



First Congregational Church  
of  
Spencer, U.C.C.  
207 Main Street  
PO Box 187  
Spencer, Massachusetts 01562  
[www.spencerchurch.org](http://www.spencerchurch.org)

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

Rev. William R. Wildman, Jr.  
Pastor  
[wwildmanjr@verizon.net](mailto:wwildmanjr@verizon.net)  
Direct 508-885-5098

For emergencies after office hours  
please call 508-885-5863

The Tie  
January 2012

Church Office  
8:00 a.m. to noon  
[fccspencer@verizon.net](mailto:fccspencer@verizon.net)  
508-885-2149

### **PASTOR'S MESSAGE**

Happy New Year to one and all! I hope you all had a great Christmas Eve and Christmas Day celebration. We have had a very busy, but joyful, Christmas season at home. We hosted parties at the house, visited with friends and family, and enjoyed all of our usual Christmas traditions. And this year, as is usually the case, we enjoyed celebrating Christmas more than once. We first celebrated Christmas with Christi's Mom and Dad on December 18<sup>th</sup>, after enjoying the wonderful and very well done Blue Christmas Concert at the church. We then celebrated Christmas again on December 24<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Eve, with my Mom and Dad. And we celebrated again on the 25<sup>th</sup>, and felt God's awesome blessings as we watched our daughter enjoying her very first Christmas Day. And seeing her joy reminded us of our own, and we had received the one Christmas gift that we truly wanted this year, the beautiful child that we welcomed into our family last May. God had truly been very good to us this year, and we will be forever grateful for Christ's love and grace in 2011!

We all still have a little Christmas left to celebrate, the feast of Little Christmas! Better known as the Feast of the Epiphany, this 12<sup>th</sup> Day of Christmas is being celebrated on January 8<sup>th</sup> this year. This is the day where we remember the visit of the Magi to Jesus as a young child. The Magi were a group of royalty from somewhere Far East of ancient Israel who studied the stars and nature for signs of God's will and guidance. In observing the skies around the time of Jesus' birth, they saw a star rise out of the western sky, and determined from this that the King of the Jews, the promised Messiah, had finally been born.

Their decision to seek him out to pay him homage was a very humble and faith-filled act on their part. Not only were they risking their lives and well being on this very long journey to see him, they were also submitting their own royal authority and realms to a baby in a country that none of them had ever seen before. We are not sure exactly how many of them would make the journey, but

their faith and efforts would be very well rewarded, as they found the very Christ child that they were so eagerly seeking. They came to pay their respects to the newborn king and worshiped him; bring him fine and royal gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. What faith they showed in this! May their faith also inspire our own as we remember their epic journey.

As we start a new year together, how about a visit from Pastor Bill? If you would like a visit, or to get together for a cup of coffee, soda, etc., or have some other way that I can be of help to you, please let me know. **Also, if you know of someone who is sick, or in distress, or in the hospital, please let me know so I can pay them a visit.** Feel free to call me at 508-885-2149, stop by the office, or e-mail me at [revwilliamwildman@yahoo.com](mailto:revwilliamwildman@yahoo.com) to set up a time to get together. May God bless us all and Happy New Year!

In Christ,

*Pastor Bill*

## **Bible Trivia Contest January 2012!**

Thank you to everyone who sent in answers for December's Bible Trivia question. Congratulations to Beth Carlson on being our winner! December's question was **"Whose is John the Baptist's Dad?"** Beth was the first to correctly answer "Zechariah" and has won coffee and pastry at Five Loaves Bakery with Pastor Bill. Would you like to win coffee and pastry too? It's easy, just answer this month's trivia question:

**"What Country did Mary, Joseph and Jesus escape to when Herod was trying to have Baby Jesus Murdered?"**

Be the first to get the answer to Pastor Bill by either phone, e-mail or in person, and win free coffee and pastry with him at Five Loaves Bakery.

**Another Way to win for 2012:** Have a question for Bible Trivia? Submit it (with the answer) to Pastor Bill and get a chance to win a prize. If your question is selected for publishing in a future edition of the *Tie* as one of our Bible Trivia questions, you will win coffee and pastry with Pastor Bill at Five Loaves Bakery, as well as a credit for your question when it's published. Limit one prize per month.

So get your thinking caps on and let this month's contest begin... God Bless!

## **2012 Bible Study Programs!!!**

We are pleased to offer the following Bible Study Program for Lent 2012 **"Bible 101: The Basics"** will offer a chance, during the season of Lent, to better understand and use the Bible.

