

# THE PRESTON PILGRIM

The newsletter of  
**The Preston City  
Congregational Church  
Gathered 1698**



**NOVEMBER  
2014**

#### CHURCH ADDRESS

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Preston, CT 06365-8108

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#### WORSHIP

9:00 & 10:30 A.M.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

8:45 a.m.

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Visit us on **FACEBOOK**

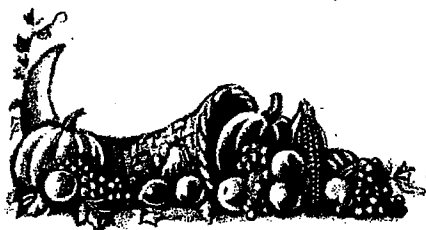
News and information for the December newsletter is due in the church office by **November 23**. You may leave information in the holder located on the wall in the kitchen.



Do you have a favorite season? I thought I did - Spring. But "today" it's Fall (at least this year). What a beautiful time; the color of the trees, the cooler temperatures, apple picking and corn mazes (I still can't find my way), walking my dog Millie on an unexpected warm afternoon, and Thanksgiving. I'm so thankful for all these things - even those lady bugs and stink bugs that seem to find their way into my home. I thank God for eyes to see the beauty of everything that is Autumn. I thank Him for being so creative with His world, and for allowing me to enjoy it all. What about you? What's your favorite season? Have you thanked Him for it? Why not do it right now...

See you in church!

*Rev. Stan*  
Rev. Stan



#### MONTHS OF FUNDRAISING

September and October were busy months around the church; so much went on. If you drove past the church during the week, the lights were on most evenings with various activities going on inside. I want to share with you four fundraising events that took place and those chair-people and countless volunteers who made them so successful.

We're pleased to announce that the 9<sup>th</sup> annual **Scarecrow Festival** held on September 27 (a spectacular weather day) raised a total of \$9,100 after all the bills were paid. Under the capable leadership of Shirley Hodkinson and Carolyn Shea, the festival committee, and many, many volunteers, a day of family fun (all "free") was made possible for festival goers. The event ended with a sell-out chicken barbecue where 250 meals were served, cooked by our "ace" BBQ team. Next year will be the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this popular festival. Some special plans are already "in the works" to make it a truly memorable anniversary. Thank you to everyone who took part in this fundraising event.

Two weeks later, the very popular **Dinner Theater** was held in the Sunday School hall. I, like so many people who attended this event, was once again amazed that the hall could be transformed into a theater - complete with professional lighting, scenery, and 14 talented actors on stage. "*The Face on the Barroom Floor*" was presented three times. Two performances were preceded with delicious meals, and the other performance with delicious desserts. We

thank Val Moore and Lisa Alder and their kitchen crew, along with Kim Heinzelman and her assistants for the meals, and Priscilla Migliaccio and her helpers for providing homemade desserts.

We thank the actors, stage crew, and the various production assistants who *freely* gave their time (6-8 weeks of their time, 3 rehearsals each week) to the production. People left the show laughing and reminiscing about their favorite moments.

A HUGE thank you goes to the show's director, Mary Norris, who began rehearsing the show in her mind months before the actors even arrived for rehearsals. Mary has won many awards for her directing through the years. She is well known in the theater community --- and she's ours!! At her side in these first-rate productions is her husband, Chuck, the behind-the-scenes, master-of-all-things needed! He, too, is a big reason for this fundraising success (he's ours also!). Thank you to the Norris' and those who made the theater weekend so enjoyable for many. The total raised from this event was \$2,472.28.

And then there was the annual **Turkey Dinner** where 250 meals were served; a sell-out! People from all around come to this meal. Why? Because they know they will get their money's worth! The generous portions keep people coming back; and that homemade apple crisp to end the meal - delicious! (Thanks, Joyce Brewster). We have an amazing Supper Committee. They are a hard-working group of people, and they have fun doing it! Of course, like all the other fundraisers around the church, it takes many volunteers to keep this supper running smoothly from year-to-year. Thanks to those who prepared and served the meal; those who set-up and helped with clean-up. We could not have done it without YOU! The supper raised \$1,591. Well done!

The month of October ended (finally) with the fall **Yard Sale**. What a warm, sunny, fall day it was. Your donations helped to raise \$1,077.75. We thank Stella Dawley and her assistant Kaye Schlough for seeing the sale through from start to finish. Likewise, we thank those who arrived in the early morning hours to set up the sale, and especially those volunteers who came in the afternoon to pack up the remaining items. We never had so much help before. Thank you, thank you!

