



# The Messenger

Volume 58 No. 5

First Congregational Church

Fairhaven, Massachusetts

June/July 2009

## The First Congregational Church

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### Pastor

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

### 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

## Restructuring Proposal - Follow Up

To date 18 people have responded to the Time and Talent survey with interest shown in 10 of the 12 listed ministries. Four respondents chose the other category listing an additional 4 ministries. A total of 39 choices were made by the 18 responders which indicated multiple interests by some. Predominant interests were in Worship, Hospitality and Outreach. Christian Education, Property Maintenance and Concert Series also had at least 3 people express interest.

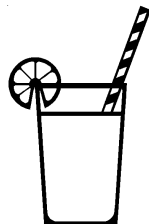
**All who are interested in further exploration of the restructuring are encouraged to meet on June 14<sup>th</sup> after church to share ideas pro and con on the proposals and how best to proceed.**

We need participation from all of our members to serve our church and its many ministries. With everyone's participation, our church will continue to be a vibrant force in the community.

If you have not returned your Time and Talent survey, please fill it out and return it to the church office this week. See you on June 14, a light lunch will be provided.

Thank you for your cooperation.

The Church Council



## Lemonade on the Lawn

Help us to show hospitality to those who attend the weekly summer concerts in front of Town Hall. Just as we did last year, we will set up a lemonade stand on our lawn, offering free drinks to all. If you are willing to host the stand one week or more, just let the office know.



## Mid-Week Supper Worship Wednesdays 6:00 p.m. July 8, 22, 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.



**Summer Office Hours  
begin the week of  
June 15th**

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

**Sharon will be on  
vacation from June  
29th through July 5th.**

**Worship moves to  
9:30 a.m. on  
June 28th.**

*"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,

Well, it's official - summer is here! I know that technically summer begins (in the Northern hemisphere) at the time of the Summer Solstice when the sun is at its most northern point in the sky. And I know that

today (as I write this column) the temperature is hovering in the 50's and it definitely **does not** feel like summer. But Memorial Day has come and gone and all of us are beginning to at least gear up for our summer way of life. And that is good, I think, for summer offers us a different pace of life - slower, more relaxing, perhaps even more joy-filled.

So, whatever your summer plans entail, wherever vacation time takes you, whenever you make it to church on Sundays (here or elsewhere), please know I will be keeping you in prayer. And I ask that you pray for me too! And to get you started, I share with you this "Prayer for Summer Vacations."

**A PRAYER FOR SUMMER VACATIONS**

*Lord, you have created us so that we need times of rest, renewal and recreation. We pray that our plans and hope for leisure time and time away may fulfill your purposes for us. We thank you for these occasions to enjoy the glories of your creation, especially for the beauty of the land and sea and sky; for the fascination of wildlife; for the excitement of looking forward to a change of place and a change of pace; for the adventure of exploring new locations and the warm memories of returning to those that are familiar.*

*We thank you for other persons to share our pleasures and for those who increase our joy by their companionship. We ask for your providential care and protections as we travel. Encourage us to celebrate your artistry in the beauty of the natural world and your creativity in the diversity of the people we shall meet.*

*As your gifts and blessings are new every morning, nourish and sustain us by surprise or as a result of our seeking. In the name of Christ, Lord of our lives and ruler of all nature.*

*(Southport United Methodist Church, Southport, IN)*

Blessings,

**Bette**

## Children's Sunday June 7th



Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> is our celebration of Children's Sunday. On this morning the children and youth will be a significant part of worship. They will share some special insights into faith that they have learned during their classes. Make sure to attend worship that

morning and share the joy!

Following worship, a special coffee hour is planned – a good old fashioned Ice Cream Social where you can concoct your own ice cream sundae and enjoy it while mingling and chatting with other families. All are invited and welcome to attend – whether you have children or are a child at heart!



## Prayer Walks Resume

The popular Tuesday morning prayer walks have resumed. Gather at Fort Phoenix beach at 7:30 a.m. and begin your day with spiritual exercise. **NOTE: Day may change when Yoga begin in Cushman Park.**

## Second Hand Shop to Open: Naming Contest Announced

Help us name our new second hand shop. Ideas can be dropped in the suggestion box outside the office or in the offering plate on Sunday. Deadline for names is June 17th. Everyone young and old is invited to contribute.

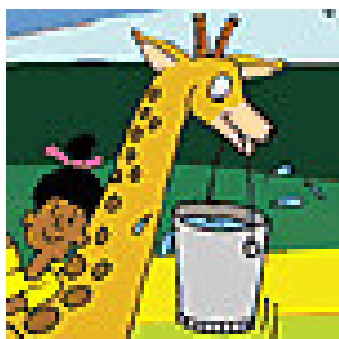
**Volunteers are needed to help out on Wednesdays or Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.** Times are flexible and you can work 2-4 hour shifts when you can.

