



# The Messenger

Volume 56 No. 2

First Congregational Church

Fairhaven, Massachusetts

March 2007

## The First Congregational Church

34 Center Street  
Fairhaven, MA  
02719

Tel: (508) 993-3368

e-mail: [fccof@juno.com](mailto:fccof@juno.com)  
[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,**



## GoodSearch

## Search for a Cause

The First Congregational Church can now earn a penny every time you search the Internet!

GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine, with a unique social mission... every time you use GoodSearch, money is generated for the Charity of your choice.

GoodSearch donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities selected by its users. The pennies quickly add up. For example, if 1,000 First Congregational Church supporters searched just twice a day, we would receive an estimated \$7,300 per year to help fund our programs.

What's great is that you use GoodSearch just as you would any search engine. Again, it's powered by Yahoo!, so you get proven, high-quality results.

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>

## Construction to begin soon!!

Construction on the elevator will begin sometime in the next few weeks. At that 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.

## State Grant to be Used for Ongoing Renovations

On February 16th, an official from the Massachusetts Historical Society met with Rev. Bette, John Rogers, the Preservation Committee and Architects, Stephen Kelleher and Matt Allain to see how a \$40,000 emergency grant could be used toward our construction projects. The official was very positive and helpful in our request to use the money to help pay for some aspect of our exterior renovations. The state will require bid documents from the architects and an agreement from the church that requires notification and approval of all future changes to the structure. Going forward the official felt confident that we would be eligible for future grants for other repairs and restoration.



## 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*



*-Rev. Bette McClure-*

## Come to the Party!

Everyone loves a good party and you are invited to a very special, once in a lifetime one this June in Hartford, Connecticut. The United Church of Christ, our denomination, is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday by pulling out all the

stops at a national gathering where thousands of folks from around the country will come together to sing, dance, worship, reach out and just basically have a grand old time! What could be better?

Delegates from each state meet every other year at the UCC General Synod. This year Synod coincides with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of our denomination. Synod meets all over the country but this year it is in Hartford, within driving distance of Fairhaven. On Saturday, June 23, an event called "Synod in the City" will be open to everyone. Beginning with worship in the morning, events will take place around the city and will include singers, entertainers, and inspirational speakers, including nationally known figures such as Bill Moyers and Peter Gomes. There are several possibilities for bus transportation being worked on so that you would not even have to drive!

Please see additional information about the day's activities and related cost elsewhere in the newsletter. Mark your calendar and put on your dancing shoes and plan to join in the festivities!

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



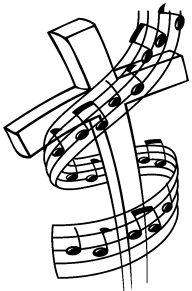
You may pay for the flowers when you order or put your payment in the collection plate on any Sunday prior to Easter.



Please join us at the church for a spaghetti supper/fundraiser! Be there on **Sunday, March 11 at 5:30 p.m.** as we help send **Kristen Fields** to Europe as a "People to People" ambassador. The evening will include a 50/50 raffle and a special quilt raffle. Tickets are \$7.00 for adults, \$5.00 for students and \$3.00 for kids under 10. They are available at the church office of from Bill & Ellen Fields-508-991-4497.

## 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. Ann Cochran has already registered our church and will be coordinating this new program. For more information go to [www.shaws.com](http://www.shaws.com) and click on the Receipt Rewards icon.



## The Bells of FCC

-Matt Richard

Following worship on Sunday, January 28th, several people chose the following songs and hymns to begin the carillon project. The initial hymns are: *Amazing Grace, Onward Christian Soldiers, Immortal, Invisible, Joyful, Joyful, Sakura, How Great Thou Art, Abide with Me, Soon and Very Soon, O Day of Peace that Dimly Shines,*

*Morning has Broken, and In the Bulb there is a Flower.*

While they may not all be familiar to you, they are all certainly symbolic and very meaningful choices for the debut of the carillon. Imagine a couple visiting from Japan this coming spring hearing *Sakura* play through the tower, or someone comforted by the classic *Amazing Grace*!

There were also requests for the two traditional songs related to Fairhaven High School: *The Halls of Ivy* and *The Recessional*. These selections will be added when the weather gets warmer along with a few traditional patriotic songs.

Thanks to all who took the time to make a suggestion. Going forward, all new hymn requests will be made along with any memorials and celebrations to the Board of Deacons. They are coming up with a fee system and donation plan to hopefully keep the new carillon running for many years to come.