When you add up all the proceeds from the September-October fundraisers, a total of \$14,241.10 was raised for the church's budget. We are so fortunate to have the congregation we have. You are the best!!

**GREAT  
JOB!**

## DURING OCTOBER

We welcomed into the Household of Christian Faith through the Sacrament of Baptism:

- 10.4 **Zachary Robert Edgar**, son of Ryan & Tricia Edgar of Colchester  
10.26 **Allison Madeline Shea**, daughter of Melissa & Brian Shea of Lebanon

We congratulated the following couples who were united in marriage:

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- 10.4 **Elizabeth Lowden and Erik Trotter** (at Third Congregational Church, Middletown, CT)  
10.12 **Michelle Gilmore and Adam Castiglione** (Averill Park, NY)

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We expressed our sympathy to the family of **Clark "Winslow" Woodmansee** who passed away October 9.

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## NEW MEMBERS

It's not too late... would you like to make it official? Would you like to become a member of the church? If so, **sign up by November 9**, at the Information Center bulletin board. New members will be welcomed into the church on November 23. We'll mail you all the information you need to join. Please speak with the Minister if you have any questions.

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## DON'T FORGET...

### The Christmas Bazaar

In the Sunday School hall  
Saturday, November 8  
9 A.M. - 2 P.M.

Arrive early for the best buys!

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## HELP...

Volunteers are needed to serve as door monitors on Sunday mornings during both services of worship. The duties of the monitor are posted on the hallway bulletin board (mid-level). Please contact coordinator Lowell Calkins (860.887.5939) if you have any questions.

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## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Join us Monday mornings, from 10 to 11 A.M. in Halls' Hall (coffee hour room). At present, about 15 of us are studying the book of Romans. Paul has much to say to this church in Rome and to us as well. It's an informal hour, and no prior Bible knowledge or background is necessary to attend. Come and learn, and meet some wonderful people at the same time. As always, the coffee pot will be on! Rev. Stan leads the study group.

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## NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS

9<sup>th</sup>... They're back; **Teen Challenge** from New Haven, CT. Come and hear their powerful, heartwarming stories of how God, through this program, is transforming lives and giving new

hope and direction to these men. They will share their message and music at both services.

**20<sup>th</sup>... Collette (formerly Collette Vacations)** travel presentation, 6 P.M. in the Sunday School hall. Invite a friend. (See "Trips & Travels")

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### LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!

**GAME NIGHT**, Saturday, November 22, from 6 – 9 P.M. in Fellowship Hall. This is a night out for adults -- an opportunity to meet other people, play some games, sing Karaoke, and enjoy a fun evening. Everyone is asked to bring a snack to share. Soda and coffee will be available. Bring your favorite game, or play one of the many we have at the church. Please sign the sheet on the bulletin board if you plan to attend.

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### WANTED...

volunteers to set up the Nativity scene on the front lawn of the church in time for Advent (November 30). Call the office if you are able to lend a hand.

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### LOOKING AHEAD...

#### December Events

**7<sup>th</sup>, CAROLING...** Join with others as we go caroling through the neighborhoods. We'll meet at the church at 2 P.M. and return by 4 to enjoy soup & sandwiches (and desserts!). A sign-up sheet is posted on the hallway bulletin board. It's a lot of fun, and those on the receiving end are so appreciative. Mark your calendar!

**14<sup>th</sup>,** The adult choir presents a Christmas cantata ("*Night of the Father's Love*") at both services! Don't miss it! That same afternoon, at 4 P.M., the children of the Sunday School will present their annual Christmas pageant. This is always a holiday treat! Plan to attend.

**21<sup>st</sup>, CHRISTMAS SUNDAY.** Join us for two inspiring services of worship. The Sunday School will not be in session. Families are encouraged to worship together.

**24<sup>th</sup> CHRISTMAS EVE.** Join us at 4 P.M. for a service designed for children and their families. Sandy Dudek will lead this service.

A candlelight service is planned for 11 P.M. that evening. Come and join with others from the community as we sing the carols and await His birth. It's always a very special night!

**28<sup>th</sup>,** There will be **one service of worship;** 9 A.M. The Sunday School is not in session. Be with us for a special service of worship!

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### THE CHURCH MEMORIAL FUND

For many years, the church has had a memorial fund - a monetary fund established in memory of a loved one upon their death. The primary purpose of the memorial fund is to keep the church

financially healthy, and to aid her in her many endeavors.

According to our current bylaws, upon the death of a loved one, the family may establish a memorial fund account for one year. After one year, if the family has not approached the church expressing a desire to use their loved one's memorial fund for a specific purpose (approved by the Diaconate), the account will be placed in the church's general memorial fund.

