bring just one item from each group, our little Church will make a big impact on the shelves of the Southborough Food Pantry.

Our thanks to Cathy Ten Eyck, our Representative, for her willingness to make sure that our collected donations will be delivered each week. Our many thanks to Evelyn Till, Karin Farmer, Beverly Lees and Cathy for supporting the Food Pantry by volunteering their time each month to help out.

Sunday Nov 9

HOME CLEANING



Window cleaner, floor cleaner, furniture polish, bathroom bowl cleaner, and disinfecting wipes

Sunday Nov 16

NUTS & COFFEE



Mixed nuts and instant coffee

Sunday Nov 23

PAPER & PLASTIC



Napkins, paper towels, toilet tissue, plastic storage or sandwich bags (all sizes), brown paper lunch bags, wax paper, and aluminum foil

Sunday Nov 30

LAUNDRY & DISHES



Laundry detergent, bleach, & dishwashing liquid

Stewardship Sunday

Sunday, November 23 is Stewardship Sunday. This is the day when we consecrate our annual pledges to our church. These pledges are totally used to cover operating expenses. Our budget for the following year is based on the amount pledged – plus an estimate of income from special fundraising events – plus a “faith factor.”

Every year for the past five years the total amount pledged has increased. Last year’s pledge was the largest in the history of our church. This happened despite the fact that the number of pledging units did not increase. This means that many of our church members increase their pledges every year. This will have to happen again this year if we are to cover increased heating bills, etc.

Please approach this stewardship season in a prayerful and thankful spirit. We can make history again this year if we all pull together!

Annual



Sale

Our annual Church Pie Sale, sponsored by the Trustees, will be held on Saturday, November 22, from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM or until we are “sold out.” Just in time for Thanksgiving Day, the pie sale is held at Mauro's (the old McCarthy's i.e. “The Spa”) in downtown Southborough with tables set up outdoors.

Over the years, we have been very fortunate to have a good variety of pies available for sale. We are often asked which pie was made by a particular, well known, chef. The people who have bought pies from our previous sales know just what they are looking for -- Blueberry, lemon meringue, banana cream, and the always-popular “apple pie.” All breads are an added delight. Please label all your donations and make sure to indicate with or without nuts.

Please think about what you could bake for the sale and then consider doubling it. The pie sale is one of the biggest fundraisers in our Church. This year, with the income from our investments down, we need more pies than ever!

The Trustees will be announcing more information about the Pie Sale in the next few weeks.

A Service Of Thanksgiving

The annual **United Parishes Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving** will take place at St. Mark’s Church on Tuesday, November 25, at 7:30 PM. Clergy and Laity from all of the United Parishes member churches participate in this popular service, which has a long tradition in Southborough and is sponsored by the United Parishes Lay Council.

Let’s all support this community ecumenical event. It is a good time and way to reflect on our many blessings in preparation for Thanksgiving Day.



The Season Of Advent

The first Sunday of Advent, the four weeks before Christmas, is November 30 this year. This is a special time in the life of our Church. We will be singing a lot of Christmas music as we lead up to our special candlelight service of lessons and carols on Christmas Eve. Make a special effort to join us this season!

Spiritual Study & Growth Group

The Spiritual Dimensions of Cancer -- Led By Rev. Sanderson
Thursday evenings, November 6, 13, and 20

The last three meetings of our Spiritual Study and Growth Group, held on Thursday nights from 7:00 – 8:30 PM will complete the nine-week program that began in late September.

The program has been enjoyed by a very large group of people who have come together for their own reasons. Some are there because they have faced the battle of cancer. Some have come because they have lost their spouse or their parent to cancer. There are some who are there just to support their loved ones who have been through this life changing disease. In particular, there is also someone there and in her own words, “I am a Hospice volunteer. I want to develop a deeper understanding of how best to serve my Hospice families. To be a calm presence in their lives at a time of great sadness and disruption.”