We will be meeting on the Tuesdays listed below, at 10 AM (if there is enough interest) and 7 PM. Times may be subject to adjustment due to other church functions. Please bring a Bible of your choice to share and use. Please sign up on the sheet outside of the office, and feel free to call or see Pastor Bill with any questions. Hope to see you there. Thank you and God bless!

### **Program Three: Lenten Bible Study: "Bible 101: The Basics"**

2/28/2012: "Introduction to the Bible"

3/06/2012: "Sections of the Old Testament"

3/13/2012: "Sections of the New Testament"

3/20/2012: "Chapter and Verse"

3/27/2012: "Fun and Games with the Bible"

### **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

Administration Committee meeting is Wednesday Jan 18th 7:00PM

#### BUDGET

We have received 77 pledges as of Dec 18<sup>th</sup>, totaling \$60,914.00. Last year we had total of 99 pledges for a total of \$69,241.00. Thank you to all who have already returned their pledges. We are very grateful to the ones who were able to increase their pledge for 2012. **If you are planning to pledge and have not returned your pledge card, please do so. Please think about what this church family means to you and faithfully pledge what you are able to do.** Every pledge counts, no matter how small or large. It can be weekly, monthly or a onetime pledge for the year. **We are facing a \$38,000.00 deficit budget** with the current level of pledging and the increase in our cost of oil. When this committee meets in January, we are hopeful that we do not have to make tough financial decisions to bring to the Annual meeting set for Feb 5, 2012.

#### NOMINATIONS

We are continuing to work on nominations for the 2012 year. The following positions remain to be filled. **Historian, (1) Administration Committee, (1) Male Deacon, (1) Church & Community, (1) Church & Education, (1) Stewardship Committee.**

If you are interested please contact Ken Landine 508-867-6979, Pat Stark 508-885-5131 or the church office. Thank you to the people who have said yes.

We look forward to working and worshipping with all of you.

Ken Landine,  
For the entire Administration Committee

### **CHURCH & COMMUNITY**

The committee sponsored a family for a Christmas dinner again this year

Thank you to all who purchased felt Christmas Ornaments this year. We sold 42 ornaments in honor and in memory of family members, friends please see list below All proceeds went to Pastor Bill's Benevolence Fund to help him purchase food & gas gift cards etc. for needy families.

Miriam & Carl Ahlquist	Nanna G. & Dad G.	Al & Claire Perron
Winthrop Amidon	Sid & Hilda Harding	Bob Perron
Helmer & Olive Anderson	Theresa Hill	Albert & Dorothy Provencher
Albert & Carol Andrews	Bea Houston	David Provo
Sonny Andrews	Donna Ingalls	Sara Russell
Louise Brown	Betty & Bob Landine	Althea & Milton Sebring
Harold Carlson	Lynda Largebess	Lillian Snow
Bill Chicoine	Leona & John Larson	Bill Stark
Coutu Family	Dick Leveillee	Jane Stone
FloraCoutu	Loved Ones by Mark Provencher	Glen & Janet Stevens
Harriet & Stan Durant	Herb & Aili MacMillan	Nadine Wackus
Ida Fiset	Lionel & Dorothy O'Coin	Eleanor & Bruce Willard

## **CHURCH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

This committee met on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. We have filled one vacant positions. It will be voted on at the annual meeting February 5, 2012. Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.

Lisa Brown, Church School Superintendent

## **CHURCH SCHOOL**

Attendance is staying consistent. The children did an excellent job performing the Christmas Pageant. They had fun doing the sounds and motions.

Lisa Brown, Church School Superintendent

## **DIACONATE NEWS**

Diaconate will meet on Sunday, January 8, 2012 following the worship service.

Deacon of the month for January is Ken Landine

Communion will be served on January 1, 2012 during our worship service.

Pastor Bill is on vacation through January 2, 2012. In an emergency contact Bob Ahlquist at cell 774-452-5848, home 508-885-0068 or Judy Chicoine at 508-885-9362

Pastor covering on Sunday, January 1, 2012 is Rev. Mary Poole. Also Rev. Poole will be running a workshop sometime early in 2012 on church vitality and growth.

We look forward to greeting, meeting and worshipping with you on Sunday mornings.

Happy & Healthy New Year!  
Warmly in Christ,  
Robert Ahlquist  
Chairperson

## **FLOWER COMMITTEE**

Annual Poinsettia Sale began on Sunday, November 27, 2011 and ran through Sunday, December 11, 2011. Thank you to all those who purchased poinsettias this year. The flowers made the Christmas season brighter and festive. Thanks again and Happy New Year.

## **MEN'S LEAGUE**

By the time you read this note, Christmas will have passed. I hope everyone had a really great Christmas, and now the Men's League wishes everyone a healthy & Happy New Year.

