

**MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS**

Orders are now being accepted for Memorial Poinsettias, which will be placed in the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. Some plants will remain through Epiphany, others will be delivered to those who cannot come to church, or you may choose to take yours home. If you would like to make a \$12.00 contribution to the flower fund, in remembrance of a loved one, please fill out the form below and return it with your check payable to First Church of Christ, by December 14<sup>th</sup>. The names of these people will be listed in the December 20<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> bulletins and the January 6<sup>th</sup> First Church Newsletter. Thank you.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: 1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed (\$12 per plant) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

You may deliver my plant(s) to a shut in:    Yes                      No

I want to take my plant(s) home:                      Yes                      No



**STEWARDSHIP REPORT AS OF NOVEMBER 17**

As we near the holidays, they remind us that the end of 2009 is near. With a new year comes a new budget for church life. We had a goal this year of raising \$17,500 more than was raised for 2009 and we have **a-l-m-o-s-t** done it. Additional pledges from those who haven't pledged so far will be gratefully accepted. Just drop off your pledge card in the office or send it in.

**A BIG THANK YOU to all who have pledged!**

The numbers to date are as follows:

**115 pledging "families" have made pledges to date totaling \$152,009.** These same families pledged \$133,306 for 2009. That means that **42 pledging families have increased their pledges for 2010.**

**There are 16 new pledging families for 2010.** However, 14 who pledged in 2009 haven't pledged in 2010. Last year their pledges totaled \$4,816.

25 have given but have not pledged in either 2009 or 2010 (to date). These 25 givers/non-pledgers have given \$5,400 in 2009 to date.

Some have asked for a **breakdown of 2010 pledges (to date)** so here it is:

\$ 5,000+	2
\$ 4,000-\$ 4,999	2
\$ 3,000-\$ 3,999	9
\$ 2,000-\$ 2,999	13
\$ 1,000-\$ 1,999	33
\$ 500 - \$ 999	33
\$ 1-\$ 499	26

Once again, many, many thanks to the following people who participated in many aspects of our stewardship focus this fall: Patsy Bjorling, Rev. Michael Penn-Strah, Sarah Joyce-Grikis and Sarah Flythe, Margo Hunt, Sharon Chamberlain, Marietta Guidone, Lynn Anderson, Michael Duncan, Amy Belliveau, Kathy Allen and her family, Maria Simao, and the Sunday School children.

Our staff was very helpful in many ways as well: Jack Cook, Sharon Chamberlain, Jim Gower, Kristine Clough-Lewko, Bernie Prue, Bill Furman and Ed Grikis.

### **BAD WEATHER**

In the case of bad weather, please watch WFSB channel 3 or tune into WTIC am or fm or WRCH fm; for information on church closings or the cancellation of church events. Thank you.



### **THE OSGOOD FOOD PANTRY**

Dear Families of First Church - We have been doing great with our food collections and I thank you for that! Can you believe that Christmas is right around the corner? We will be collecting all types of non-perishable foods for Christmas including rice, vegetables(corn, potatoes, string beans, etc.) , macaroni and cheese, soup, stuffing mix, even toiletries like deodorant, toothbrushes, shampoo (these make great stocking stuffers). Thank you for your help! God Bless You!!

~Amy Belliveau and the Missions Committee



### **A HOLIDAY PLAY**

Happy holidays to each of you! We know it's a busy time of year, and we want to let you know about a holiday play that Mark is performing in this month.

The Phoenix Theater Company <http://www.phoenixtheater.us/greetinginfo.html> will present the Christmas play “**Greetings**” by Tom Dudzick at two Connecticut venues over the next two weekends at:

- [The Deep River Town Hall Theater](#) in Deep River 174 Main Street on December 11, 12 and 13; and at
- [Trinity on Main](#) Performing Arts Center 69 Main Street New Britain on December 18, 19 and 20

**“Greetings” will be presented at both locations at 8:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights and 2:00 p.m. on Sundays.**

**Tickets** for performances are \$20 for adults and \$18 for seniors and students. For [tickets](#) or information please call the Phoenix Theater Company at (860) 291-2988; email [info@phoenixtheater.us](mailto:info@phoenixtheater.us)

Thanks and we hope to see you at one of the shows!

Gina and Mark  
860-826-1173 (home)  
860-614-3854 (Mark)

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#### **More Information on the Show and Performers:**

“Greetings” is a Christmas story with a twist. It is a warm, funny, sometimes harsh look at a real family trying to celebrate the holiday season, with a few intriguing complications thrown in for good measure. The Gormans are a middle-class, Irish-Catholic family living in Pittsburgh in the 1970s. When the older son brings home his Atheist girlfriend for the holidays, the meeting, as one would expect, does not go well. It is left to the younger, autistic son to bring peace and love into their hearts, perhaps with a little help from above. Dudzick’s play, first performed off-Broadway in 1993, asks the question, “What is the true meaning of Christmas?” and it provides some surprising answers.