What better way to remember and honor the passing of a loved one than having contributions offered to the church following their death? So much good has been accomplished through the years because of the memorial fund.

If you have any questions about the memorial fund, please contact the church office.

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### REMEMBERING YOUR CHURCH

Several people have recently mentioned that they plan to remember their church in their will. Have you considered doing so?

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### YOUR COOPERATION IS NEEDED

Please remember if you are planning to use one of the church halls for an event on Sunday that **both halls and the kitchen are in use until 1 P.M.** Please **DO NOT** arrive early planning to set up for your event while church-related events are still in progress. Your understanding is appreciated.

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### ADULT MISSION NEWS

Seven people recently returned from a mission trip to Boston. And more than one of them said it was one of the best mission trips they had been on. Lori Hall, the trip's coordinator said, "*It was an eye-opening experience and very fulfilling. We felt blessed to be able to participate and hope we brought a small light into a few lives.*" We hope some of those who took part in the trip will share their stories during a morning worship service. Stay tuned...

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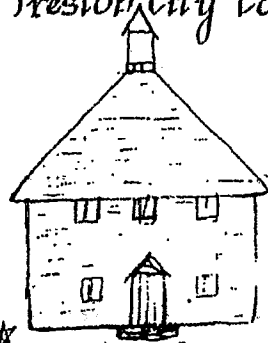
### TRIPS & TRAVELS

Is there an interest in traveling to **New Orleans** in October 2015? How about a trip through the Canadian Rockies & Glacier National Park? This church trip is scheduled for August 14 - 20, 2015. Highlights include: Calgary, Waterton Lakes National Park, Glacier National Park, "Going to the Sun Road", Banff, Columbia Icefield. The cost is \$3,199 (Double), \$3,949 (Single), \$3,169 (Triple) which includes: Round trip air from Logan International Airport, air taxes and fees/surcharges, and hotel transfers. *Not included in the price is the cancellation Waiver and insurance of \$205 per person.* Michael Zeigler, our travel rep. from *Collette* will be at the church, Thursday, November 20 for a 6 P.M. travel presentation, and to answer any questions. Spread the word, plan to attend. This trip is open to the community.

# The Preston Junior Pilgrim



Preston City Congregational Church Sunday School Newsletter



★ An idea of what the second meeting house may have looked like.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

*"It's birthday time again...that is for the Preston City Congregational Church!"* It would be hard to get 316 candles on a cake, but on November 16<sup>th</sup> that's how old our church will be. It began that day with 12 men who became members of the church which was the First Congregational Church of Preston; Rev. Salmon Treat was ordained as the minister; he stayed 46 years! In 1917 the church was renamed: Preston City Congregational Church.

I always think of November being the month with Thanksgiving in it, we have so much to be thankful for and it is a good time to take a look at some of our history. The beginnings of the church were covered in the last November newsletter article so I thought I'd share something else of interest:

WE NOW worship in the 4<sup>th</sup> structure. How about the first three – the first building was crude and unpainted with a steep roof, balcony and a few windows. The church families provided their own benches. A Seating Committee was established to determine the location of the benches within the meeting house. Deacons were given the highest honor, foreseats in the front of the church, and all others were placed by social standing. As this first meeting house did not have a bell, a drummer was used to call its members together. The meeting house was also used for town meetings and courts of justice.

DURING THE CLOSING years of Rev. Treat's ministry, a new meeting house was built because the current one had become too small and in need of great repairs (it was torn down). The new meeting house had twice the seating capacity of the first one. It was built on the same site and a vote was passed that "a small piece of ye land in sd society called Ministry Land where sd meeting house now stands shall be and remain for a meeting house lot for ye use of this Society forever."

SIXTY YEARS LATER, in 1800, the second structure was found to be in need of extensive repair and an effort to raise contributions won little support. In 1802, the townspeople petitioned the General Assembly for funds for a new meeting house and it was granted in 1803. The second structure was razed and the construction started on a new, larger building. It was in the third building that the Sunday School was established in 1815, by the current pastor, Rev. Hyde and his wife (THANK YOU)! They also established one of the first Missionary Societies in Connecticut.

IN 1886 the parsonage was erected. It housed the church's ministers for 130 years until its sale in 1997 whereby our present minister was able to purchase his own home

ON THE EVENING of March 19, 1886, an unexplained fire destroyed the church building and all of its contents. Plans were made immediately to rebuild—immediately as the morning after the fire! (*What roots we have!*)

THE CHURCH BELL was destroyed in the fire. It was melted down and cast into smaller bells which sold for \$1.00 each to raise funds for the new building. Some of the bells are still in existence. Check the church historical cabinet in the Information Center hallway.