## 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.

## Dinner for Two

The church earned \$190 from the sale of Dinner for Two coupon booklets. Thank you to Ann Cochran for once again coordinating this fundraiser.



## Pulpit Flowers

On February 11th -- in loving memory of Mary Evelyn Rogers from her family.  
On February 18th -- in loving memory of Lucy Bobola and Dolores Bobola from their family.



## Congratulations

To James & Kelley Sears on the February 4th baptism of their son, Nicholas Paul Sears.  
Kelley is the cousin of Jackie Morton and has been worshipping with us for several months.

## Pastoral Calls and Visits

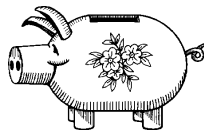
Please continue to keep Rev. Bette and our Deacons informed about our church members and friends in hospitals and nursing homes. Without your call we may miss those who would like to be visited. Rev. Bette is also willing to call upon our church members and friends at home by invitation. If you would like to have her call upon you, please call the church office or the parsonage.



The Women's Fellowship will be attending Fairhaven High School Musical Production of "Anything Goes" on Friday, March 30th. Our own Sarah Braley has the lead role. Tickets for this event are \$10.00. Mabel Filipek has graciously consented to be in charge of tickets for us. Please get in touch with her at 508-994-6665 or talk with her before March 23rd. All are welcome. When this went to print, it had not been decided if a light supper will be served at a minimal cost. More info later.

## 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 \$631.00 has been collected.



- Lisa Elliott, UMC

Knitters and crocheters in your congregation are invited to attend a gathering of the Knitting Ministry at the Unitarian Memorial Church in Fairhaven. We meet from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday evenings of the month in the Harrop Center at 47 Center Street.

In addition to working on our own personal projects, we have also enjoyed knitting prayer shawls for those needing comfort, caps and mittens for Child and Family Services, baby caps for Save the Children, bandages for Global Ministries and sweaters for Guideposts.

We are happy to teach newcomers to knit - bring a pair of #8 knitting needles; we have a small amount of donated yarn. Crocheters are also welcome.

Our next knitting circles are on February 26 and March 12 and 26. Come enjoy a cup of tea and conversation while working on projects for yourself or others. For more information, call Lisa Elliott at 508-992-7081.

Thank you for the many cards, flowers, food, donations and support during our time of sorrow. The Bobola Family

# Fairhaven Community Concert Series Silent Auction Weekend

*Boston Vocal Artists*  
*Soprano - Patrice Tiedemann and*  
*Baritone - Paul Soper*



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

**March 25, 2007 2:00 p.m.**

Tickets are \$10, children are FREE



## Silent Auction & Lobster Rolls

**Saturday, March 24th**

Browse the auction and Bid from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Enjoy a lobster roll or chicken salad from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Sunday, March 25th**

Browse and Bid from 11:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m.

Enjoy the Concert at 2:00 p.m.

Final bidding during the concert intermission

We are still accepting donations for the Silent Auction! Donation forms are available at coffee hour or call or email Kris Daniels at 508-996-0541 or [artgirlkris@comcast.net](mailto:artgirlkris@comcast.net) to let us know what you'd like to donate. You can drop off your donation during the week of March 18th.

### Some donated items are:

- The Great Heron -- A Ron Johansen original hand-carved bird.
- Antique Desk
- Antique Rocking Chair
- New Bedford Harbor Photo
- Local Dairy Antique Milk Bottles
- Autumn Roses Hand Hooked Rug
- Black and multicolored hand crocheted afghan
- Hand knitted scarves
- Hand made pet quilt
- Victorian Roses Necklace
- Body Lotion gift basket
- Garnet Jewelry Wardrobe
- Gift Certificate - Huttleston House
- Knitting Lessons
- Movement Exploration Class for Kids
- Dinosaur Bath Play Set
- Book Lovers Hardcover Set
- Sports Memorabilia
- Digital Jump Rope
- Golfer's Gift Set
- Tiger Woods Collectibles
- Portable Treadmill
- Pastel Tea Cup Set
- Thomas Kincade Lighthouse Perpetual Calendar
- Gourmet Food Baskets
- Original Woodstock Poster and Unused Ticket to the 1969 ground breaking event.
- Frank Sinatra Memorabilia
- and much more.....

### Season Finale!

**2006-2007**

*Dedicated in loving memory of  
Mr. Donald Cree*

**May 20, 2007**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Dori & Donn Legge  
Jazz/Blues Quartet  
Italian Feast 5:30**

**2006-2007**

**Individual TICKET PRICES:**

**Adult concert ticket \$10**

**Adult dinner ticket \$10**

**Child dinner ticket \$5**

*All student-age children will be  
admitted free of charge to any concert  
with a paying adult.*

**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.

**Seminarian Scholarship**

Offerings for the Seminarian Scholarship were collected on February 25th. If you still wish to make a contribution you can send it to the office at any time. Please be sure that your check is clearly marked Seminarian Scholarship in the memo line.

