



# The Messenger

Volume 56 No. 3

First Congregational Church

Fairhaven, Massachusetts

April 2007

## The First Congregational Church

34 Center Street  
Fairhaven, MA  
02719

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[www.firstcongfairhaven.com](http://www.firstcongfairhaven.com)

### Pastor

Rev. Bette McClure  
508-990-7513  
[bettemc2@juno.com](mailto:bettemc2@juno.com)

### Student Minister

Greta MacRae

### Director of Music

Matt Richard

### Administrator

Sharon M. Dorian

### Office Hours

Mon thru Fri  
9:00am - 12:30pm

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



**God is Still  
Speaking,**



## Official Warrant Annual Meeting of April 29, 2007

The Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Fairhaven, Fairhaven, Massachusetts will be held on Sunday, April 29, 2007 following the morning worship in the sanctuary, 34 Center Street, Fairhaven.

The following articles will be acted upon:

- ARTICLE I** - To receive and act upon reports of church officers, committees and organizations;
- ARTICLE II** - To elect officers and committee members;
- ARTICLE III** - To act upon a budget for 2007-2008;
- ARTICLE IV** - To act upon any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

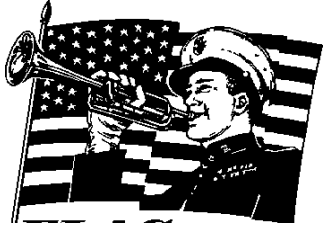
*Robert Heskett, Clerk  
Clerk*

## Construction has begun

Demolition for the elevator began today March 28th. During this time, access to the parish house will be limited. Most activities and meetings will be held in the lower vestry. Please be vigilant of any safety hazards and stay clear of restricted areas.



"We've got a newcomer in Sector C. Blue blazer, plaid shirt. Falcon, that's your greeting area. Where are you?"



## Our Men & Women in Service

*Do you have a relative or friend who has been activated? Let us know. We are creating this list of service men and women so that we can stop each month to remember them and pray for their safe return.*

**L.Cpl. Tyler Tripp, USMC**  
**Operation Iraqi Freedom**  
*Grandson of Joe & Juliet Tripp*

**Sgt. Jonathan M. Rice, ARMY,**  
**Fort Drum**  
**P.O. Christopher H. Rice, NAVY,**  
**Brunswick NAS**  
*Betty Monk's Grandsons*

**Casey Crandall**                      **Iraq**  
*Nephew of Barbara Penman (Bette's sister)*

**Capt. Barbara Webster, AN**    **Iraq**  
*friend of Pam Kuechler*

**Lt. Marc Lavoie, RCC 94th Iraq**  
*son of friends of Ann & Jim Cochran*



*-Rev. Bette McClure-*

Dear Friends,

Last Sunday, during our prayer time at church we gave thanks for the signs of spring appearing all around us - peepers singing outside our windows and brightly hued

crocuses blooming in our yards - even while we brushed away the remnants of a dusting of snow the night before. Martin Luther once wrote "our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime."

As we move through this Easter season, a time of hope, joy and promise, let us all look for signs of new life all around us - in nature, in music, in the people we meet. For indeed, perhaps especially at Easter, our God is still speaking; through the resurrection we know of God's ultimate promise, life in God's realm of love forever and ever.

May your Easter be filled with all of God's goodness and may we all live as Easter people every day, not only on Easter Day.

Blessings,

Bette

*"Our mission is to provide opportunities to experience God's presence and in humble and caring ways to use all of our resources to welcome, love, challenge, and equip each other for Christ's ministry in our community and the world."*

## Easter Flowers

Sign up sheets will be available on March 18th for purchasing memorial/celebration Easter flowers. You can sign up at coffee hour or you can phone the church office. The prices this year are:

Lilies	\$7.25	4-5 bud
Hyacinths	\$5.75	6" pot
Tulips	\$5.25	6" pot
Daffodils	\$5.75	6" pot



You may pay for the flowers when you order or put your payment in the collection plate on any Sunday prior to Easter.

## Spring Planting

The apple and pear trees we plant now will not bear fruit for many years, yet we still plant them. Such plantings not only serve our interests, but will bear fruit for the future generations that follow us. We worship in buildings that were in many cases planted one hundred, two hundred and even three hundred and more years ago. It is easy to become so focused on the immediate budget needs in our churches that we neglect long term development. While it is important to plant the stewardship seeds this spring for our fall harvest of annual giving, we also need to take care to plant the fruit trees of planned giving that may not bear fruit for a few years, but when they do, will provide fruit for many years to come. Please consider making a planned giving gift to the church.

