



The Messenger

Volume 56 No. 5

First Congregational Church

Fairhaven, Massachusetts

June/July 2007

The First Congregational Church

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Pastor

Rev. Bette McClure
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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,**

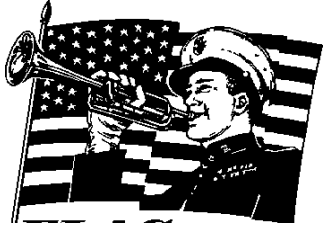


A Fond Farewell

On May 6th during worship, we said goodbye to Student Minister, Greta MacRae, by celebrating the gifts she has shared with us during her two years ministry. With the help of all of the children and youth present she was formally released from her ministry and then showered with gifts including a tiara from the youth; a net - symbolizing her gift of evangelism; a watering can symbolizing her nurturing nature; a box of tissues for her compassion; reward stickers to help her encourage people; a pair of goggles to remind her of the way she taught us to see things differently; a paddle ball game to celebrate her child-like nature; a lei headband celebrating her love of color; pom-poms for the cheerleader; a doll filled with joy; and a relaxation kit to use in her spare time.

Following worship, Greta was presented with a "children around the world" stole from the congregation and a cash gift to help her continue on her journey.





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,

From the time I was seven years old, the thing I looked most forward to each summer was going to camp. For several years, camp was the nearby Girl Scout day camp where I learned to swim, made moss gardens and sit-upons and even boasted to my family that I had been given the "best" chore of all – cleaning the outhouses!

As I got a bit older I ventured off to overnight camps, both affiliated with the Roman Catholic church – one up in the Lakes Region of New Hampshire, the other on the shores of Wingersheek Beach in Gloucester. In the icy waters of Massachusetts' North Shore I perfected my swimming skills and also spent hours combing the endless beach, cooking over campfires and gazing at the star-studded sky from the warm snugly-ness of my sleeping bag as we lay on the warm sands. My love for the wonders of summer camp was so great that even during college and graduate school I managed to find jobs at camps where I was able to make money while still experiencing the joy of my childhood.

There were so many things that I loved about camp – the opportunity to be outside in God's great and beautiful creation breathing in clean fresh air, the chance to make new friends, the joy of learning and improving new skills, the unique and savory taste that almost any kind of food takes on when cooked over open flames, the sound of the first bird in the morning and the soft hooting of owls at night, the endless gentle roar of the ocean as the tides ebb and wane. As I write this, I feel a longing for those days stirring within me. Oh, to be a child at camp once again, with nothing to do but have fun!

Jesus said that humans were not created for the Sabbath but Sabbath was created for humankind. God gave us the Sabbath so that we might have the time to rest, relax and re-create ourselves in ways that help us to feel whole and wholesome, in ways that connect us to God and all that is good in God's world. Treat this summer as one long Sabbath. Make time for the things that fill your heart and soul with wonder, joy and delight. Sleep under the stars. Listen for new nature sounds. Stroll the beach and pick up shells. Gaze into the endless stretches of the horizon. Breathe deeply and give thanks to God for Sabbath time.

May this summer Sabbath bring you many blessings and re-connect you with God's Holy Spirit which is forever present with us no matter what we do or where we go.

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."



Fair Coordinator Needed

The First Congregational Church has held an annual fair for 134 consecutive years. This year, as Sharon will be in graduate school, we need a person or persons to step up to coordinate this fun and special event. The coordinator reports to the Church Council, but is fairly free to design an event as he/she sees fit. The last several years we have participated in the Town's Old Time Holiday, but even that is not necessary if it doesn't fit into your schedule. A job description is available from the church office. Please think about how you can contribute your time and talent to keeping the church's annual fair a time everyone can anticipate.

Handyman Special

-Al Jones

In the interest of stewardship and caring for others, I am offering my services as a handy man for small jobs around your home. The leaky faucet, small electrical problems, little paint jobs and the other little things you can't find anyone to do. Materials will be your responsibility and a reasonable labor charge will be donated to the church operating budget.

You get pesky little jobs done, the church gets some income, and I get the satisfaction of helping others. I can be reached at 508-525-5842.

If anyone else wants to join me in case I get swamped, please let me know.



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. You can also e-mail your request to the church office. fccof@juno.com.

Pictorial Directory

Have we taken your picture for the new directory??? We don't want anyone to be left out. You may submit your own digital picture if you prefer. You can e-mail it to fccof@juno.com.

