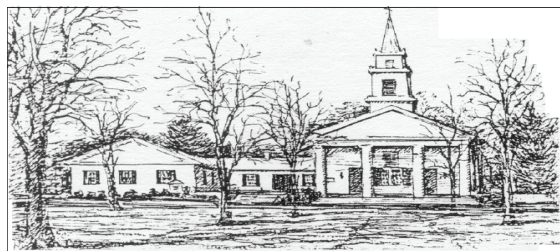


# On the Common



25 Green Street  
PO Box 808  
Slatersville, Rhode Island, 02876-0899

JANUARY 2012

**SLATERSVILLE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
of the United Church of Christ, a Stephen Ministry Church

**The Rev. Eileen Morris, Pastor**  
E-mail: [Pastorscc@verizon.net](mailto:Pastorscc@verizon.net)  
Office Phone and Fax: (401) 769-2773  
Pastor's phone: (401) 533-2014

Office e-mail: [officescc@verizon.net](mailto:officescc@verizon.net)  
Website: [www.slatersvillechurch.org](http://www.slatersvillechurch.org)

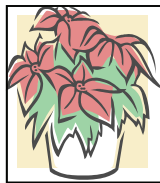


Dear Friends,

Happy New Year!! As we welcome in 2012, it is important that we also say good bye to 2011. For many of us 2011 has been a year of great loss and challenge and for others it has been a great year of success and happiness. Regardless of how this year was for you I invite you to take a few moments and say thank you. Because no matter what we face in life we know that God is always with us. Through difficulty and delight God is with us. Through heartache God is there. Through wondrous times that make us sing with joy God is there. We see God's love in the faces that comfort us and we see God's love in the beauty of nature that surrounds us.

Wherever this new year finds you, come let us worship together on January 1st as we reweave the year that was and bring in the new year with communion. I look forward to seeing you.

Peace to you,  
Rev. Eileen



## Memorial Poinsettias

The Sanctuary was filled with beautiful memorial poinsettias for Christmas Sunday and both Christmas Eve services! Many thanks to those who were here to accept and decorate the church with them. The Christmas Eve services were magical with candlelight, the Christmas tree, the wreaths, the crèche, and the beautiful music! Many thanks and Happy New Year!



Rev. Eileen can always be reached by calling her cell phone—  
401-533-2014

## Officers of the Church

Jean Meo, Moderator  
Robin Kenoian, Clerk  
Chuck Kenoian, Treasurer  
Marilyn Briggs, Financial Clerk

## Church Staff

Rev. Eileen Morris, *Pastor*  
Diane Lemoine, *Secretary*  
John Staples, *Director of Music & Organist*  
Missy McNeil, *Handbell & Chimes Choirs*  
Kayla Sawyer, *Nursery Attendant*  
Romeo Mendes, *Custodian*

## 2011 Committee Chairpersons

Marilyn Darling, Caring  
David Rogers, Diaconate  
Marie Ducharme, Hospitality  
Ruth Mills, Stewardship  
Martha Hunt, Music  
Shelly Whittle, Property  
Lisa Doherty, Missions  
Amy Staples, Christian Ed  
Bob Meo, Fundraising  
John Cormier, Prop. Projects Mgr.

## Sunday Morning

Sunday Worship — 10 a.m.  
Sunday School  
Nursery Care is provided



## *Snow Days!*



If the town of North Smithfield has a parking ban due to the prediction of snow, but the snow is minimal, we WILL have Church. On those Sundays, please park your care in the lot a Kendall-Dean School on Green Street. We will be running a shuttle from the lot to the Church and back so you do not need to walk. In addition, there will be valet parking at the front door.

If the snow is excessive or the travel dangerous, Church will be cancelled. How to know if this is the case?

1. Call the church office (401-769-2773) after 7 AM on Sunday morning and there will be a recorded message.
1. Check on TV channels 6, 10, and 12. It will list if Slatersville Congregational Church is cancelled.
2. Sign up for a phone call, (sign up in Globe Hall). You will get a call telling you that church is cancelled.
3. Sign up to get an e-mail message. Send your request to [officescc@verizon.net](mailto:officescc@verizon.net).
5. Check this website <http://www.wpri.com/>. At Home Page, click on Closings, Delays, and Parking Bans.

