



# The Messenger

Volume 58 No. 6

First Congregational Church

Fairhaven, Massachusetts

August 2009

## The First Congregational Church

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### Pastor

Rev. Bette McClure  
508-990-7513  
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### Administrator

Sharon M. Dorian

### Music Director

Mr. David Touchette

### Organist

Ms. Jackie Maillet

### Office Hours

Mon thru Fri  
8:30am - Noon



God is Still Speaking,

UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST



## Choral Workshop

## Choral Workshop Featuring Composer / Arranger Lloyd Larson

to be held  
October 24th

Registration: 8:30 a.m.

Workshop: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Cost: \$30 (includes music & lunch)

## Organizational Meeting August 17th at 6:30 p.m.

All who are interested in helping should attend!

## Fill a Back-Pack Campaign

During the month of August we are sponsoring a Fill a Back-Pack Campaign. Take advantage of the back-to-school sales and pick up some extra supplies to help us fill a backpack or two for children in need in Fairhaven Public Schools. Crayons, pens, pencils, markers, rulers, erasers, folders, notebooks, scissors, etc. are needed. Place items in the yellow box in the William Street entrance.





**Sunday School  
begins again on  
September 13th.  
Worship moves back  
to 10:00 a.m.  
Come share your  
summer adventures!**



## Prayer Walks

Begin your day with spiritual exercise on Fort Phoenix Beach.

**Thursdays through August 27th  
at 7:30 a.m.**

Day will switch back to Tuesdays September 1st until the snow flies.

*"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."*



-Rev. Bette McClure-

Dear Friends,

I am writing this column sitting on the screened porch of a rustic cabin on the banks of the Pemigewasset River in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. In our tiny living room there is a sign that reads "Sweet Simplicity." The sign brings to mind the familiar Shaker song: "Tis the Gift to be Simple," a song that has always spoken to me of the possibility of a less hectic life for myself and those I care for.

We live in a hectic, fast paced world in which we are too often assaulted by an overabundance of noise, tasks, and general chaos. The loudest noise I hear right now is the sound of the river flowing over rocks, and the birds song as they flitter about in the evening breeze. The simplicity of this place and its surroundings seems sacred to me.

My prayer tonight is that each of you might find some moments of "sweet simplicity" in these final weeks of summer and that the memories of those holy moments might soothe your soul and cradle you with gentleness. Tis, indeed, a gift from God to live in simplicity.

Blessings,

**Bette**





## JOIN US for "The Last Hurrah"

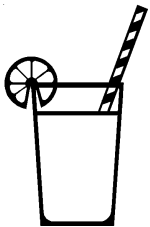
**Sunday, August 23**  
**4:30-6:30 p.m.**

**In the Parsonage backyard**  
**7 Hamlet Street**

Let's join together and celebrate the waning days of summer before heading back to school and our regular routines. Kick off your shoes, relax and enjoy good conversation and catch up with folks you haven't seen during the summer.

Bring hot dogs & burgers to cook – salad and beverages supplied.  
All ages welcome – singles, families, couples – everyone!

## Lemonade on the Lawn



Help us to show hospitality to those who attend the weekly summer concerts on Thursday evenings from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in front of Town Hall. We set up our lemonade stand, offer free drinks to all, and talk up our church and its ministries. Thank you to John Rogers who built us an official Lemonade cart and pray for good weather on Thursday nights. The final concert schedule is as follows:

July 30th - Back Eddy Blue Grass  
Aug 6th - The New Sounds  
Aug 13th - The Remnants

## Mid-Week Supper Worship

### Wednesdays 6:00 p.m.

### August 5 and 19



Bring a dish to share and join us for food and conversation around the dinner table – a brief, casual, upbeat, family friendly worship service will follow.



## Thrift Shop Thrives

Although we have only been open for a little over a month, the Heavenly Treasures Thrift Shop has gone beyond our expectations. The community response has been positive and our shoppers have been delighted in the little store. The church is benefiting and the volunteers are having fun.

The name *Heavenly Treasures* was unanimously voted on by the volunteers and was a suggestion of our very first customer Barbara Nelson.

To date we have donated over \$600 to the church. If you haven't had a chance to check it out, come on down on **Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

We are starting a SALE of summer merchandise and will be collecting fall/winter items towards the end of August. We accept items in clean, next to new condition. We are in need of children's clothing. Small household items accepted. No electronics.

Thank you to all who are supporting us with donations and to all our volunteers, and a special thank you to Jean Arbec who started the ball rolling!

**Please don't forget to send in your summer pledge! The expenses of the church continue and cash flow is tight. Thanks!**

## Pulpit Flowers

On June 7th -- a single rose in loving memory of Carol Ann Wyzga by the class of 1960.

On June 14th -- in loving memory of Elinor Weaver by her family.

One July 26th -- in celebration of Bethany Arbec's 13th birthday by Mom, Ray, Katie and Snippy (her rabbit).

## Congratulations

To Jackie Maillet's daughter Nicole on the birth of her own daughter, Samantha Souza on June 24th.

To Ron & Bev Johansen who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and renewed their vows in our sanctuary on July 25th.

To Jeff & Jennifer Baylies on the July 26th baptism of their second daughter Madelyn Grace Baylies.

## Our Deepest Sympathies

To the family & friends of Gordon Linberg – Mr. Linberg passed away on Friday, June 12th after a brief illness at age 96. He was a longtime friend and member of our congregation.

## Our Prayers are with...

Jean Campbell, Matt Desimas, Bob Heskett, Ron Dawson, Priscilla Faber, Suzanne Gonsalves, Jean Condon, Grace Battistelli, Lois Goulart, Alma Johnson, Elsie Jacobsen, Ruth Rebello, Dot Holmes, Ron Simonsen, Vi Braley.



*Women's Fellowship*

There will be a Women's Fellowship Executive Board meeting on **Monday, Aug. 3rd at 10 a.m.** in Maddaford Vestry. All are more than welcome to attend.

There are many IMPORTANT issues to be discussed, including day and times of meeting (Wednesdays are less and less available) and whether or not the Fellowship should continue. New ideas are welcome! Luncheon meeting, social gatherings, pot-lucks, or brown bag gatherings will be considered. Your input is IMPORTANT.

If you are not able to attend on August 3rd, please contact Carol Gage at 508-994-7901 or Betty Monk 508-992-2004.

July 20, 2009

Dear Congregation,

A note of thanks for your prayers and prayer shawl. Rev. Bette brought it to me with your kind blessing just in time. It traveled with me to my interview in Vermont and then again to Hingham.

As I am sure you have heard, once again your care and prayers have carried me through! I begin as Interim Minister of Christian Education on August 10th (in Hingham). You all are some kind of spiritual A-Team!

Thanks, Love & Peace

Greta

## Handymen for Hire

Our Handymen have are available to take care of those pesky jobs that need doing around the house. For a donation to the church you can 'hire' our first rate workers.

Schedule your job today! Call Al Jones at 774-202-3336.



**Handyman**  
MINISTRY