Even if you have not attended any of the other programs, consider coming to hear one of the last three CD’s with us and examine the phenomenon of cancer from several different perspectives. Come and share our experiences, our hopes, and our fears with each other.

#7 The Remission Project and Implications for Patient Care (Caryle Hirshberg, Ph.D.)

#8 Choices in Cancer Treatment and the Emerging Environmental Health Movement
 (Michael Lerner)

#9 Every Inch a Queen (Marion Woodman)

From The Desk Of The Collector

The third quarter pledge statements have now been prepared and handed out in Church. The remaining ones not picked up will be mailed in early November. The statements cover all contributions through Sunday, September 28.

Remember that if you desire envelopes in 2009 it is necessary to complete a pledge card that will be arriving in the mail with the stewardship letter in November. A reminder also that contributions to the Deacon’s offering should be made as a separate check as they have their own checking account and treasurer.

Women's Fellowship

The Women's Fellowship enjoyed a wonderful potluck supper at their October meeting. Pastor Paul was still at the church and joined us for dinner after he gave the blessing on the food.

Dinner was followed with our lively business meeting. The Women's Fellowship will be having a Bake Table at the upcoming Holly Berry Christmas Fair. Helen Varney and Barbara Crane offered to coordinate this effort and encouraged others to give some time manning the bake table on the day of the Fair to give people a break. All donations to this table will be greatly appreciated -- pies, cookies, breads, candies, etc. and remember, "Presentation is Everything!"

We have decided on December 14 for our Christmas Party. It will be held at the Church after the Sunday Morning service beginning at 1:30 PM. All women planning to attend are asked to bring light finger foods. We will be having caroling and our old fashion Yankee Gift Swap.

We finished our scheduling for the remainder of 2008 and 2009 except for programming after February.

Please remember these dates – Baskets for Shut-Ins on our November 18 meeting night and our Christmas Party December 14 at the church.

We look forward to seeing all the women at these two remaining meetings of 2008.

Mattie Cummings
Secretary



Making Joyful Noises on November 9 at the Sunday morning service, we will be singing an inspiring anthem for Veterans Day called "Under God." The words are both powerful and meaningful in our world as it stands today. Our introit will be a piece that was composed by our own Michael Larson. Michael wrote the words and music to this beautiful song entitled "The Love You Gave Me." We hope you can come and listen to these beautiful pieces as we not only think about the election that will have just passed but also why we celebrate Veterans Day.

We hope to see you all in church on Sunday, November 16 as we welcome our guest organist, Verna Duffy, for the first time to our church. Along with Verna, we will also be adding several voices to our choir as we welcome some of David's choral group singers from Framingham. We will all join as one as we share our music ministry through our special introit and anthem. Our introit will be "We Have This Moment," a powerful reminder that we must live for today and hold each moment as "yesterday's gone and tomorrow may never come." Our anthem will be "Song of Fellowship" which reminds each of us that no matter what we are going through in our lives, we are all one in the family of God and always there for each other.

Come and listen as we all make a *Joyful noise unto our Lord*. We guarantee that you will be moved, inspired and uplifted with this special music ministry!

A Blast From The Past

75 Years Ago

1933 – November

- ◆ Rev. Charles O. Morong, pastor of Southville Federated Church tendered his resignation at a church meeting. He has accepted a pastorate with the Warren Ave. Baptist Church, Brockton and will present his first sermon there November 26th. He will end his service in Southville Nov. 19th. Rev. Morong has been in Southville a little over a year while taking a course at Newton theological seminary.
- ◆ The King's Heralds, a juvenile society of the Federated Church, held a Halloween party at the home of Mrs. Walter E. Dunn.
- ◆ Roy Stockwell is president of the young people's forum of the Federated church.
- ◆ Miss Ethel Nelson recently observed her 16th birthday anniversary by a party at her home and received many presents. She is an honor pupil at Peters High School. (Editor's Note -- this is our Mrs. Ethel Armstrong)