IF THERE IS A PARKING BAN, ASSUME THERE IS CHURCH UNTIL YOU HAVE CHECKED OUT ONE OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED SOURCES OF INFORMATION.

### *Nominating Committee Alert!*

It is that time of year when the Nominating Committee is looking to fill the seats of those Committee members whose terms have expired. Our Church moves forward on the strength and enthusiasm of its various Committees and its Church Council, so your willingness to participate is essential and very appreciated. If you are asked to join, we hope that you will give prayerful thought and consideration to this request. Thank you!



## *SCC's Food Pantry*

Do you know someone who could use some food assistance at the end of the month? Or even during the month? Our Food Pantry is open the last two Tuesdays of every month from 6:00—7:00 pm.

***Pass the word!*** Volunteers are needed for the last two Tuesdays of the month from 5:30-7 pm, to help out in our Pantry. The more volunteers that sign up, the fewer Tuesdays they'd each work. If you are interested, please contact Christine Enos at [christine.enos@gmail.com](mailto:christine.enos@gmail.com)

## *Stephen Ministry*

If you are confused about events in your life or that you have lost control of your life & your problems or recently suffered a loss or just want someone to listen to you, call Rev. Eileen to see if a Stephen Minister could be helpful in your life.

If anyone has an interest in becoming a Stephen Minister in the future please speak to Brenda or Bob Gabrielson (Tel: 401-766-0432 or e-mail [bgabriell@cox.net](mailto:bgabriell@cox.net))

### *Thanks!*

Thanks to all who gave of their time and talents to bring such musical joy to our holiday Services — the soloists, musicians, and readers. And of course, thank you to John Staples and Missy McNeil for all their time and effort in working with the choirs and the Sunday School. You make such a difference for our church.

### *Bible study continues!*

Bible study classes continues every Wednesday at 7 pm. Meetings are at the parsonage, 54 School Street, and are led by Bob Morris.

You are not too late to participate! Even if you can only come infrequently, your presence will enrich our discussions. Join us when you're able. Thank you!

## Finance Committee Request

If you have not done so, please return your completed pledge cards to the church office as soon as possible. Or you may drop the card in the offering plate on Sunday morning.

*From the Financial Secretary: -*

In order to make sure that your monies are put into the proper budget, either Operations or Missions, it would be most helpful if you would note on your check or your envelope where you intend for the money to go (Operations and/or Missions) and how much you intend to put in either category, especially if the amount you are giving is different from your weekly or monthly pledge. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated. Many of you are already doing this, but if not, I am left to guess at your intentions!

Also, if you are giving money toward your 2011 pledge balance, please indicate the year either on the memo line of your check or on your pledge envelope so the correct year will be credited. Thank you.

### *Please note:*

If you have made your pledge for 2012, you may pick up your 2012 offering envelopes in the rear of the church.

## Newsletter Deadline!!

**February 2012's Newsletter deadline** is Monday, January 23rd. You may email your items to Diane at [glemo30259@aol.com](mailto:glemo30259@aol.com)

## We're Still Decking the Halls!

This year we are collecting much needed items for the Blackstone Valley Children's Shelter located in Pawtucket, RI. They are asking for donations of hand towels, bath towels, wash cloths, combs, hair-brushes, hair products and all other toiletries.



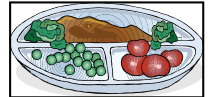
Please drop your donations in the designated box in the hallway at church from now through January. Thank you and Happy New Year from the Missions Committee and the Blackstone Valley Children's Shelter.

## Stewardship

A few weeks ago we had a Pep Rally to celebrate our church and the reasons we support it. As a former member said "Imagine what it would be like if you were never asked? It is a privilege." Since then, most of our congregation has responded. There are, however, a few pledges still outstanding. If yours I one of them, please take a moment to make your pledge and turn it in. You can place it in the offering or mail it in. Remember, "God loves a cheerful giver." II Corinthians 9:7

## Mid-Week Meals

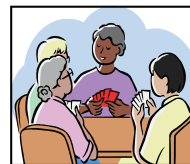
Between work schedules and Bible study, Wednesdays are very busy at the parsonage. With that in mind, we would like to start delivering a mid-week meal to Rev. Eileen and Bob. If you would like to volunteer, there is a sign-up sheet at coffee hour or you can contact Marilyn Darling at 401-767-2015 for a list of Bob's favorite meals. Thank you.