Summer Office Hours begin the week of June 10th

**Tues, Wed,
Thurs, Fri
9:00 a.m. - Noon**



Construction Notebook

Demolition required for the elevator shaft is complete and Sherwood Building is beginning the construction of the walls this week. We still need to wait about 5 weeks

for the actual elevator to be delivered and installed.

Staging for the east side of the sanctuary roof has been put up and roof replacement should begin after Memorial Day. Once the east roof is finished the roofers will make repairs to the roof over the William Street entrance while the staging is moved to the west side. Hopefully our sanctuary will finally be weather tight before hurricane season begins!

**Worship moves to
9:30 on
June 24th.**

Pulpit Flowers



On May 6th - in loving memory of **Kurt Kuechler** by the Kuechler family. Also in celebration of **Taylor Motta** by Carol Lawton.

On May 13th - in loving memory of **Emilie Fitts** by her family. Also in celebration of their 64th wedding anniversary by **Hal & Marian Purington**.

On May 20th - in loving memory of **Cindy Thomas** on her birthday by her family. Also in memory of **Cindy by Suzanne Gonsalves**.

Congratulations

To **Taylor Motta** on his May 6th confirmation into our fellowship.

To **Sarah Braley, A.J. Cordeiro, Bethany DeBalsi, Nick Motta, Justin Nascimento, Kristina Rodrigues and Alex Watt** on their graduation from High School. To **Erica Wolszon, James Waddington, and Danny Manzone** on their graduations from college and to **Andy Bunnell** for his graduation from law school.

To **James Wood & Stacey Plant** on the May 20th baptism of their son **James Gunnard Wood**. James' older siblings, **Emma and Aiden** were also baptised by Rev. Bette.

To **Meghan & Adam Bradshaw** on the May 13th baptism of their first child, **Carly Marina Bradshaw**. The family lives in Fairhaven.

Our Deepest Sympathies

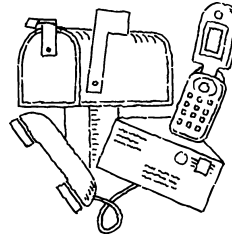
To the family and friends of **Jane Johnson** -- Jane, the aunt of **Desiree Vincent and Lisa DeMoranville** died on May 9th at age 59.



Women's Fellowship

Annual Dinner Meeting

The Women's Fellowship annual dinner meeting will be held at the Huttleston House Restaurant **Wednesday, June 13th at 5:30 p.m.** You can pick your meal from the menu. A meeting will be held immediately following dinner. Please make reservations with Ann Cochran 508-990-2642 by June 6th. All ladies of the church are welcome.

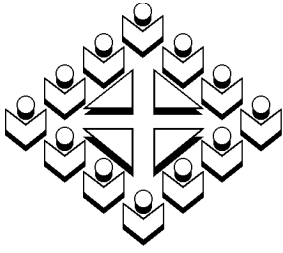


During a very difficult time for our family all of your prayers, cards, calls and kind words were very appreciated.

Peace,
Sally & Jerry Wheeler

My dearest friends.....I want to thank all those who visited me at St. Luke's and at Rehab, those who sent cards and plants, and those who prayed for me. All of these things meant more than you'll ever know. I'm so glad to be home at last. I was gone for almost a month, which is way too long as far as I'm concerned. Bless you all for your kind thoughts.

Love, Sue Gonsalves



All Committee Meeting

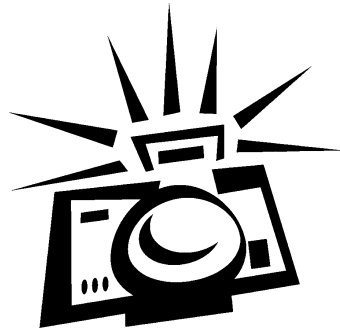
In the interest of efficiency, communication and spirituality, the Church Council is trying a new format for committee meetings. All members of Action for Christ, Board of Deacons, Christian Education and Property committees will meet on the second Tuesday of each month beginning June 10th. A time of 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.

Stewardship, Finance, and other appointed committees will continue to meet as needed following their own schedule.

Picture Perfect Fundraiser

David & Lee Ann Wood

Panoramic views of beautiful Fairhaven Center and the waterfront taken from the tower of the First Congregational Church are for sale. Pictures are double matted and ready for framing. Make great gifts! Look for our booth at the Fairhaven Homecoming Day Fair on Saturday, June 30th. All proceeds to benefit the Restoration Fund.



GoodSearch

To date we have earned \$23.67 from your internet searches using GoodSearch.com. Just go to 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>



Save your Receipts

We have received our first checks from the Shaws Receipt program totaling \$94.19. Save your receipts dated after January 31st from any Shaws/Star Market and turn them in to the church. We will receive 1% of the eligible amount from all receipts collected and turned in. Don't forget to add yours and ask a friend or neighbor to save theirs as well!