50 Years Ago

1958 – November

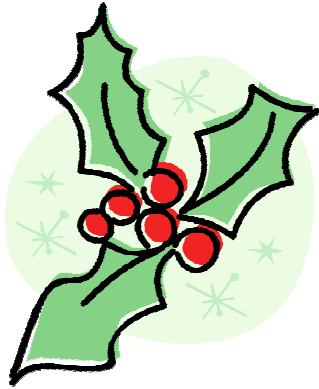
From the Women's Fellowship book of suppers (October)

- ◆ A Masonic supper was provided on Oct. 8, 1958. Meal: Hawaiian Punch; Pot roast; gravy; mashed potato; peas; squash; hot rolls; butter; coffee; apple pie with cheese.
Responsible: Supper: Carol Merchant; Hazel Derby; Mrs. Harris; A. Williams; Dining room: Helen Hoisington; Pam Masterman; Dot Watkins; Clean up: Ruth Lambert; Gwen Sickles.
Receipts: 38 tickets were sold @\$1.35. Tips: \$9.03; Food sold: \$4.75; Expenses: A & P: \$10.64; Whitney Beef \$20.80; Framingham bakery: \$2.45; Apples: \$1.00; 1 milk & 1 Tide: \$0.65. Total \$35.54.
30 lbs. meat (donated); 25-30 lbs. potato (a lot left); 7 dozen rolls (1 ½ dozen left); Squash (donated: about right); 12 boxes peas (about right).

25 Years Ago

1983 – November

- ◆ The Pulpit committee has begun actively searching for a new Pastor. Letters have been sent to all the theological schools in the area. Contacts have been made with the field representatives from all the major protestant faiths. Committee members are Arlene Williams, chair; Martha Hubley; Janet Bishop; Robert Farmer; James Holmes.
- ◆ The women's fellowship filled sixteen beautiful Thanksgiving baskets and delivered them to the elderly, sick or shut-ins.
- ◆ On Thanksgiving Sunday, a special program was held in the sanctuary for the entire Sunday school. Canned goods were brought in by the children and given to the Mustard Seed House in Worcester. As of Thanksgiving Sunday the children had raised \$220 for the Heifer Project International and voted to send a bull calf to a family in Peru.



Holly Berry Fair

WHEN: Saturday, December 6, here at First Community Church.

WHAT: Great last minute shopping ideas: crafts, knit goods, pet items, ornaments jewelry, plants, books, chocolate lollipops and of course the delicious bake table by the Women's Fellowship. Themed gift baskets will again top the list this year -- the perfect gift for teachers, children & grandchildren, sports fans, the mailman, your favorite pet, Hostess baskets for that Christmas Open House you'll be attending, Movie Night and Game Night Baskets, and rumor has it a "Couch Potato" basket!

RAFFLES: Always successful - gift certificates, gift baskets, and other unique items

FOOD: Coffee and donuts will start the day followed by lunch of hot dogs and meatball sandwiches served with chips, cookies, and soda.

WHO: Many have already volunteered, but we can use **EVERYONE - MEN INCLUDED** to make this work. Please volunteer your time and talents to make this event a **HUGE SUCCESS!** Continue to watch the bulletin and listen for announcements.

HELP: There will be shopping lists posted in November We encourage you to select a basket theme that interests you and provide the basket as well as the items to fill it. Keep in mind that baskets will sell for \$5, \$10, or \$12. A team of elves will be doing all the wrapping.

DONATIONS: Crafts, books, jewelry, plants, and baked goods, paper plates, napkins, hot dog and sub rolls too

HELPERS NEEDED: To set up and clean-up, as well as helpers to work at the different tables the day of the Fair.

WHY: December is such a busy time of the year for all of us but this fundraiser is very important as it will help our church financially while bringing us together as a church family to work and have fun at the same time.

Join the fun!!!!