We had our annual Beef Stew Dinner on December 13<sup>th</sup> with 30 people being served a delicious dinner. Thank you to Ken Landine and Bob Vandale and all the Men's League helpers. Ross Brown, Thank You for the home made rolls.

Our next meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2012. We will be having a stuffed chicken breast dinner.

Happy New Year  
Sincerely,  
Al Orne

## **MILITARY WHIST PARTY & PENNY SALE**

Will be held on  
Friday, January 13, 2011  
Time: 7:00 p.m.  
Refreshments will be served  
Donation \$5.00

Come and enjoy the fun and fellowship. If you have items for the penny table or would like to bake for the refreshments, please call Mary Ingalls at the church 508-885-2149 and items for the penny table please mark Whist party.

## **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

Update as of December 18, 2011 we have received 77 pledges for a total of \$60,914.00. Thank you again for your support.

If you have any questions, please contact any member of the committee, Co-Chairpersons Bev Wentworth 508-885-2992 & Phil Harding 508-885-5441 or Karen Frykberg 508-885-3317, Linda Gould 508-885-3672 Joyce Landine 508-867-6979 and Marilyn Olsen 508-885-6988.

## **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

No executive board or Sunlighters meeting will be held in the month of January.

## **EVENING WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

No meeting in January the next meeting will be in February more information to follow.

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### **FYI**

**Fundraiser for the Music Committee:** Ross Brown has graciously volunteered to make bread on the last Sunday of the month. He will be making wheat and white. The proceeds from the sale of the breads will go to the Music Committee to help with special programs.

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**Hearing Assist Devices are Available...** Feel like you're missing some of what is going on during our service? We have hearing assist devices available to help you enjoy our worship service. These small, comfortable and convenient devices are connected directly to the sound system of the church via FM radio signals. Every sound spoken into any microphone in the church will be transmitted to the device. Why miss out when you can hear every word crystal clear? Please see one of the ushers for assistance. They will be happy to assist you.

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## **Know Somebody in the Hospital? Please let us know...**

***Do you know of someone from the church who is in the hospital or some other health care facility?*** Please let us know at the church office so Pastor Bill can pay them a visit. Due to the Federal Health Insurance Privacy Protection Act (HIPPA), hospitals and health care facilities can no longer tell us if anyone from the church is there, even if they have made their church membership known to them. In other words, we have no other way of knowing if someone is in the hospital other than word of mouth. Please let us know the full name that they were admitted by, what the facility name is, and if possible, what their room number is.

Thank you so much for your help with the visitation ministry of the church!

## **Lay Reading dates available now through March 2012!**

Looking for a simple and fun way to take part in the Sunday worship service? Sign up to be a

Lay Reader. The Lay Reader leads the congregation in the Call to Worship and reads the scripture lesson for the day. No previous experience is necessary, and it's a great way to share in our Sunday service. A sign up sheet is posted in front of the church office. Please feel free to pick a date or two and sign up. You can also call the office and ask us to put your name down as well. Please see Pastor Bill with any questions. Looking forward to seeing you in the pulpit one of these Sundays soon!

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### **Make a difference in someone's life... be a Parish Visitor!!!**

Have some time and want to make a difference in someone's life? Become a parish visitor! A Parish Visitation Ministry is now underway at the church. All that is required is a few hours a month and a compassionate heart. Please see Pastor Bill for more information.

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### **Notice from the Office**

Regarding the reports for the annual meeting if your committee report is not in by January 6, 2012 it will not appear in the annual report booklet. The booklet will be mailed out on January 23, 2012.

Just a reminder there will be no February Tie the Annual Report will take its place. February calendar announcements will be placed in the report booklet. Please have your committee announcements in by January 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Church Collector**

Just a reminder for those who asked for church offering envelopes for 2012, for your convenience, they are on the bench in the lower Narthex. You may pick them up at any time Monday through Friday 8 AM to noon.

### **CALENDAR**

January 1 – 31<sup>th</sup> Office hours are 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M., Monday through Friday.

Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** Sunday service regular time 10:00 A.M.

Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> **OFFICE CLOSED** FOR THE New Year holiday.

Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> **DIACONATE** will meet following worship service

**CHURCH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE** meeting following worship service.

Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> Please have your **committee announcements** for the February Calendar in the office so they can be inserted in the annual report.

Jan 13<sup>th</sup> **MILITARY WHIST PARTY** and Penny Sale 7:00 PM

Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE** meeting 7:00 P.M.

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> **ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING** - time 12 Noon

Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> **FATHER & SON BANQUET** 6:30 P.M.

### **HELD AT THE CHURCH**

Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon and Al-A-Teen meeting every Monday at 6:30 p.m.

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Deacon of the month for January is Ken Landine