We are looking for donations of next to new clothing for children, women and men. NO undergarments. Toys in good condition, small household items, linens and jewelry accepted.

NO televisions, computers, electric typewriters.

**Grand Opening at Homecoming Fair, June 27th.**

Call Jean Arbec 508-996-2885 for more information.



## Build a Better World!

### VACATION BIBLE CAMP

June 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>

9:30-Noon

Please register by **NOON**  
on June 19th

We are gearing up for another fun and exciting Vacation Bible Camp (VBC) for all children from Preschool through fifth grade this summer. You are invited to follow Imani the giraffe as we journey to other countries (no, you don't need a real passport!) to learn more about life there and to remember that God calls us to serve others. The program offers fun, interactive activities that combine information about countries in Africa, Asia and Central America with opportunities to reach out to help those in need. Activities will include Bible stories, songs, crafts, games, mission projects and yummy snacks. 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. VBC is open to church members as well as children from the community. See you there!

**HELP WANTED** - If you are willing to help with planning VBC and/or sharing your time with our children during that week, please speak with Rev. Bette or any member of the Christian Education Committee



## Pulpit Flowers

On May 10th -- In loving memory of Ellen Rogers by her family. Flowers were also given in celebration of their 66th wedding anniversary by Hal & Marian Purington. Carnations for the women were donated by Joe Dawicki.

On May 24th -- In loving memory of Cindy Thomas by her family. Flowers were also given in memory of Cindy from her pal, Suzanne Gonsalves.

## Congratulations

To Meghan Dorian and Tabitha Silva on their May 17th Confirmation.

## Our Deepest Sympathies

To the family & friends of Miriam R. Young -- Miriam the mother of David Young and grandmother to Kristen & Michael died on March 31st.

## Our Prayers are with...

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



## Volunteers Needed for the Hot Dog Booth at the Homecoming Fair

**Saturday, June 27th**

Shifts are available for  
set up, 10-12, 12-2, 2-4, and clean up.  
A sign up sheet is now available.

### Installation Notice

All Church members and friends are invited to attend the installation of Rev. Andrew MacLeod on June 21, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. into the fellowship of The Smith Congregational Church (UCC) Hillsborough, New Hampshire.



*Women's Fellowship*

The annual dinner meeting of the Women's Fellowship will be held at the Huttleston House restaurant on Wednesday, June 10, 2009 at

6:00 p.m. You will have your choice of the menu. All women of the church are invited. Please make reservations by June 7th with Ann Cochran 508-990-2642.

## 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.





Photo by Susan Wilson

## Storyteller for All Friday, June 19th

Folksinger and storyteller **Tim Van Egmond** will perform for an intergenerational audience at the First Congregational Church, 34 Center Street, Fairhaven on **Friday, June 19 at 7 p.m.** This is part of the church's outreach mission to offer family friendly programs to the community and to raise needed funds for the Church. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children or \$25 for families. A special discount will be offered for families consisting of 3 generations or more. For reservations

call 508-993-3368. There will also be a bake sale before and after the show.

Van Egmond's program, "*Young Fogies and Old Whippersnappers*" will celebrate the wit, wisdom, and spirit of seniors and their special connection with youngsters. His tales, songs, riddles and poems will range from the rib tickling to the spine-tinkling to the heartwarming. Come hear "The Old Woman and the Red Pumpkin," a tale from India about an elderly woman who braves the dangers of the jungle to visit her granddaughter's family, and they help her to outwit the fierce creatures waiting for her on her return journey. Get happily befuddled singing along with "I'm My Own Grandpa" in which a young man marries a widow, then his father marries the widow's grown-up daughter, which makes the young man's Dad his son-in-law and his wife his mother's mother. Van Egmond will accompany himself on a variety of traditional instruments, including guitar, hammered dulcimar, and limberjack.

A resident of Monague MA, Van Egmond has performed for over 25 years throughout the country, appearing in hundreds of schools, libraries, and community centers. He has won acclaim far and wide for his performances with senior citizen groups and intergenerational programs. Renowned author and storyteller Jane Yolen has said of him, "Tim is a triple treat. He can sing, he can play a variety of wonderful instruments, and he can tell whopping good tales!"

Questions? Contact Albert Jones 508-525-5842



## Scholarship Awarded

The **John & May Dampman Scholarship** of the Women's Fellowship was awarded to **Brooke Chandler**, daughter of Laura & Michael Chandler who graduated from Fairhaven High School on May 31st. Brooke will be headed to UMASS Dartmouth in the Fall.