*reprinted from MACUCC website*



## Save your Shaws Receipts



Shaws has started a new "Receipt Rewards" program to help non-profit organizations throughout New England. Save your receipts from any Shaws/Star Market and turn them in to the church. We will receive 1% of the eligible register receipt amount from all receipts collected and turned in. To date more than \$6,000 in register receipts have been turned in. Don't forget to add yours!

**GoodSearch**

To date we have earned \$15.33 from your internet searches using GoodSearch.com. Just go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and be sure to enter "First Congregational Church of Fairhaven" as the charity you want to support. Make it your new homepage for searching the internet!!!

The more people who use this site, the more money we'll earn so please spread the word! <http://www.goodsearch.com>

## Memorial Book

Anyone who made a contribution to our Capital Campaign is invited to dedicate their gift in memory or celebration of someone or something. They will be assembled in a separate memorial book to commemorate our capital improvements. Blue forms are at the entrances for you to fill out and return via the offering plate or the office.

## Pictorial Directory

Sharon has received a new software program that will enable us to produce our own pictorial directory of members and friends at any time. She will be carrying a digital camera to take pictures of everyone in the coming weeks. You may submit your own digital picture if you prefer. You can e-mail it to [fccof@juno.com](mailto:fccof@juno.com) or submit it on a CD.

## Nominating

It is time again to fill our committee roster for the 07-08 fiscal year. If you are willing to serve as an officer or on any committee, please speak with Bob Heskett or Peg Rogers.

**New offering envelopes for the remainder of 2007 are available to be picked up. If you don't have assigned envelopes and would like some, please speak with Sharon.**



## Pulpit Flowers



On March 11th -- in loving memory of Violet Bobola from the Bobola family.  
On March 25th -- in celebration of the 40th wedding anniversary of Sue & Norm Burr from the family.

## Congratulations

To Mark & Shelley Francois on the March 18th baptism of their son Jameson Henri Francois.

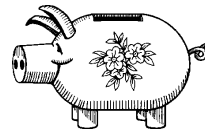
To Christopher Butler and Melissa Medeiros on the March 25th baptism of their son Cameron James Butler.

## Deepest Sympathies

To the family and friends of Diane Carhart -- Diane, the former daughter-in-law of Miriam & John Everett was killed in a tragic accident on March 5th. Her funeral was held in the sanctuary on March 10th.



# LIFT OFF!



## Coffee Can Club

Put a coffee can or other container in a prominent place in your home where all family members can contribute their loose change (a dollar a day from each pledging unit, in addition to your regular pledge, will help us balance our budget.) Once a month bring it to the church for deposit. Coffee Can Club stickers are available at the church for your special container. To date \$1,100 has been collected.

**Coming to a Church near You!  
(OURS!)**

**"Lift Off  
Soaring to New Heights with God"**

**VACATION BIBLE CAMP  
AUGUST 13-17, 2007**

A heartfelt Thank You to all who attended and helped with Kristen's spaghetti supper. The evening was a bigger success than we had even hoped for. Kristen will think of everyone as she travels through Europe this summer.

Thanks,  
Bill, Ellen & Kristen Fields

All children from pre-school through grade 5 – save the date and plan to join us for another exciting and fun-filled Vacation Bible Camp. Through this year's hot air balloon adventure theme filled with drama, music, crafts, games, and storytelling we will learn about God's power and Jesus' love for us. New this year will be some science that will allow children to participate in hands-on demonstrations that lead to important discoveries about their faith. As always, yummy snacks will be provided every day, and on the last day of camp we will share what we learned at a special program for parents, grandparents and other family members and friends.

Watch for more information coming to your home soon!



## Fairhaven Community Concert Series Season Finale

*Dori & Donn Legge  
Jazz/Blues Quartet*

<http://home.comcast.net/~fccs/>

**May 20, 2007 7:00 p.m.**  
Tickets are \$10, children are FREE

**Join us at 5:30 p.m. for an Italian Feast**  
Dinner Tickets \$10 adults, \$5 children



## Jazz Vespers April 29th

The next Jazz Vespers will be held on **Sunday, April 29th at 5:00 p.m. Preludes will begin at 4:45 p.m.** This worship will feature Willy Sordillo on saxophone and Greg Conroy on drums. It will feature music by Dave Brubeck, John Coltrane, Benny Golson, and original music by Willie Sordillo.