## Bridge Date and Time

The Northern RI Bridge Club meets here at 10 am on Monday & Tuesday mornings and at 7pm

Thursday evenings.



Are you interested in playing bridge or taking lessons? For further information please contact Clint Wright at 401-529-6674.

## Earth Wise Moment

Most men have a collection of ties they no longer wear. Those ties can be recycled. Rev. Eileen has a beautiful stole made by Brenda Gabrielson out of her dad's old ties. Since most of us are not ministers and do not wear stoles, we may want to consider some other crafty uses for those ties. Check out this website:

[www.wisebread.com/new-ideas-for-old-neckties](http://www.wisebread.com/new-ideas-for-old-neckties)  
Ideas include table runners, wind socks, stuffed toys, pillow, and much more. We would love to see your creations.



*At the 7pm service on Christmas Eve Rev Eileen told the story of two mice who live in our church. She says she has met them on various occasions and they told her about their adventures in our church on Christmas. Here is their story that she shared with the congregation on Christmas Eve.*



### The Adventures of Harry and Larry –

Did you know that in every church, every church in all of New England there are mice? Yes, and if the church is an old one like ours is the mice have been here for generations. Some of the mice can trace their ancestry back to their great, great, great, great, great, great, great, grandparent pilgrim mice who came over on the Mayflower and moved here from some of those early churches. Some of the relatives of our mice came to live here when the mills closed. If you talk to the mice, they'll tell you their stories of how they ended up in the Slatersville Congregational Church...

Well just last night when I was here getting ready for tonight's service I ran into two of the newer mice residents of this church and they told me the most amazing story of their first Christmas here – which was just last year. I thought you might like hearing it too.

The two mice are named Harry and Larry and they came here from Providence. They told me that they lived in a lovely house and the owner of the house was packing things up to give to our church fair and somehow Harry and Larry ended up in a box that was delivered to our basement. When they arrived here they were greeted by the six mice who already live here. Harry and Larry had never lived in a church before and the church mice delighted in telling them about all the wonderful things that happen here.

First the church mice told Harry and Larry that Sunday's were the best – as there was great music and people sang and listened to a nice lady talk. And then there were two more great things that happened on those days – first was Sunday School !!! and all the children came downstairs and sang and made crafts and they learned about God and Jesus. The church mice told Larry and Harry that they too would want to go to Sunday School because if you were going to be church mice well you need to know about God.



And then the other great thing that happened on Sunday's was this thing called coffee hour where all the people ate really yummy food and often times spilled crumbs on the floor which made for great snacks for the mice. Yes the church mice said - Sunday's were the best day of the week.

But then the church mice told Harry and Larry about the most amazing time of all that happened in the church and it happened every year – the church mice said that the people called it Christmas. The church mice told Larry and Harry that they needed to make sure they got upstairs in the big, big room to see it.

And Harry and Larry did – they couldn't get over it - there were beautiful flowers and wreaths and a tree so big you could climb it to the top and no one could ever see you. And then the most amazing things happen –over time the people would bring in gifts, and they put them under the tree. “Do you know what a gift is?” the church mice asked Larry and Harry. Well, they weren't so sure – and so the church mice explained – “a gift is when you give someone something – something they want or something they need or sometimes a gift can just be a total surprise! It can be something big or small. It can be something you've made or something you've bought. But most importantly you give it out of love... And what is amazing is that for Christmas the people in the church bring in gifts for people they don't know and they put them under the tree. You have to see it,” the church mice said, “you just have to see it – it is the most amazing thing ever.”

Well I have to tell you by this time I was exhausted – have you ever tried to listen to mice? So I sat down right here on this pew and the mice crawled right up on my lap and they continued their story....



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*continued from previous page*

Well, Harry and Larry told me that last year on a Sunday night in December they climbed all the stairs and crept in here and sure enough there were all these beautiful presents under the tree – so many and so pretty they’d never seen anything like it before. Larry and Harry scampered around the tree and they found a bulletin from Sunday morning’s service and there they read that there would be a service on Christmas Eve and Larry and Harry decided that they would go.

If the church was this magical now – Larry and Harry thought - what would happen on Christmas Eve? And so when the night approached they came into this very place and they sat right by the piano. They watched as the service unfolded with candles and singing. It was so beautiful they were breathless. And then they looked under the tree – the beautiful tree and the presents were gone – the gifts – that most magical part of Christmas was missing.... How could it happen, how could Christmas happen if there were no gifts? Because that was the big thing wasn’t it – the gifts?