Sandy McKeen, and Darlene Sanderson, Co-Chairs

Report Of The Diaconate

On Sunday, October 12, Tom Sickles was honored for his dedication of twenty years of service in the Choir and was presented an engraved clock from the Diaconate.

Our Advent Event, which is usually held the first Saturday in December, had to be postponed due to a conflict with the Church Fair. A February 2009 special event is being considered -- possibly a game night for everyone.

We invite everyone to join together and give thanks to God for all our wonderful blessings at the United Parishes Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving. A tradition sponsored by the United Parishes Lay Council, the service will be held on Tuesday, November 25, at 7:30 PM at St. Mark's Church in Southborough.

Getting our name out there for all to see, the new First Community Church of Southborough Church sign is in place and our new and improved website is a work in progress.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 11 at 7:15 PM.

Have You Noticed?

Make sure to take a good look at our newly surfaced parking lot. Many thanks to Richard and Charles Curtiss, who provided the airport runway grade resurfacing material (23 five-gallon drums!) and to Charles, Richard and our Pastor for cleaning off the parking lot and resealing it. It looks great! Now all we have to do is paint the lines to designate parking spaces and we will be able to fit in several more cars on a Sunday morning.



Report Of The Trustees

The Trustees met jointly with the Board of Deacons and the Stewardship Committee to discuss improvements to the chancel area of the church. The discussion centered around the installation of a railing and curtains at the edge of the chancel floor on either side of the steps to cover up the electric cords and wires in front of and near the pulpit along the edge of the chancel. Consensus was in favor of limited curtains, not extending above the level of floor. It was also agreed that this did not need to be done immediately, as concern was expressed regarding the cost of this project.

Richard and Charles Curtiss and Rev. Sanderson did an amazing job sealcoating the church parking lot. It involved many hours and a lot of hard work. Thanks and kudos to all of them for a job well done.

The Trustees are attempting to find a way to prevent water problems occurring again in the church this winter and spring as we have had problems in the past. We welcome ideas from anyone in the congregation who thinks they might have a solution.

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, there was much discussion on the best plan for the supply of oil to heat the church this winter. It was voted to go with Falconi's of Southborough with a locked in price of \$4.09 per gallon. Our next meeting is set for Tuesday, November 11 at 7:15 PM.

A Professional Odyssey

Kristen will be working half time for the next two years at a VA hospital in Boston as a Research Assistant in the area of chronic pain. The team will be documenting the effectiveness of cognitive behavioral therapy techniques in the treatment of chronic pain with Vietnam veterans, veterans of the Iraq war, and people with multiple sclerosis.

In addition to this, Kristen will also be working half time as a Research Assistant at McLean Hospital in Belmont. She will be part of a team that is researching the application of evidence-based treatment for severe anxiety, mood, and personality disorders.

Kristen plans to reapply to Ph.D. programs in clinical psychology two years from now. To avoid an arduous commute, she has moved into a Boston apartment about half way between the two hospitals.

She will probably come home weekends to do her laundry.

From The Editor

The deadline for the December 2008 Newsletter will be **Sunday, November 23.** Remember to include any dates for meetings or events you would like listed on the calendar.

Articles and/or dates for the calendar may be submitted to Cheryl Holmes by:



(508) 460-0142



244 Flanders Road
Westborough, MA 01581



caholmes@charter.net

A Special Time

*It seems so natural somehow,
When colored leaves are due,
To turn thoughts to
Thanksgiving Day
And people dear to you.*

*The season is a special time –
A day that's set apart –
For thanking God
for sending friends
So special to the heart*

By June Masters Bacher



From Our Missions

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous gift to the Worcester County Food Bank in support of our year round distribution of nutritious food to our neighbors in need. The individuals and families we help say it best. In one parent's words, "Food from the Food Bank's local partner agency really helps my family and me. It helps me provide good meals for my two children, who need the food to help them grow and learn. I am so thankful for the Food Bank."