Fairhaven Community Concert Series

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

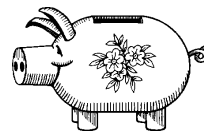
Scheduled Concerts for Our 5th Season! 2007-2008

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



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 \$1,371.49 has been collected.

Scholarship Recipients

On May 20th this year's graduates were celebrated during worship. Four students applied for the Women's Fellowship's Dampman Scholarship and each was awarded \$300. Recipients are **Sarah Braley, Bethany DeBalsi, Nick Motta and Kristina Rodrigues.**

Kristina Rodrigues will also receive a \$600 scholarship from the Fairhaven Community Concert Series. The intention of this scholarship is to help a student from Fairhaven High School who will major or minor in the arts or education of the arts in college. Kristina will be attending Bridgewater State College majoring in Communication Disorders and minoring in Dance.

We wish all our graduates GOOD LUCK in their next step on their life journey. May God bless you and may you always keep God by your side.



Sarah Braley, Kristina Rodrigues, Nick Motta and Bethany DeBalsi practice for their FHS graduation ceremony. (photo courtesy of Kristina Rodrigues)

Pot Luck Fellowship

June 15, 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.

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:

Summer Sundays

Families often find it difficult to come to worship in the summer because there is no Sunday School. This summer we would like to offer an activity for children each Sunday beginning June 10 but we need your help. Please sign up to lead one activity during the summer months. The activity will be a simple craft that will be all prepared for you – just come and have fun with the children.

VBC

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.

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.

Sign up sheets will be available on Children's Sunday and throughout the summer. Members of the Christian Education Committee will also be actively recruiting. Please say YES when they ask you.

LIFT OFF!

"Soaring to New Heights
with God"

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

All children from pre-school through grade 5 should save these dates and plan to join us for another exciting and fun-filled Vacation Bible Camp. This year's hot air balloon adventure is filled with drama, music, crafts, games, and storytelling as we 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.



**Volunteers
Needed
Hot Dog Booth
Homecoming Fair**

Saturday, June 30th

**Sign up sheets will be available soon or
speak to any member of Action for
Christ if you can help.**

The Cupboard Corner

The Pantry was used 6 times in May. 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. 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.

Remembering Kris Sylvia

Nine days before Christmas of 1994, Kristine Kvilhaug Sylvia, an active members of our church and singer in the church choir, was tragically murdered by her estranged husband. Many of us will never forget that horror-filled time in our history, as most of us wondered how her children (Alan, Jeff and Lauren) would cope.

This past week, the church received a poignant letter from Lauren Sylvia. Lauren who was 7 at the time of her mother's murder was sent into foster care some time later. We knew she was somewhere in Attleboro, but little else.

In her letter, Lauren shares that she has the memory book - created for Kristine's children by the congregation - but that she "really doesn't remember too much about her" mother. Lauren is welcoming people to share with her their memories of her mother. She wanted us to know that she is "happy. More happy than (she's) been in a while." If you would like to communicate with Lauren, her address and phone number are available in the church office.



Greta receives a tiara and special gifts from the congregation as we celebrated all she has given to us.



Thanks & a Tip of the Hat to...

To Chet & Meredith Hathaway for donating a new microwave oven for the Babbitt Kitchen.

To Camden & Jordan Mello, Alison & Alex Kuechler, Emily Dorian for being acolytes in May.

To All who took part in Greta's farewell service, especially the young people.

To the Youth Fellowship for picking up litter along the bike path.

To Peg Rogers and Bob Heskett for their efforts on Nominating Committee.

To John Rogers and Norman Burr for getting up the required

signage for the state grant.

To the Deacons and Teaching Parish committee, Dot Bungert & Karen Elliott, Al & Marge Jones for greeting and hosting coffee hour in May.

To Carol Lawton & Al Jones for their worship leadership in May.

To Jean Arbec, Debbie Cordeiro, Linda Ferland and Pam Kuechler for their help with Sunday School in May.



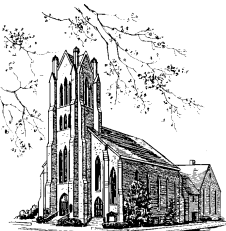
Help us make communications faster/easier by sending us your e-mail address.

Happy Father's Day!!

Next Messenger Deadline: July 27th

The Messenger

First Congregational Church
34 Center Street
Fairhaven MA 02719-2931



EST 1794

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