



The First Church of Deerfield

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CHRISTMAS 2011 NEWSLETTER

With Advent begun and Christmas approaching, we look forward to the joy of the season, to hearing the nativity story once again, to singing carols, to the beauty of candles lit, and silent nights. We look forward to the birth of the Christ into the world. Yet, as theologian, educator and mystic Howard Thurman (1899-1981) reminds us:

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the brothers
to make music in the heart.



May all the joys of Christmas fill your hearts, and may we continue to work together doing the work of Christmas.

--Ann

CHRISTMAS MUSIC

An expanded choir and instrumentalists will sing sections of the Messiah by G. F. Handel for the Christmas Eve services including: %And the Glory of the Lord, And to Us a Son is Given, Glory to God, and Rejoice, Rejoice+(solo).



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December 4	Second Sunday of Advent
December 11	Third Sunday of Advent 7pm, Vespers, Deerfield Academy, with the Madrigal Choir
December 18	Fourth Sunday of Advent; Children's Program; Bring Crèches to set up before service.
December 24	4:30pm Family Service (Living Manger to Follow) 9:00pm Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols. Expanded choir and soloist singing parts of the Messiah.
December 25	Christmas Day Christmas carol sing, abbreviated service
January 1	New Year's Day regular service
January 8	Epiphany Sunday; Communion service.



The **Mission Committee** will once again co-ordinate Adopt-a-Family for the upcoming Holiday Season. Adopt-a-Family helps to supply gifts and a holiday meal for families in Franklin County who are unable to provide their own. Sign-up sheets are available on the church bulletin board, with 4 gifts left to be filled (as of 11/28/11). Monetary donations most welcomed towards grocery gift cards for holiday meals. For questions, contact Kathie Williams at 413-522-2723.

STEWARDSHIP

A Word from Ross Anderson

Sunday, November 13, was Stewardship Sunday, with pledge cards collected and blessed at the Seder service on November 20. We would love to see 100% participation so we can more accurately prepare our budget; please bring your pledge card to church or mail to the church as soon as possible, as the budget will be worked on in December for 2012.

The **Board of Trustees** reminds all that that any pledge or contribution to the church made before December 31, 2011, is eligible to be claimed as a charitable contribution on your 2011 income tax return



Christmas Plants

As is our tradition, the sanctuary will be decorated with plants for Christmas. There will be an envelope available in the foyer of the church for your orders or you may clip and mail this order form to the church office with your check. You may pick up your plants following the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (9:00pm) or you may leave them through Epiphany Sunday, January 8. The Final date to order is DECEMBER 11. All plants are \$15.

_____ Red Poinsettia _____ White Poinsettia _____ Pink Poinsettia

Name _____ Phone _____

Plant No. 1 *In honor of* OR *In memory of* _____

Plant No. 2 *In honor of* OR *In memory of* _____

_____ **I would like my plant(s) to be given to a shut-in after Epiphany**

Please include your check (made out to "The First Church of Deerfield") with this order. Checks can be mailed to the church office (PO Box 276, Deerfield, MA 01342) or left in the order envelope in the church narthex.



December Birthdays

- 1- Ron Evans
- 6- Tim Stuart
- 12- Jonathan Thomas
- 14- Tim Neumann
- 15- Justine Pasiecznik
- 20- Charles Farrell
- 24- Sue Carmody
- 26- Pam Koenigsbauer
- 27- Mary Dancer
- 31- Stanley Dahlman

January Birthdays

- 15- Peter Jones
- 18- Ted Pennock
- 19- Elizabeth Purnell
- 20- Barbara Mitnik
- 29- Jennifer Williams

January Anniversary

- 13- Mary Stuart and Elizabeth Conlisk