But then something happened – something that Larry and Harry had a hard time understanding at first. Maddie walked down the aisle carrying a porcelain baby – a baby – and it was the baby Jesus and she put it in the crèche on top of the organ. Well that was really special – Harry and Larry were starting to understand that maybe Christmas had another meaning besides the presents. And then a few minutes later the mice heard these words

“Do not be afraid for see I am bringing you good news of a great joy for all the people; for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, a Savior who is the Messiah, the Lord. And this will be a sign for you, you’ll find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts praising God and saying. Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace among those he favors!” (Luke 2:10-14)

And Harry and Larry thought back to what the church mice had told them – that at Christmas people gave gifts to people they didn’t know. And maybe that was what God was doing – God was sending God’s son- Jesus into the world – and that was what the people (and mice too they thought) were to receive as a gift. They were to receive the love of God, the heart of God. Then Harry and Larry understood that this gift of God’s love was for everyone.

And so as they heard Mr Staples play the chimes and saw the parents light the candles and the children held their star wands high in the air, Larry and Harry knew that Christmas came whether there were presents under the tree or not. They knew that Christmas came to all sorts of places; a dressed up church or a lowly stable. It doesn’t matter where you are - Christmas comes. And Harry and Larry understood that the little baby that Maddie put in the manger – that that was what all the fuss was all about. That yes Christmas is about gifts – but most importantly it is about the very best gift of all – God’s son Jesus.

And so I invite you to look for Larry and Harry tonight. They told me last night that they hoped to be at both services tonight and tomorrow morning too. And they said to make sure I told you Merry Christmas from your mouse friends and how much they like living here in God’s house.

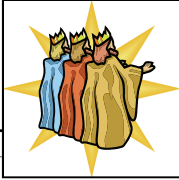


May the love of Christmas be yours May the magic of Christmas be yours  
And may you always remember that it is Jesus in the manger that is the only gift we need for Christmas to be Christmas.  
Amen

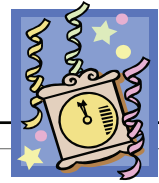


### *Interested in joining the church?*






Please see Rev Eileen to talk about joining. New members will be welcomed on Sunday, January 8, 2012. Not sure if you are ready –come and bring your questions.



# January



2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <b>New Years' Day</b> 10am Worship <i>Communion</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <i>BV Quilters</i> 7pm Bible Study at the Parsonage 7:30 pm Hand Bell choir rehearsal	<b>5</b> 12 pm Pins & Needles meet 7:30 pm Senior Choir Rehearsals	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 
<b>8</b> 10am Worship <b>Wise Men return</b> <i>New Members welcomed</i>	<b>9</b> 	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 7pm Bible Study at the Parsonage 7:30 pm Hand Bell choir rehearsal	<b>12</b> 12 pm Pins & Needles meet 7:30 pm Senior Choir rehearsal	<b>13</b> <b>Committee Annual Reports due</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 10am Worship <b>Blood Drive</b>	<b>16</b> <i>Office closed</i> <b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <i>BV Quilters</i> 7pm Bible Study at the Parsonage 7:30 pm Hand Bell choir rehearsal	<b>19</b> 12 pm Pins & Needles meet 7:30 pm Senior Choir rehearsal	<b>20</b> 12 noon <b>Lunch Bunch</b> 	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 10am Worship	<b>23</b> 6:30pm Committee mtgs. 7:30pm Church Council mtg.	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 7pm Bible Study at the Parsonage 7:30 pm Hand Bell choir rehearsal	<b>26</b> 12 pm Pins & Needles meet 7:30 pm Senior Choir rehearsal	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 
<b>29</b> Worship 10am <b>Annual Meeting &amp; Pot Luck Luncheon</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Upcoming:</b> Sign up for Super Bowl Grinders. You may purchase to enjoy or to donate to area shelters</p> </div>			

## Call to Annual Meeting!

The Annual Meeting of the Slatersville Congregational Church will take place on Sunday, January 29, 2012 immediately following 10 am worship. This meeting is called to vote on the 2012 budget, vote on committee nominations, and conduct any business that may legally come before it. -Robin Kenoian, Secretary

**Annual Reports** of all Committees are due to the church office on or before Thursday, January 13th, so please be considerate. We'd like to have the completed 2011 report available for the morning of the Annual Meeting. Thank you. **(Sign up sheet for Pot Luck Luncheon in Globe Hall)**

*Five Good Reasons to Become a Member.....  
(of the Slatersville Congregational Church)*

**COVENANT:** Everyone is always welcome to our worship. But, just as marriage vows transform a couple into a family, so accepting the Church's sacred covenant with God and one another marks our commitment to the worship and work of this congregational family.

