

Windsor Christian Chronicle



Windsor Congregational Christian Church

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“Ring out false pride in place and blood, The civic slander and the spite; Ring in the love of truth and right; Ring in the common love of good. Ring in the valiant man and free, The larger heart, the kindlier hand; Ring out the darkness of the land; Ring in the Christ that is to be.” (Alfred Tennyson, 1809-1892 – Hymn: Ring Out, Wild Bells)

From the Pastor

The poet Tennyson writes mindful of the concept of ringing out the old year and ringing in the new. It would appear the peals of the bells of his day sound in harmony with those of our own. The falseness of persons, political slander, and wars brought on by pride seem to be an ever prevailing darkness that rings loud and strong even as we enter our new year. Although his poem acknowledges the darkness of the land, he suggests the ringing of new bells from which a common love of truth, goodness, and freedom peal. He suggests the bell from which peals the valiant man who has the large heart and kind hand.

A challenge we face is the difficulty of ringing out in clear voice the bells of justice, mercy and reconciliation. We seem more prone to collecting and storing such sounds for our own listening enjoyment. So often the sounds get overwhelming for we fail to dampen the dark peals completely before we ring anew. It is no surprise if one year simply merges with the prior without noticeable change.

The peals sound with such harsh reverberations we begin to believe the sound must be accepted. The bells of religious institutions are challenged with changing social norms, spiritual awakenings and interpretations of holy texts. The bells of a government by the people are challenged with the bells of greed, influence and unchecked authority. In 2016 we witnessed in many parts of the world the rising up of people as they sought to ring out the falseness of institutions, news reporting, government agencies, and political candidates.

Institutions, whether sacred or secular, function best when individuals remain engaged in truthful speech and action. When purpose becomes divided and principles unclear, Institution function poorly and rightly fail.

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JANUARY

Sunday — 10:00 a.m. — Sunday School — 11:00 a.m. — Morning Worship Service

Wednesday — 12:30-3:30 p.m. — WCC Adult Art Classes — Fellowship Hall

Wednesday — 7:30 p.m. — Chancel Choir Rehearsal — Sanctuary

Thursday — 7:00 p.m. — Cub Scouts — Fellowship Hall

Jan. 1	12:00 p.m.	Welcome luncheon for Rev. Askew.	Jan. 9	6:00 p.m.	M & Ms Circle will meet in the home of Courtney Roggmann for dinner and their regular meeting.
Jan. 4	6:45 p.m.	Children's Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary.	Jan. 15	11:00 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion.
Jan. 6	11:00-7:00 pm	Benefit dinner for Jeff Halley at Suffolk Christian Church.		5:00-8:00 p.m.	Dinner and a movie sponsored by the Women's Fellowship.
Jan. 8	8:30 a.m.	Men's Fellowship Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall.	Jan. 16	7:30 p.m.	Board of Deacons Meeting in the Fellowship Hall.
	12:00 p.m.	Annual Church Conference immediately following the worship service.	Jan. 18	6:45 p.m.	Children's Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary.
Jan. 9	12:00 p.m.	Circle #2 will meet in the home of Kay Stephenson for lunch and their regular meeting.	Jan. 23	7:30 p.m.	Executive Committee Meeting in the Fellowship Hall.

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Who are the valiant persons of our day? Unfortunately, they seem to be those whose loud bells ring of fear and darkness. They ring bells of dangers to our freedom. But they ring falsely.

The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it....He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. (John 1:5, 11, 12-13)

For me, there is no greater bell to ring than that of Jesus Christ. For in him, there is no darkness. In him there is grace and love. In him, there are no divisions between race and clan; male or female; or aliens and citizens. But such an epiphany cannot be legislated; rather, it must be taught and rung with faithful enthusiasm.

Your servant in Christ, Pastor Sam





Circle #2 is continuing their drive to collect new or gently used children's and adults coats, jackets, scarves, mittens and hats -- XLG in adult wear is especially appreciated. Please bring your clean garments and place them in the boxes in the vestibule or the lobby.

Dot Gwaltney & Beverly Parsons

Continue to enjoy the art work in the lobby and Fellowship Hall provided by the students in the WCC Adult Art Classes. Art classes will begin on January 4th on Wednesdays from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. We would love to have you join us — art reduces stress and the class provides good companionship!

Hannah Wise Holland
Instructor

WCC
ART CLASSES

Happy New Year!









COFFEE TIME

Sunday mornings, 9:30 a.m., WCC Fellowship Hall

Join us for coffee and social time before Sunday School



*Join Our
Family
of Faith*

Sunday School — 10:00 a.m.

Morning Worship — 11:00 a.m.

Attendance

Date	Attendance
12/04/16	81
12/11/16	76
12/18/16	69
12/25/16	67



\$22,079.00

12/04/16—12/25/16

* Includes Pledges/ Basket Offering/
Donations to Building Fund



**Meet
the
Staff**

Pastor: R. Samuel Askew

Administrative Secretary/Treasurer: Nancy Bland

Music Director: Sid Neighbours

Audio Technicians: Mike & Courtney Roggmann

Church Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday thru Friday —
9:00-1:00 p.m.