As a member of the Food Bank community, you touch the lives of so many people with food and hope. Thanks to your goodwill, over 74,000 individuals throughout Worcester County have received fresh fruits and vegetables as well as non-perishable food since July 2007. These individuals are neighbors in your hometown and mine who lack the financial resources to be well fed and healthy and who turn to us as a Food Bank community for good food and hope for a better tomorrow.

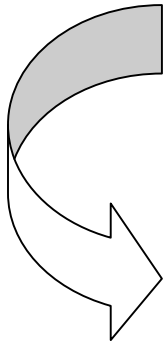
Thank you again for your thoughtful support. Please call the Food Bank if you would like to schedule a tour so you can see your support at work in the community.

Kind regards,

Jean G. McMurray
Executive Director

With Our Special Thanks To --

- ◆ Richard & Charles Curtiss and Rev. Sanderson for their back breaking efforts to sealcoat the church parking lot and giving it some new life. And many more thanks to Richard & Charles for their donation of all the sealcoating material to do the job too!
- ◆ Tom Sickles for his love of music and his twenty years of dedication to the Choir. We will miss your voice and hope you make a special guest appearance every once in a while. Your seat in the choir loft is still available.

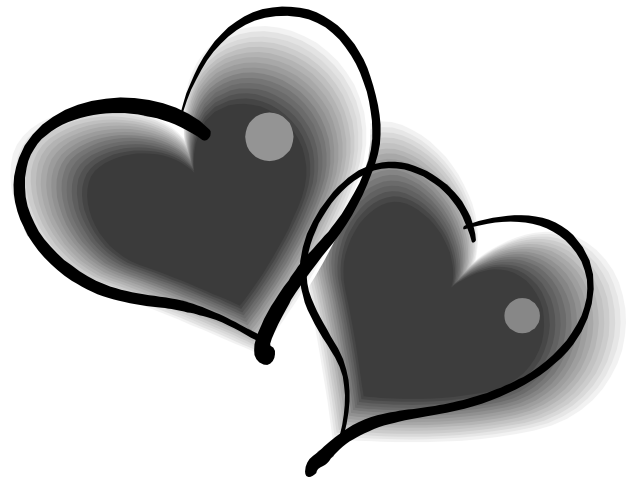


LOOKING AHEAD

The Holly Berry Fair
Saturday, December 6



Write down these dates!!



Birthdays

Shirley Hutchinson	4th
Rachel Hooper	5th
Beverly Lees	12th
Ethel Armstrong	12th
Austin Renaud	13th
Mackenzie Renaud	13th
Earle Watkins	17th
Dennis Roy	20th
Ann Deschamps	25th
Sharon Willman	26th
Martha Nutting	30th

CELEBRATIONS

Anniversaries

Diane & Ron Sickles	8th
Darlene & Paul Sanderson	18th



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>Our November Missions ~~The Southborough Food Pantry & Love Loaves for World Vision & Heifer Project</h1>						 <i>Set Your Clocks Back 1 Hour</i>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
REFORMATION SUNDAY 10:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service <i>Sacrament of Holy Communion</i> Coffee Hour following Worship Service		4:30 PM Choir Rehearsal ELECTION DAY		5:00 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Spiritual Study & Growth Group		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 10:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service Coffee Hour following Worship Service		6:15 PM Trustees Meeting 7:15 PM Diaconate Meeting VETERANS DAY		5:00 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Spiritual Study & Growth Group		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 10:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service Coffee Hour following Worship Service		7:00 PM Women's Fellowship		5:00 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Spiritual Study & Growth Group		 Annual Pie Sale 8 AM – 2 PM
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY & THANKSGIVING SUNDAY 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 10:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service Collection of Love Loaves Stewardship Coffee Hour following Worship Service December Newsletter Deadline		4:30 PM Choir Rehearsal United Parishes Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving 7:30 PM St. Mark's Church				

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:15 AM Choir Rehearsal

11:00 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship Service

Coffee Hour following Worship Service

November 2008