



# The Messenger

Volume 58 No. 4

First Congregational Church

Fairhaven, Massachusetts

April 2009

## The First Congregational Church

34 Center Street  
Fairhaven, MA  
02719

Tel: (508) 993-3368

e-mail: fccof@juno.com

www.firstcongfairhaven.com



### 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

## Annual Meeting Votes on Trial Restructuring Members Asked to "Choose their Passion!"

In addition to usual business at the Annual Meeting on April 26th, the members present voted to give a restructuring plan a 3 month trial run before voting any permanent changes to the bylaws.

It is well noted that the current committee structure is no longer working for many churches and at a workshop this winter the Council was introduced to the ministry team concept. Basically the idea is this: Create ministry teams of volunteers who have a particular interest in a ministry, are willing to work to advance that ministry, but are not interested in monthly meetings, term commitments or frightened by leadership roles.

Ministry Teams are self-governing and answer only to an organizing/coordinating body and current resources. It is hoped that this free-er structure will allow more members and friends to participate in the ministry which speaks to their passions. Members are asked to fill out an interest survey and return it to the office as soon as possible. Once they are collected, sorted and collated, teams will be formed. At that point the three month trial will begin.

Be on the lookout for a letter and more information from the Church Council soon. In the meantime, please fill out and return the enclosed survey:

Saturday, May 9th

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



Bring in your items this week!

Mornings until 12:00 p.m.

Tuesday - Friday 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Like new or gently used clothing, linens, jewelry and miscellaneous household items and décor are needed. Bring in your items any morning while the office is open or Tues thru Friday evenings from 6:00-8:00. Lots of Help is needed! Can you give an hour or so? Contact Mabel Filipek (508-994-6665) or Peg Rogers (508-994-3607).

# Confirmation

Join us on May 17<sup>th</sup> for a special service of Confirmation as Meghan Dorian, and Tabitha Silva confirm their faith and formally join our membership. A special fellowship hour in their honor will be held right after the service.

## A Mother's Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for the blessings of my children. Help me rely on you for guidance, patience and eventemperedness throughout my days.

I want my children to love you, worship you and serve you as best they can. Grant me the wisdom to know how to influence them to live godly lives. Prevent me from provoking my children to anger and from manipulating or nagging them.

Fill our household with abiding love and respect, and help us all be united in purpose to do your will. In the name of Christ. Amen

**Rev. Bette will be on vacation and out of the office from April 29th through May 14th. Greta MacRae will be preaching on May 3rd & 10th.**

*"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-

"Fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand" (Isaiah 41:10)

Dear Friends,

I write this column some 48 hours before I take off for a vacation in Spain. News

releases these past few days have been filled with stories of a swine flu breakout in Mexico, with predictions that this could mean some kind of a world-wide pandemic. I am not one to live in fear, but I must admit that I have had a few nervous moments since I heard this morning that the first confirmed case of the flu in Europe is in Spain! Short of "borrowing" some masks from the hospital before we jet off, my traveling companions and I have decided that we can get sick anywhere and this is not reason to give up on a long planned for vacation.

There is much fear afoot in our world. Fear about our plummeting economy. Fear about loss of jobs and foreclosures on homes. Fear about illness and the death of our loved ones. Just this week we are sadly saying good-bye to our sister in Christ, Karen Elliott who has lost her ongoing battle with cancer. Fear swirls around us and it is only human to sometimes get caught up in it.

As people of faith however, we have promises given to us by God about our life now and our life to come. God spoke through the prophet Isaiah to a people mired in fear and hopelessness, reminding them that their God had not deserted them and that they could look with hope to the future. Jesus reminds us of God's promise to walk with us in his Sermon on the Mount:

*"...do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear.... Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.<sup>30</sup> But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you?... Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:25-33)*

In the midst of troubling times, may we cling to the promises of our faithful God, and move boldly into the future living life to its fullness!

Blessings, **Bette**