ON AUGUST 5, 1886, the cornerstone was laid for the fourth (and present) church meeting house, the one we worship in today. According to reports, the cost of the building was \$5,434!

STAY TUNED IN and next month I'll share another short chapter of our church's history.

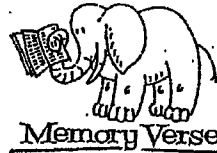
ONE OF THE songs our Sunday School children sing contains the phrase "*nobody here has a claim on the pew!*" Thank God we've come a long way since the beginning of the church.

MAKE NO MISTAKE about it, you and I are here in this time in the history of the church not by accident, but by God's grace. Let's all do our part in advancing God's kingdom by a Christ like attitude and kindness.

May the SONshine through me,

*Gondy Duder*

★ Found in Preston library records.



### NOVEMBER BIBLE VERSES

"Love your neighbor as yourself." (Mark 12:31) (N3-Grade 2)

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19 The Great Commission (Grades 3-12)

**PLEASE ENCOURAGE** students to learn these verses; they will serve them well the rest of their lives. To qualify for an award at the end of the year, verses must be correctly recited by the end of each month to Mrs. Dudek or their teacher. **PLEASE NOTE:** students who have recited the Bible verses will be posted on the Sunday School bulletin board in the SS Hall.

### YOUTH MISSION TRIP 2015

**AT THE PRESENT TIME**, the slots to the Niagara Falls, New York youth mission trip July 19<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> have been filled and a waiting list has been started. The mission trip guidelines were recently revised and please note one of the important changes: **"youth participants must be registered in and active participants (in attendance at least two Sundays per month) of the current Sunday School year."**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL PAGEANT** rehearsals for Nursery 3, Nursery 4, and Kindergarten will begin Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> from 6-6:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Melissa Blondet assisted by Katy Hopkins will direct these little ones who will be nativity characters. They also will practice on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. They will be integrated with the grades 1 & up students who are directed by Naomi Bushnell in presenting *Star of Wonder*. The pageant will be presented on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

**CAN YOU HELP?** We need about a dozen large stars made out of yellow posterboard with holes in the middle of them (for heads). If you can do this, please call Naomi Bushnell (860.984.8188) or Sandy at the office.

**THANK YOU** to those people in the congregation who slip into the Sunday School Hall and place a donation in the jar for our mission child, Kalid, of Ethiopia.

**THANKSGIVING BASKETS** will be assembled by the Sunday School children again this year. Papers will be sent home with the students requesting a segment of the dinner. If you would like to provide a turkey or a cash donation for pies, please talk to Sandy.

**SECRET SANTA...** If you attend this church and are in need this Christmas season for a gift or two for yourself or your child(ren), please contact the church office. We will match a "Secret Santa" up to help. Be assured of confidentiality.

**THE SENIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP** (students grades 9-12) For information, call the Giulianos (860.376.8901) or the Van Alsts (860.230.9947). Watch the church bulletin for upcoming activities.

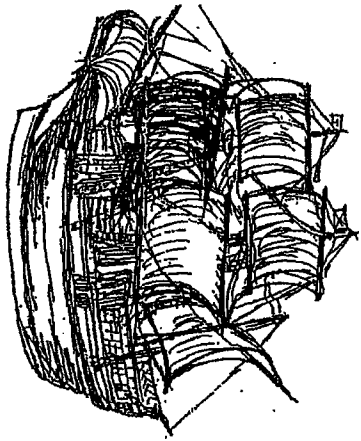
**THE JUNIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP** (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders) will be doing a service project on Veteran's Day to honor and recognize men and women who have committed their lives to protect us and our country. On November 14<sup>th</sup>, the JPF will attend a karate demonstration and hands on activity as well as enjoy pizza. They will meet at America's Best Defense (ABD) in Norwich at 6:00 p.m. On Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, the JPF will enjoy an authentic Thanksgiving Dinner together. Co-leaders Linda Farinha (860.608.6641) or Andy McCaslin (860.917.6572) may be contacted for further information.

**STORYTELLING** took place October 26<sup>th</sup> with Linda Kent-Farinha and enrichment by Naomi Bushnell. The next storytelling program is scheduled for November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Hope your children will be there that day for this interactive session.

#### **BRING IT...**

is our Contemporary Young Adult Worship Service. If you or someone you know is between the ages of 14 to age 22, we're inviting you to this exciting way to worship. "Bring It" uses multiple forms of media, interactive demonstrations, and music to bring God's message to life. The worship service starts at 10:30 a.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month. The November dates are the 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please come and join us, invite someone to come with you, or tell someone about it.