**Brooke Chandler, Andrea Manzone, and Melissa Perreira** from Fairhaven High School.

**Aaron Johansen** from Old Rochester Regional.

**Laura Gardner** with her Masters in Library Science.

**Kristen Young** from Bates  
**Donna Hebert** from BCC Nursing School.

And all the many others who are not listed here!

**Help us make communications faster/easier.**

**Receive announcements,  
reminders, updates and the  
Messenger via e-mail by sending  
your e-mail address to  
fccof@juno.com.**





## Center Seeks Volunteers

The Fairhaven Heritage Center is looking for persons to become members of the Board of Directors to supervise Phase II of the Center's program. Phase I has been completed with the installation of the display panels in the Maddaford vestry which provide the portraits and information on many persons famous in the history of Fairhaven. Persons who would be interested need to live in Fairhaven and have an interest in the history of the town. Please contact Bob Heskett (508-996-9729) if you are interested.



**The church is in need of a used lawn mower in good condition. If you have one you would be willing to donate, please call John Rogers at 508-994-3607.**

## SAVE THE DATE 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.

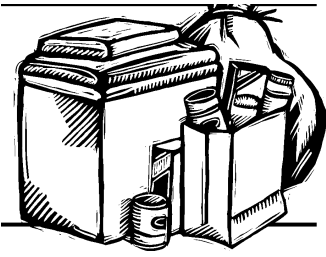
Bring hot dogs & burgers to cook – salad and beverages supplied.  
All ages welcome – singles, families, couples – everyone!

**Please fill out your interest survey today and return it to the office as soon as possible. Your input is needed for the next step in the restructuring program.**

## Change in Shaw's Receipts Program



Shaw's is changing the way their rewards program now works. Register receipts are no longer being collected. From this point on, donations will be automatically recorded when you use your Preferred Savings Card at the register. In order for this to happen you must register your card into the program. Go to <http://www.albertsons.com/cp/shaws/> and follow the instructions to register your card. The Church's ID number is 49001018256. If you need help, or don't have internet access, registration forms can be filled out and returned to the office. Once your card is registered the qualifying percentage of purchases made on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays** will be automatically credited to our account. This has been a good fundraiser for our church and with your help it can continue.



## Corner Cupboard

The Food Pantry was used about 5 times in May. We continue to serve all the people who come in for help.

A huge THANK YOU for the continued donations. The pantry is in need of the following items: rice, tuna, cake mixes, bars of soap, and paper towels.

## Volunteer Opportunity

Like to get your hands dirty? There are still volunteer opportunities at the Sharing the Harvest Community Farm, Dartmouth YMCA, 276 Gulf Road, Dartmouth.

Help to provide local food pantries and shelters with fresh produce. Contact Donna Edberg at 508-993-3361 x13 to schedule your time, or e-mail [sharingtheharvest@ymcasouthcoast.org](mailto:sharingtheharvest@ymcasouthcoast.org)

## Habitat for Humanity thanks Area Volunteers

To those who helped at the Byrne Circle build in Wareham last fall, the Buzzards Bay Area Habitat for Humanity dedicated the new homes in January and two families are now living in homes they never thought they'd have.

Write to Erwan our sponsored child at the following address

Erwan Ramadhani  
132/059533/01079  
Putro Linuwih/4244  
Christian Children's Fund  
P.O. Box 1364  
Jakarta 10013 Indonesia

OR YOU CAN E-MAIL!  
[sr132@ccfindonesia.org](mailto:sr132@ccfindonesia.org)



## Father's Day Sock Drive

For Father's Day why not sock it to dad by donating packages of socks instead of giving him a tie? We will be collecting new socks, any size, men's women's children's and babies.

Bring your socks in to church until Fathers Day, June 21st. Donations will go to Gifts to Give - New Bedford.




Use [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) for all your web browsing and on-line shopping. (All your favorite on-line stores!) Indicate the First Congregational Church of Fairhaven as your charity of choice. We will receive at least \$.01 for every search made in our name.

Dear First Congregational Church

I am Erwan who writes this letter. It is my pleasure to see you again. I hope you are fine. My family and I are also fine and healthy. Thank you for the letter, 11 cards and 2 photos you sent me. The money you sent me was used to buy shoes, school equipment and skirt. Everything is new now. You and my friends had said Happy Birthday to me, and thank you for it. I am very happy. Thank you for your photos. It is rain seasons and sometimes wind blows (very hard) and I am very afraid of it.

I think that is all my letter. We are waiting for your next letter.

Give our love for your family. God Bless you!  
Erwan Ramadhani