**COMMUNION:** Everyone is always welcome to our communion. Yet, just as Jesus transformed the bread and the wine into symbols of his death and resurrection and empowered his disciples to preach and heal in His name, so our sharing in communion empowers us through the Holy spirit to become the living body of Christ in our time and place.

**COMMUNITY:** Everyone is always welcome to contribute to discussions on the priorities and plans of the congregation, and consensus is always desired. But members have the responsibility of prayerfully voting to call their minister, to adopt a budget, and to set the goals for the Church's outreach to the wider community and the world.

Membership in an individual congregation unites us with others in the RI Conference, United Church of Christ, with the National UCC, and with the church universal, helping us to reach out and do together what we cannot do alone.

**COMFORT:** Everyone is always welcome to participate, but the sense of belonging to a consistent, caring group of people who celebrate our joys and console us in sorrow helps to ground our faith and to center our lives.

**CHALLENGE:** Everyone is always welcome but those who know one another as committed members of a Christian community promise "to walk together in the ways of the Lord" and to encourage one another in matters of life choices and faith decisions.

*Happy New Year!*



*Some highlights of the upcoming year!*

Sunday, January 8th, during Service the Wise Men return from their trip to visit the baby Jesus.

Friday, January 13th, Committee Annual Reports due into the church office.

Sunday, January 15th, we will hold a Blood Drive. Help 3 people when you donate blood!

Friday, January 20th, Lunch Bunch! Bring your lunch, beverages will be provided.

Monday, January 23rd, various Committee meetings and at 7:30pm the Church Council will meet.

Wednesday, January 25th, the February Newsletter Deadline!

Sunday, January 29th, SCC's Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Luncheon.



***Slatersville Congregational Church***

of the United Church of Christ

PO Box 808

On the Common

Slatersville, RI 02876-0899

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL ❖ OPEN IMMEDIATELY

***Our Thoughts and Prayers..***

.....are with Mike, Ann Colton's brother, who had a brain bleed. on Christmas morning.

.....are with two-year-old Zach, who had heard surgery but is doing much better now.

.....are with Kate & Erik Oster

.....are with Sheila's brother John following surgery.

.....are with those battling cancer: Joseph Michael, Tom, Lamar, Jane, Christine, Bob, Evelyn, Jim, Janet, Zoe, Edith, Michael, Kennedy, Lisa, Mike, Gary, Joanne, Pam Michell, Joe, Annie, Charlie, Donna, Corey, Rudy, Mary, Kathy, Michelle, Daphne, Zachary, Pam, Sandy, Creighton, Corey, Joseph, Richard, John, Debbie, Blanche, Roger, Ed, Pat, Andy, and his nephew, Merna, Donna, Kenny, Ella, Betty, Kim, Mike, Sonny, Carmen, Dave, Susie, Susan, Hubert, Brenda, Keith, Joan, Mary and those who wish to remain anonymous.

.....to all those dealing health issues, waiting for test results, and to those dealing with financial and employment issues.



.....go out to our men & women in the Armed Forces especially Leon, Bob, Ian, Chad, Josh, Jeremy, Zach, Ben, Alex, Seth, Jake, Jimmy, Joe, Zachary, Corey and Andrew.

***Lunch Bunch!***

Do you find eating your lunch at home alone a little lonely? Would it be more fun to eat with friends? Then please join us here at church for a time of fellowship and conversation.

**Friday January 20th, 12-1 in Globe Hall**

Bring your lunch, beverages will be provided. Kids, grandkids and great-grands are welcome along with friends and neighbors. Hope you can join us. Questions? talk to Barbara Warrington or Rev Eileen.

**Sunday Worship & Sunday School  
10:00 a.m.**

***Rev. Eileen J. Morris, Pastor***