**THE SCRIP PROGRAM** is an ongoing fundraiser that greatly benefits the youth missions trips program. Scrip (debit) cards are available to purchase for hundreds of stores, gas stations, donut shops, bookstores, grocery stores, etc. where you do business. You do not pay any extra amount to purchase these cards; however, the youth missions will receive a percentage back that varies according to the business. For example...if you purchase a Macy's card for \$100.00, youth missions will be rewarded 10% for the sale...no charge to you, but profit to the program; WalMart is 2%, Stop & Shop 4%, etc. Cards can be purchased for varying amounts. Sheets with participating businesses listed are always available in the Information Center. Checks to purchase these cards should be made out to "PCCC Youth Missions". If you have questions, call coordinators Jerry & Cheryl Giuliano (860-376-8901).



The Mayflower

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

**SUNDAYS:**  
**Morning worship, 9a.m., 10:30 a.m.**  
 Sunday School 8:45 a.m.  
 Coffee hour, 9:50 a.m., 11:30 a.m.  
 Children's Choir: 10:00-10:25 a.m.  
 Youth Choir: 10:00-10:25 a.m.  
**Junior & Senior Pilgrim Fellowship**  
**Check church bulletin!**  
 The newsletter is posted on our website:  
[prestoncitycongregational.org](http://prestoncitycongregational.org)

**INCLEMENT WEATHER CANCELLATIONS:** Tune in to WICH, WCTV, WNLC, WKNT, or Television Channel 3 or you may check Facebook or our website: [prestoncitycongregational.org](http://prestoncitycongregational.org)  
 When Sunday School is cancelled, church is **NOT CANCELLED** unless specifically announced.

OCTOBER  
 S M T W T F S  
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 5 6 7 8 9 10 11  
 12 13 14 15 16 17 18  
 19 20 21 22 23 24 25  
 26 27 28 29 30 31

# NOVEMBER 2014

DECEMBER  
 S M T W T F S  
 1 2 3 4 5 6  
 7 8 9 10 11 12 13  
 14 15 16 17 18 19 20  
 21 22 23 24 25 26 27  
 28 29 30 31

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
To place flowers in church during October, call Sallie Quinn at 860.546.2021	Please note: Active church members who wish to borrow church property (tables, chairs), call the church office.	Please check with Rev. Stan or Sandy before using our names as references. This courtesy would be appreciated.	PLEASE NOTE: Active church members who wish to borrow church property (tables, chairs), call the church office.			1 Christmas Bazaar 9a-2p
2 Communion SS communion 9:05a Worship 9, 10:30a Adult choir sings 9a Two-can Sunday Turn docks back 1 hr.	3 Bible study 10a Confirmation 8:30p Yoga 8:30p	4 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30a Senior Lunch Noon NO Pageant rehearsal	6 AA 7:30p	6 Hand bell rehearsal 6:15p Adult choir 7p	7 Bazaar drop-off, set-up 5:30-7:30p	
9 Worship 9, 10:30a Teen Challenge here *Bring It! 10:30a	10 Bible study 10a Confirmation 8:30p Yoga 8:30p	11 Veteran's Day Office closed F & F Café 9-11:30a Pageant rehearsal 6p Board of Religious Education 6p	12 ARC 10:30a St. Jude worship 11a AA 7:30p	13 Hand bell rehearsal 6:15p Adult choir 7p	14 Jr. Pilgrim Fellowship 6-7:30p ABD, Norwich	15
16 Worship 9, 10:30a Adult choir sings 9a New members meeting with deacons Following worship	17 Bible study 10a Confirmation 8:30p Yoga 8:30p	18 Friends & Family Café 9-11:30a ARC 10:30a Pageant rehearsal 6p	19 ARC 10:30a Trustees meeting 6:30p Standing Committee mtg. 7:00p AA 7:30p	20 Hand bell rehearsal 8:15p Collate Vacations presentation 9p Adult choir 7p	21 Jr. Pilgrim Fellowship authentic Thanksgiving Dinner 5:30-7p	22 Game night 8-9p
23 New Members Sun. Worship 9, 10:30a *Bring It! 10:30a Food distribution Sunday (following each service)	24 Bible study 10a Creamery Brook 3p Confirmation 8:30p Yoga 8:30p	25 F & F Café, ARC Staff meeting 9a Pageant rehearsal 6p Includes N3, N4, K NO Handbell rehearsal Adult choir 7p	28 ARC 10:30a AA 7:30p	27 Thanksgiving Day Count your blessings! Happy Thanksgiving!	28	29 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise:.... <i>Psalms 100:4</i>
30 1st Sunday Advent Worship 9, 10:30a				