### Confirmation Service Project

As its service project this year, the Confirmation class is collaborating with the UCC Church in Mattapoisett to collect items needed at the Hayden-MacFadden School in New Bedford. For some years now, the folks in Mattapoisett have befriended "Hay-Mac" and have spent countless hours volunteering at the school, tutoring children and collecting school supplies for the classrooms there. A member of the Mattapoisett church will be meeting with the class to share her experiences at the school with the students.

During the month of April our Confirmation students will be asking all of you to contribute items that can be used at the school. Please watch for signs and collection boxes around the church and please help out our youth on this important cooperative venture with a sister church. The items requested include the following:

- Books,
- #2 pencils
- Erasers
- Boxes of crayons
- Large boxes of facial tissues
- Special decorative pencils and erasers {as rewards}
- Notebooks
- Bubbles {rewards}

Thanks so much for your generous help with this project!

**Copies of the Annual Report will be available at the church and e-mailed by April 15th. Please call if you would like a copy mailed to you.**

**The Women's Fellowship John & May Dampman Scholarship**

is available for a High School Senior. It is given at the beginning of the 2nd semester in college. Fairhaven High School, Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School and Bristol Agricultural School are the eligible schools. Applications can be obtained from Ms. Millicent Allen, Mrs. Mabel Filipek, Mrs. Betty Monk or Sharon at the Church Office. Deadline is May 1st.



**FCCS Arts Scholarship**

A \$600 scholarship will be presented to one graduating member of the Fairhaven High School class of 2007 who will be entering a college program to major or concentrate in music, dance, art, drama or education directly related to one of these areas.

Interested applicants should send a letter explaining their interest and need to The Fairhaven Community Concert Series Scholarship, 34 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719. Complete information is available from the church office or FHS.

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee** of New Bedford (sponsored by Bethel AME Church and The Inter-Church Council) invites any graduating high school senior who resides in Greater New Bedford, has received an acceptance letter to a higher education institution of learning and has a GPA of 2.0 or higher to complete a scholarship application for two \$500 scholarships (1 male, 1 female). Deadline is May 1, 2007. Applications are available in the church office.

**UCC Undergraduate Scholarships** are available for college Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors. Please direct requests for application materials to: scholars@ucc.org or call the toll free number (866) 822-8224, ext. 3848. All application materials must be received in the PLL office no later than May 18th.

See brochure at <http://www.ucc.org/education/scholarships/undergrad.pdf>

**Kid's Supper Klub - 4th & 5th Graders**

**Sundays 4-6 p.m.**

April 1st  
May 6th



**Youth Group - Middle & High School**

**Sundays, time varies**

April 22nd 3:00-4:30  
May 6th 6:00-8:00  
June TBA

Yard Clean-Up  
Walk the Bike Path  
Year End Outing

**Vacation Bible School**

**HELP WANTED!**

We are looking for teen and adult volunteers to help with this year's Vacation Bible Camp. The program will take place from August 13-17 from 9:30-noon each day. Folks are needed to help with all aspects of the program – planning, decorating, set-up and working directly with the children. We have purchased a packaged program that includes wonderful planning and teaching guides. Please let Rev. Bette or any member of the Christian Education Committee know if you are able to help out. You can volunteer for the whole week or even for one or two days. Come join us – we guarantee you will have a great time!

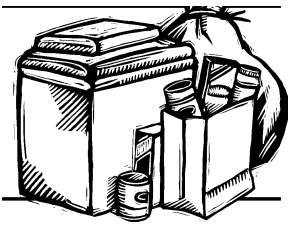


***Bible Adventures***

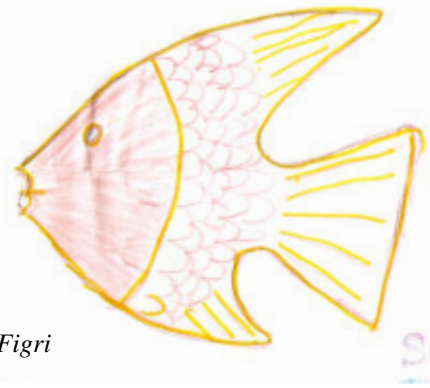
**Sunday School**

In April, classes will focus on Jesus' Last Week and The New Commandment. Classes will be held on 4/1, 4/22 & 4/29. There is no Sunday School on Easter Sunday.

During the month of May, the children will be preparing for Children's Sunday.



## The Cupboard Corner/ Lenten Food Drive



*Fish by Figri*

December 18, 2006

The Pantry was used 9 times in March. Again, we thank you for your generous donations. The Action for Christ Committee is sponsoring a **Lenten Food Drive**. Shopping bags are available at the exits with the list of needed items. Bags should be brought back to the church on Palm Sunday - April 1st for dedication. At the moment, the pantry is in need of canned meats, rice, pasta, pasta sauce, soups, chowder, stews, fruit drinks, Paper Goods - toilet paper, kleenex, paper towels, Snack foods - granola bars, fruit snacks, crackers, cookies. If you can't get to the church with your offerings, please call the office or LeeAnn Wood (508-997-3851) to arrange a pick-up.

Dear First Congregational Church  
Fairhaven,

How have you all been? Hope you all are fine. All is well with family and myself also.

I am very happy getting Birthday gift from you of \$25 and Christmas gift of \$25. I have spent it on black & white school uniform, shoes, bag and Civic text book. I am happy having this own book for learning, before I have to borrow it from friends. Again with my deepest thanks for your sending gift.

I have been in the 5th grade of Primary School now. I was getting the third rank for promotion class to 5th grade last. I ask your prayers for getting the 1st rank in school test next.

I will not forget to wish you Season's Greetings and Happy New Year 2007. May the good health and happiness always be yours all on your wonderful X'mas and New Year holiday.

Well, that's all for now about myself until next time.

With my love,  
Your Sponsored child,  
Figri Abdyansyah

## March Donations

Kristen Fields	\$200
Community Nurse & Hospice	\$200
Andover Newton	\$100
Mass. Bible Society	\$100
Gift Cards to PriceRite for Immigrants	\$100

## Pot Luck Fellowship

April 20, 2007

6:30 p.m.

Church Family Fun Night - A time for children, youth and adults to eat, talk and play together. Cost of admission is a dish to share.

Write to Figri, our foster child at the following address:

Figri Abdyansayah  
132/340204/00154  
Proyek Panti Nugeraha 3795  
P.O. Box 1364  
Jakarta 10013 - Indonesia



## Thanks & a Tip of the Hat to...

To Sue and Norm Burr for cleaning out and organizing the Sunday School room.

To Julie Lawton, Rod & Matthew Rodriguez, Steve Dorian, Kraig & Donna Perry, Sue & Norm Burr, Peg, John & Martha Rogers, Alex Kuechler, Bob & Bev Heskett, Karen Elliott, LeeAnn Wood, Bill & Ginny Vining, Skip Mills, Ron Sylvain, Jean Arbec & Ray Lawton and Bette McClure who helped with the move into Schiller.

To All who helped make Kristen Fields' fund-raising dinner a great success.

To Jim Cochran and John Rogers for ushering the March 3rd funeral

To members of the Action for Christ Committee for creating and the mission display.

To the Burr and Purington Families, Peg & John Rogers, Vickie Paquette, and David & LeeAnn Wood for greeting and hosting coffee hour in March.

To Bob Heskett and Betty Monk for their lay leadership in worship during March.

To the March acolytes - Michael Young, Emily Whitney, Bethany Arbec, Kathryn Braley, Kristen Nascimento, Alison & Alex Kuechler and Emily Dorian.

To Steve & Sharon Dorian and Pete & Priscilla Braley for teaching Unit 7 Sunday School.

## Worship Schedule for Holy Week

### Palm Sunday Worship

Sunday, April 1 10:00 a.m.

### Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 5 7:00 p.m.

### Good Friday Prayers

Sanctuary open for meditation  
Friday, April 6 12:00-3:00 p.m.

### ICC Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday, April 8 6:15 a.m.

Fort Phoenix, Fairhaven

### Easter Sunday Worship

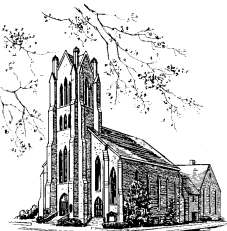
Sunday, April 8 10:00 a.m.



**Next Messenger Deadline: May 25th**

### ***The Messenger***

First Congregational Church  
34 Center Street  
Fairhaven MA 02719-2931



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