**Pot Luck Fellowship**

**March 16th**

**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.

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

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

March 4th  
April 1st  
May 6th



**Youth Group - Middle & High School**

**Sundays, time varies**

March 11th 4:00-6:00  
April 22nd 3:00-4:30  
May 6th 6:00-8:00  
June TBA

Kristen Fields' Supper  
Yard Clean-Up  
Walk the Bike Path  
Year End Outing

**Confirmation**

Service Project  
Class  
Class  
Confirmation (9th graders)

March, date TBA  
March 4th, 6:30  
April 29th, 6:30  
May 6th,

**World Day of Prayer** service "United under God's Tent" on March 2, at 7:30 p.m., at the fully-accessible North Baptist Church, 750 County Street, NB, (corner Merrimac St.) to which all are invited, the month will include opportunities to pray for Paraguay in Spanish, Portuguese and French. A children's service appropriate for youth liturgies is also available.



***Bible Adventures***

**Sunday School**

In March we focus on Jesus the Healer. Individual classes will be held on 3/4, 3/11 & 3/18. A Group activity will be held on March 25th.

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.

## Mission Sunday

Each year this church contributes a substantial amount of money to outreach and mission projects both locally, nationally and world wide. On **Sunday, March 11th**, we will celebrate our mission work during our morning worship. Please plan to join us that day to learn more about the many projects we support throughout the year. Perhaps we will even be inspired to increase our mission giving and reach out to even more people in need.



## OGHS - March 18th

God is Still Speaking through your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing. Gifts to this special offering, to be collected on March 18th, are used in more than ninety countries to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief and advocacy/resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. Gifts also support domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. The United Church of Christ is one of nine denominations that support OGHS in cooperation with Church World Service.

## The Cupboard Corner/ Lenten Food Drive



The Pantry was used **5** times in February. Again, we thank you for your generous donations. The Action for Christ Committee will be sponsoring a **Lenten Food Drive from March 4th**

**through April 1st** 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.

## Jazz Vespers Supports Fishermen's Families

Jazz Vesper worship on February 11th brought in \$470.32 which will go to the families of the fishermen lost on the Lady Grace. Anyone who wishes to contribute to this fund can bring their offerings to any Citizen's Bank.



*Figri fills out his Child Progress Report in his classroom of the Panti Nugeraha Project.*

## Figri Update

Our Annual update on Figri came last week. Figri continues to grow into a generous and happy boy. at ten years old, he is 4" 4", weighs 44 lbs and is in the 5th grade. He wrote to us that he went on a field trip to Sea World in Jarkarta recently. (Yes they have a Sea World Aquarium in Indonesia!) He enjoyed seeing all the fishes and playing with his friends. Figri still loves playing Kasti and still wishes to be a pilot when he grows up.

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 Action for Christ Committee, the Arbec family, Karen Elliott, Bob & Bev Heskett and Mabel Filipek & Betty Monk for greeting and hosting coffee hour in February.

To Sharon Dorian, Bob Heskett, Mabel Filipek and Milton George for providing worship leadership in February.

To Kristine Daniels and Betty Monk for teaching rotation Sunday School.

Michael Young, Alex Kuechler, Alison Kuechler, Camden Mello, Kaitlyn Arbec,

Emily Dorian and Jordan Mello as scheduled acolytes in February.

All those who have met with architects, contractors and engineers with regard to the elevator construction.

The Concert Committee and helpers for the Mardi Gras Celebration.

*Annual Reports from  
committees and  
organizations are  
due  
March 31st!!*

## Worship Schedule for Holy Week

### Palm Sunday Worship

Sunday, April 1 10:00 a.m.

### Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 5 7:00 p.m.

### Tenebre Worship

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

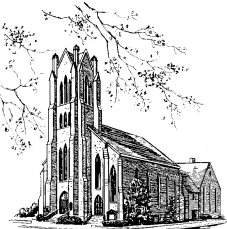
Sunday, April 8 10:00 a.m.



**Next Messenger Deadline: March 23rd**

### ***The Messenger***

First Congregational Church  
34 Center Street  
Fairhaven MA 02719-2931



**EST 1794**

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
FAIRHAVEN, MASS.  
Permit No. 30

*Please do not delay  
Time value - dated material  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED*