



The Messenger

Volume 56 No. 6

First Congregational Church

Fairhaven, Massachusetts

August 2007

The First Congregational Church

34 Center Street
Fairhaven, MA
02719

Tel: (508) 993-3368

e-mail: fccof@juno.com
www.firstcongregfairhaven.com

Pastor

Rev. Bette McClure
508-990-7513
bettemc2@juno.com

Administrator

Sharon M. Dorian

Office Hours

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

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



**God is Still
Speaking,**



It is with deep regret that the Board of Deacons has accepted the resignation of Music Director, Matt Richard. His last Sunday with us will be August 12th.

In his letter Matt says, "It has been a great pleasure to work with (the Diaconate), with the congregation, and with the participants of the music program over the last nine years or so. I feel as though we have been able to continue on with the rich musical tradition that has been a part of this church for many years. I also feel that the church has been able to grow and succeed with many new musical projects and ideas. I trust that this collective energy will continue to move forward under new leadership. I am currently exploring several different possibilities with respect to music and with what I do on Sunday mornings. To be working full-time in the music business in a small town is not an easy task and things are constantly evolving for me while I attempt to make a living in music."

At a special meeting on the 24th of July the Deacons voted to establish a search committee to secure a new music director. The position has been advertised in the Standard Times and is posted on two appropriate websites on the internet. We would like a new person in place as we start our new church year in September if possible.

Music gives much of the life to our worship here at the First Congregational Church in Fairhaven. We are so fortunate that Matt has taught us so well. Using that knowledge, let us all pull together to keep great music going!

Peg Rogers, Chair of Diaconate
Karen Elliott, Secretary of Diaconate



The Matthew Richard Summer Study Scholarship Fund

In recognition of Matt's service to the music ministry of the First Congregational Church the Board of Deacon's is creating a summer study music scholarship to be awarded to youth of our church next summer. It can be used in the instrumental, vocal or drama/vocal area for lessons, workshops, or camperships. If you would like to contribute to this fund forward your donation the Matthew Richard Scholarship Fund, c/o First Congregational Church.



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
Djibouti, Somalia
Grandson of Joe & Juliet Tripp

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

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,

*"I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers."
(Ephesians 1:16)*

Wow! How to say thanks to all of you - words are inadequate. Please know that you are constantly in my prayers as I thank our God for placing me in this special community of faith at this particular time. God is indeed good!

As I write this I am happily at home recuperating after having emergency gallbladder surgery on July 25. If you live in Hamlet Homes you may see me slowly walking along the streets each morning and evening, stretching my muscles, getting back my strength, and helping my body recuperate. The cards and flowers that surround me bring a smile to my face, your visits and phone calls buoy my spirits and more yummy food than my refrigerator has seen in years is physically sustaining me! Thank you all for taking such good care of me!

My hope is to be back in the office, though perhaps on a curtailed schedule after I see the surgeon on August 6. In the meantime, I am restricted from working or driving - so I am enjoying an enforced rest! Greta MacRae has graciously agreed to preach on August 5 but I hope to be able to attend that service as a worshipper. If all goes well, I will again lead worship on August 12.

Again, thanks from the bottom of my heart for your thoughts, prayers and kindness. You are wonderful!

Blessings,

Bette

Per Capita Dues

The church has received its bill for per capita dues which goes towards the Old Colony Association and the MAUCC Conference. We are charged approximately \$16 per member to pay our portion of basic support given to local churches given through the Conference and Association. We ask that you help us honor our covenant with the UCC by paying your portion of the dues owed and if possible a little more to cover those who can't. This year we were billed for 168 Active Members. Please prayerfully consider your contribution and Thank You to all who have already contributed.

"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."

Time to Plan for the Church Fair

The First Congregational Church Fair will be held in coordination with the Town's Old Time Holiday in December. Your fair coordinators will be: Beverly & Ron Johansen, Peg & John Rogers and Ann & Jim Cochran.

We are looking for any fresh ideas that you might have and are open to suggestions. Our thoughts are to bring back more of our own booths, such as jewelry, home cooking, crafts, etc. along with our bake table, cheese table, cookie walk and Chinese auction.

Arthur Moniz gallery has donated a print of Carolyn Longworth's falcon picture for us to raffle off. We will sell chances prior to the fair and announce the winner at the fair.

If you are willing to take charge of any of the booths you will have our guidance and support.

Beverly & Ron 508-992-7303

Peg & John 508-994-3607

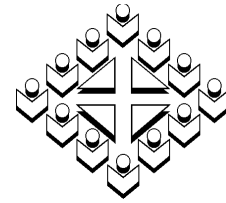
Ann & Jim 508-990-2642

Handyman Special

-Al Jones

Ron Johanson and I are still available as handymen for small jobs. Our terms are: "we work for donations to Church" 508-525-5842 or 508-992-7303. Jobs we have done so far include painting, light landscaping and general home maintenance. To date our efforts have added \$930 to the general fund.

We would love to add people to our work crew at any time, please let me know if you are interested and available.



All Committee Meeting

August 7th - A time of fellowship and devotion will be held at 6:30 p.m. At 7:00 p.m. each committee will meet separately with its own agenda. The Church Council representatives will then gather for the Council meeting at 8:00 p.m.

The next Stewardship Committee meeting is on Tuesday, August 14th.

Due to installation of the elevator, Vacation Bible Camp has been cancelled for this summer. We will save our exciting "LIFT UP" curriculum for next year!



Construction Notebook

The elevator shaft is complete and is awaiting the installation of the actual elevator. Hopefully this will only be another week or so away. Interior walls have been rebuilt and electrical work is ongoing. Once the elevator is installed quite a bit of finish work, painting

and rearranging will need to be completed to bring our foyer back to a welcoming condition. Your help/input may be necessary to complete the final decorating!

The Sanctuary roof has been completely stripped and reshingled including a new layer of plywood over the existing old roof boards to more securely hold the new shingles. The completion of the sanctuary roof is a huge accomplishment!! The interior plaster should now remain dry during the windiest of storms.

**Rally Day
September 9th
10:00 a.m.**

Pulpit Flowers



On June 3rd -- in celebration of the graduation of **Bethany DeBalsi** by her family. Also a single rose was given in loving memory of **Carol Ann Wyzga** by the class of 1960.

On June 17th -- In celebration of the baptism of **Emily Claire Bobola** and in celebration of **all Fathers** here and in heaven, by the Bobola family.

On July 1st -- in loving memory of **Albert A. McClure** by Rev. Bette McClure.

On July 22nd -- In loving memory of **Harry H. Dorian** by Steve, Sharon, Meghan & Emily Dorian.

Congratulations

To **Manny & Doreen Cruz** on the June 10th reaffirmation of baptism for **Max Cruz** and the appointment of his new godmother, **Kelly Gregoire**.

To **Michael Bobola and Amanda Panek** on the June 17th baptism of their daughter, **Emile Claire Bobola**.

To **Derek Burnham & Bethany Rivas** on the June 24th baptism of their daughter **Hannah Rhea Spooner**.

Our Deepest Sympathies

To the family and friends of Grace Downing -- A long time member of the church, Grace died peacefully at Our Lady's Haven on June 19th at the age of 101.

To the family and friends of Randy Cosmo -- Randy, who had been on our prayer list for a long while was the father of Tracy Violette. He died on June 24th

To the family and friends of Pauline Maxfield -- Pauline, a secretary of our church during the 1970's, died on August 1st in New York. Her memorial service will be held in the church on August 13th.

General Synod - "Powerful, Awesome"

-Beverly Johansen

On Saturday, June 23rd Peg Rogers, Barbara Mills and Bev Johansen attended the 26th General Synod of the United Church of Christ in Hartford, CT called "Synod in the City." We joined Rev. Bette who had been there since earlier in the week attending meetings and workshops.

Synod is a general meeting held every two years of all the United Churches of Christ Conferences across the country. This also happened to be the 50th anniversary of the formation of the UCC. In 1957 the UCC was born by the joining of the Evangelical and Reformed Churches uniting with the Congregational Christian Churches.

This was an awesome experience for all of us starting at 8 a.m. with a worship service in the Civic Center (imagine worshipping and singing along with over 8,000 other UCC members)! There were speakers and workshops happening all over downtown Hartford and we had to choose among all the wonderful venues. We had the privilege of listening to Bill Moyers and Barack Obama – both powerful speakers. We enjoyed hearing gifted singers from American Samoa, heard the inspiring story told by Billy Mills (1st and only American Olympic gold medal winner in 10,000m. race), watched clown ministry, etc. and ended our day back in the Civic Center with around 13,000 people celebrating the 50th birthday bash of the UCC, including a laser light show.

There was an overwhelming feeling that we are not alone here in Fairhaven and are part of something so much larger that with the help of God - WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

(Video Archives of Keynote addresses and hundreds of General Synod Pictures are available at www.ucc.org)



Fairhaven Community Concert Series

Support the Fairhaven Community Concert Series and you business at the same time. Advertising is available in the Concert Series program book. Rates are affordable and help defray the cost of printing throughout the year. Contact Peg Rogers (508-994-3607) or Bev Johansen (508-992-7303) if you would like to place an ad.

Become a Fairhaven Concert Series sponsor. Your sponsorship will appear in the program booklet.

Catagories are:

Diamond \$500, Platinum \$250, Gold \$150, Silver \$100, Bronze \$75, Benefactor \$50, Patron \$25, Friend \$1-\$10

Sponsorship forms are available at the church.



Fairhaven Community Concert Series

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


Scheduled Concerts for Our 5th Season! 2007-2008

October 28, 2007 7:00 p.m.
Atwater-Donnelly Trio
Meatpie Dinner 5:30 p.m.

December 2, 2007 2:00 p.m.
Aaoife Clancy
Folk & Irish vocalist

January 27, 2008 7:00 p.m.
Mack Williamson
Jazz percussionist
Mardi Gras Dinner 5:30 p.m.








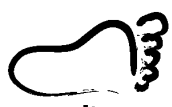

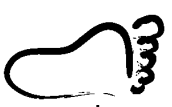



April 13, 2008 7:00 p.m.
The Brentwood Brass
Dinner 5:30



UNIQUE CREATIONS

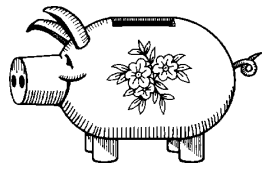
Have you ever walked along the shore and noticed the footprints you make in the sand? A famous poem called "Footprints in the Sand" reminds us we are never alone.

Unscramble each word and write it inside the footprint. See what Psalm 119:133 (NRSV) says about our footsteps. *(The bold letters are the first letters of the words.)*

 r eDcti	 ym	 efoopstst	
 cgcdianro	 ot	 oryu	 dowr
 elt	 on	 nsi	
 lreu	 rvoe	 em."	

Psalm 119:133, NIV

Answer: "Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me."



Fundraiser Updates

Goodsearch	\$40
Shaws Receipts	\$141.55
Coffee Can	\$1560.57
Handyman	\$930
OTHER	??



Help Wanted

The Christian Education Committee is looking for help. There are several different ways you can share your love and faith with our children. Please prayerfully consider helping out in some of the following ways:

Sunday School Teachers

We have purchased a new curriculum to use with grades K-5 this year. Called *Kid Connection* it is designed so all the children gather together for the Bible lesson and then split into age groups for hands-on activities to reinforce the lesson. The curriculum is creative, interactive and easy to teach. Please sign up to teach a unit or split a unit with another teacher. The units are 4 weeks long and we need 2-3 teachers for each unit. The curriculum has already arrived and is available to teachers at any time.

Sunday School Coordinator

We are looking for someone (or several someones) who are willing to set-up Sunday School each week. This involves gathering the supplies from the Sunday School closet and setting up the individual stations. This is a job that generally can be done on Friday or Saturday at your convenience.

Pot Luck Fellowship August 17, 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.

The Cupboard Corner

The Pantry was used 7 times in June & July. We thank you for your generous donations. At the moment the pantry is in need of canned meats, tuna, hearty soups/stews, paper products and beverages.



Outreach Opportunity

We are looking for volunteer(s) to transport someone from Whaler's Cove, N.B. to church and back each Sunday. Please call the church office if you are able to do this even just once a month.



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 Christian Ed, The Dorian Family, Bev & Ron Johansen, Betty Monk and Bev & Bob Heskett and Peg & John for greeting and hosting coffee hour in June & July.

To Bev Johansen, Molly Bobola, Bob Heskett and Joyce Howland and John Rogers for providing leadership in worship in June & July.

To John Rogers, Norm Burr and David Wood for their continued monitoring and leadership of the construction process.

Many Thanks

The Homecoming Day Hot Dog Booth once again raised funds for the mission budget. The booth worked because so many contributed to its success. Most of the credit goes to Donna and Kraig Perry. It would not have happened without their leadership.

Others who worked on the booth included: Barbara Mills, Bev Johansen, Bette McClure, Tom Hebert, Mabel Filipek, Brooke Chandler, Alice Cooney, Al Jones, Marge Jones, Kraig & Donna's nephew.

Others who contributed were Molly Bobola, Ellen Rogers, and Bev Heskett.



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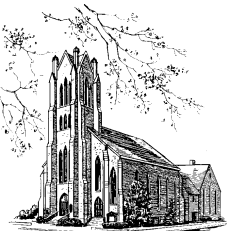
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Next Messenger Deadline: August 24th

The Messenger

First Congregational Church
34 Center Street
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