



STRATCHAT

A Stratham Community Church, UCC newsletter

Winter 2014

From the Pastor, Rev. Diane Mix

This Sunday we enter the season of Advent and the beginning of the Church Year. Advent means “coming.” It is a time of waiting, longing and praying for God’s healing, transformative presence to be ever more vibrantly present in the world.

In this sense, Advent is a season in which we focus on that key phrase in the Lord’s Prayer, “thy kingdom come.” As Christians, the Good News we strive to live by is that love is stronger than hate; peace is more enduring than war; hope is more powerful than despair. And the light of God's love will extinguish forever the shadows of shame cast by violence, suffering, sorrow, and hate.

As the Advent Candles are lit in the four Advent Services, the words will begin by telling the truth about a world that is all too barren of God’s HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE. After the candle has been lit, we cry out with all people of faith - past, present, and future - Brother and sisters, do not be afraid! Even now, God’s love is overwhelming the world! (edited from the SALT Project)

Wishing you a blessedly prayerful Advent Season

Rev. Diane

REV. ALLAN LURVEY’S ADULT BIBLE COURSES

Hi, Everyone. I’m Pam Kulesza and I have just completed Allan Lurvey’s course about the apostle Paul. This class proved to be informative and enriching. Additionally, members of the class from diverse backgrounds contributed thoughtful and insightful ideas. Allan plans to lead another class in January 2015. If you would like to participate in a fantastic learning experience with enthusiastic people, this group is for you! We will be exploring The Underground Church by Robin Meyers. Keep watching for future details.

**“A church is not a campus,
it is a community.
A pastor is not a CEO,
she is a shepherd.”**

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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Sunday School —

The youth have been exploring and discussing love! Loving others, Loving God and Loving ourselves. We have been reading parables in the New Testament as well as stories from the Old Testament. The youth have been preparing for the Uganda Children’s visit.

“The education of children for God is the most important business done on Earth.”
~ R.L. Dabney

Youth Group

Middle School (6th—8th Grade) meets every 3rd Sunday of the month.



“We The Youth” (6th—12th Grade), an ecumenical youth group that provides experiential social justice for area teens.

Met in October—Big Night: Ending Hunger One Step at a Time. We had over 30 youth join us for an overnight event preparing for Crop Walk which was a whole church event.



What’s Coming Up?

December 14th—1:00-5:00pm—The Christmas Shop with Boston City Mission Society. This is a whole church event, however, the youth group will be going as a group. If you want more information, email Christine.

The Christmas Pageant will be December 21st at the 10:00am Worship Service. All children are invited and encouraged to participate. There is a “job” for everyone.

Praise Dancers: All children 6 years and older are invited. The dancers will perform at the December 21st Pageant and December 25th Christmas Eve 5:00pm Service.



* For more information, email Christine at ChrEd@strathamchurch.org



Join Us For Christmas Eve Services

For all 4 Sundays in Advent, please come to Sunday Worship 15 minutes early to sing carols!!

The Sunday December 21 Service will be the Children's Traditional Christmas Pageant. Bright Gifts will be received, and the Mission and Justice Committee will host a Birthday Party for Jesus during Coffee Hour.

Christmas Eve Services (Dec. 24th):

5:00pm—A short and simple Service including carols, Praise Dancers and candlelight

8:00pm—A Service of Traditional Lessons and Carols - the Christmas Story in Scripture alternating with carols - and candlelight

11:00pm—A Service including a sermon, candlelight & communion

**Sunday December 28
Traditional Lessons and Carols led by the Deacons**



A Few Words from our Minister of Music, Cheryl Stromski

When words fail to express...music takes over. So much is happening in our world right now. Concern over the decision in Ferguson, MI, our economy, international issues, our planet and so much more. We watch and we wait, much like the prophets of old. When will our answer come? Our answer has come. Emmanuel, God with us, has shown us and is showing us the way. He has shown us how to live justly, how to love mercy and to how to walk humbly with our God. Welcome Emmanuel. This Christmas, may we open our hearts to you more than we ever have. May your Holy Spirit light our paths like the star of Bethlehem, leading us to the Christ. May we be filled to overflowing with your love, compassion and wisdom, and may it tumble out of us in joyful song.

Join us as we worship together. This Christmas Season's services are filled with beautiful music. Brass, strings, adult choir, junior choir, soloists, bell choirs, praise dancers all will point us to the manger. Come be blessed and encouraged; filled up to go forth and serve. Merry Christmas.



Holly Fair

Stratham Community Church,
6 Emery Lane, Stratham

SATURDAY, December 6th

9:00am to 1:00pm

STOP & SHOP HERE!

greens * boxwood trees * poinsettias
home-made baked goods * gluten-free foods
candy * gently-used items * jewelry

**JOIN THE FUN AT OUR SILENT AUCTION!
BID CUT OFF TIME IS 12:00 (NOON)**

Making crafts in our Children's Room!!!

The Cafe will be open to
enjoy snacks & sandwiches!





What's Happening at Church???

Saturday, December 13, 2014—7:30pm—Amare Cantare Concert

Sunday, December 21, 2014—During 10:00am Worship—Children's Pageant AND Bright Gifts are brought to church for our adopted families at Seacoast Family Promise

Wednesday, December 24, 2014—Christmas Eve Services at 5pm, 8pm, and 11pm

Sunday, December 28, 2014—Seacoast Family Promise Host Week begins

Saturday, January 10, 2015—9:30am—2:30pm—America Red Cross Blood Drive

Saturday, January 24, 2015—4:30-6:30pm—Church Supper: Italian menu featuring lasagna



Amare Cantare Concert

Amare Cantare's first of three holiday concerts will be at Stratham Community Church on Saturday, December 13, 2014, at 7:30 p.m.

Poulenc: *Quatre Motets pour le temps de Noël*
Monteverdi: *Magnificat Secondo*

Join us for a concert of works for the Christmas season. Poulenc's four Christmas motets — *O magnum mysterium*, *Quem vidistis pastores dicite*, *Videntes stellam*, and *Hodie Christus natus est* — are exquisite miniatures that both challenge the ear and refresh the soul with their fascinating harmonies and varied moods and colors. In his *Magnificat Secondo* from *Selva morale e spiritual* of 1640, Monteverdi exhibits his characteristic skill with textural variety by employing contrasting sections of four-part chorus, solo trio, and plainchant. The program also includes *Hymne à la Vierge* by Pierre Villette, Frank Ticheli's *There Will Be Rest*, and a variety of other seasonal pieces.

See www.amarecantare.org for more information.

Blood Drive at church Sat., Jan. 10, 2015

Come give the gift of life! Between 9:30am & 2:30pm!

We are always looking for donors, volunteers and snacks for donors. A great way for individuals or families to contribute their time, talent and something of themselves for an extremely worthwhile cause.

Every pint of blood can save the life of 3 individuals and since we started the blood drives at SCC in 2006 the ARC has collected over 600 pints due to countless hours from the volunteers and friends of the Stratham Community Church.

Church Supper: Sat. Jan. 24, 2015

All are welcome anytime between 4:30 & 6:30pm
Italian Menu featuring lasagna

Adults \$8.00, Children \$5.00
Drink and dessert are included in meal.



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newsletter**

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**No matter where you are on life's
journey, you are welcome here.**

www.strathamchurch.org

Thanks are in Order.....



**A HUGE Thank You to Veronica Gauvin
for all of her work on the planter
out in front of the church.**

**Veronica changes out the planter each
Season and keeps it looking beautiful all
year round. Just look at this picture to
see what Veronica has done this Fall.**

Note from the Uganda Kids Choir

Thank you for your tremendous hospitality shown to the Choir during their recent stay at Stratham Community Church! Evelyn, our Tour Leader, was very impressed with your choirs learning a song in Luganda and said it was so much fun. I would have loved to see the reaction of our children for that!! Thank you so much Sherry for your many efforts to make all that happen!

We certainly appreciated the generous response of your church family and are especially grateful for the 4 newly sponsored children who now begin a life w/hope and change through education and Christian character building. Thanks to your generosity, their lives will never be the same!

Blessings, Kristy Strom
Ugandan Kids Choir: a ministry of Childcare Worldwide

The Clothes Attic Thrift Shop

Did you know that the church operates it's own clothing & household item thrift shop.....right here in the church building??!!?

It is run completely by volunteers and is open
Wednesdays 9am—3pm and Saturdays
10am—Noon.

You will find gently used clothing & household items at a great price. NOW is the time to come down and find some great Christmas gifts for the whole family.

CLOTHES ATTIC HOURS:

Wednesdays—9am—3pm
Saturdays—10am—Noon



**YOU can donate items to the
Clothes Attic -OR- you can
consign your items at the
Clothes Attic and make a nice
little profit!**

