



The Messenger

Volume 57 No. 3

First Congregational Church

Fairhaven, Massachusetts

April 2008

The First Congregational Church

34 Center Street
Fairhaven, MA
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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

Official Warrant Annual Meeting of April 27, 2008

The Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Fairhaven, Fairhaven, Massachusetts will be held on Sunday, April 27, 2008 following the morning worship in the sanctuary, 34 Center Street, Fairhaven.

The following articles will be acted upon:

ARTICLE I - To receive and act upon reports of church officers, committees and organizations;

ARTICLE II - To elect officers and committee members;

ARTICLE III - To act upon a budget for 2008-2009; ***Due to our current financial issues, the church may be voting on a 6 month budget only, which will need to be revisited and updated based on our financial status mid-year.**

ARTICLE IV - To act upon any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

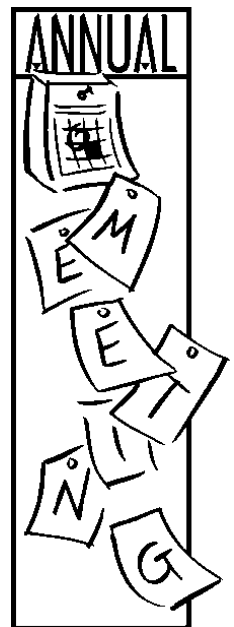
Robert Heskett, Clerk

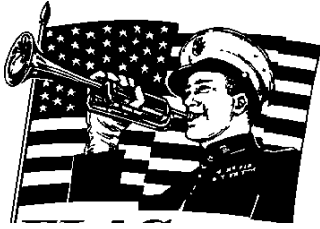
The Women's Fellowship will be sponsoring an evening at the Fairhaven High School Musical Production of *Oklahoma* on Friday, April 11th at 8:00 p.m. Tickets for the show are \$10. Tickets can be ordered from Mabel Filipek 508-994-6665 or Betty Monk 508-992-2004 (e-mail - bettyfair@msn.com) before April 8th. A light supper is planned before the event at 6:00 p.m. in Maddaford Vestry. There will be a slight charge for this. Please inform the above so as food can be arranged. All are welcome and bring a friend!



Women's Fellowship

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 14th.





Those in Service

Sgt. Jonathan M. Rice, ARMY,
Drill Instructor, Ft. Benning, GA

P.O. Christopher H. Rice, NAVY,
NAS Iraq

Betty Monk's Grandsons

Lt. Marc Lavoie, RCC 94th Iraq

son of friends of Ann & Jim Cochran



On March 16th -- In loving memory of Violet Bobola by the Bobola Family.

On March 30th -- In loving memory of John Rogers, Sr. by his family.

Our Deepest Sympathies

The Family and Friends of Lynne Waddington -- the 47 year old daughter of Alan & Marie Waddington died unexpectedly on March 7th. Our prayers continue to be with the entire Waddington family.



-Rev. Bette McClure-

Dear Friends,

Spring has sprung! Well at least according to the calendar it has. Sometimes living so close to the ocean means spring is filled with chilly winds that keep the crocuses shivering in the garden and require all of us

to remain wrapped in winter garb far longer than folks inland. But despite that, spring has indeed arrived - the season of longer days, brighter sunshine, cleaner houses, and renewed hope for warmer and milder weather and even days at the beach.

Just the other week I found myself in a frenzy of spring cleaning at home. Five over-filled contractor bags sitting at curbside later, I was able to heave a sigh of relief and exclaim to my cat (the only living creature within earshot) - "well, that feels good!" Spring cleaning, though often dreaded by most of us, when accomplished does result in a feeling of renewal and readiness for moving into the future unfettered by "junk."

Spring is also a good time for cleaning our hearts and our souls. Having just celebrated the miracle of the resurrection time is ripe to resurrect our spirits too. Perhaps we need to toss out grudges that we are holding - small or large seeds of bitterness that keep us from feeling joy and replace them with forgiveness - of ourselves or others who have offended us. Maybe it's a good time to change the curtains that obstruct our vision keep us from seeing the people around us with eyes of love and compassion. Perhaps we should chase those persistent dust-bunnies of short-temperedness and impatience right out the door once and for all!

Whatever it is you need to rid from your emotional and spiritual life, go for it with all you've got. For after all, spring has sprung!

Blessings,
Bette

PS: My Sabbatical time has begun. I will return April 25th - in the meantime, please hold me in prayer as I will do for you.

"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."



Serving God by Committee: Is it relevant in today's world?

No, the cartoon above is not an accurate portrayal of our church's committee meetings, but the seriousness of our mission does require that church leaders step forward to share their ideas and to help the church accomplish its goals. Serving on a committee is not only one way we can give our gifts of time and talent back to God, but it may be the most important.

It is through our committees, task forces, leadership groups (whatever you wish to call them) that the work of the church is planned, debated, organized, prioritized, succeeds or fails. This is where the action is. Do we have too many committees for today's modern world? Maybe. Are we accomplishing all we could be? I don't know. Is it time for dynamic change? Only you can answer that.

God has done great things for us. Is it time that we do great things for God? Dynamic change comes through dynamic leadership. Are you ready for the challenge?

Please prayerfully consider what gifts you have to share with your church. If you wish to serve on a committee or be an agent of great change, please contact the church office or a member of the nominating committee listed below.

Bob Heskett 508-996-9729
Peg Rogers 508-994-3607
Skip Mills 508-997-8736

Church Women United: Aluminum Collection Project

Church Women United will be holding an aluminum collection project to purchase baby food, diapers, and other necessities for needy babies. Cartons for your donations will be available in the William Street entry. All donations should be brought in before the May 2nd meeting of CWU which will be held at our church.

Some of the acceptable items include:

- 12 oz. drink cans (non-carbonated) ice tea, lemonade, Hawaiian punch, etc.
- Concentrated juice cans - juicy juice drinks , Welch grape juice, Ocean Spray
- Clean baking pans - turkey roasting pans, lasagna trays, chicken pie tins
- Big crunched up balls of aluminum foil
- Old unwanted alum. cookie sheets, pots, pans
- Old beach chair frames
- Deposit cans - Soda and beer cans, (please don't mix) Rinse & dry and separate bags.

THANKS Susan Burr and Betty Monk

**Church Women United
Friendship Day
will be celebrated in our
sanctuary on May 2nd at
7:30 p.m.**



**We are still
collecting
Shaw's
Receipts!**

We receive 1% of the eligible register receipt amount from all receipts collected and turned in to Shaw's Receipts Reward Program. To date we've received more than \$900 in cash for just simply collecting register receipts. Tell your friends and family to save them as well. Thanks to Ann Cochran for tallying the receipts and sending them in!

Concert Series Season Finale Concert

The Fairhaven Community Concert series winds up its fifth concert season on **Sunday, April 13 at 7:00 p.m.** with a concert entitled *Brass Bash*. The Fairhaven Community Concert Series presents all programs at The First Congregational Church of Fairhaven which is located at 34 Center Street, Fairhaven.

The Brentwood Brass quintet is a Cape Cod based ensemble of professional musicians who are dedicated to exploring the multifaceted literature of the brass quintet. They perform throughout Southeastern Massachusetts.

Members of the quintet include **Thomas Bober**, a chiropractor in Osterville. He has also performed with the Cape Cod Symphony and Plymouth Symphonic. **Ronald Brown**, a former member of the United State Military Band at West Point and a graduate of Boston University School for the Arts, performs with many groups on the Cape including the Cape Cod Melody Tent Orchestra. **Salvatore Chines**, a fire protection engineer, has performed with the Bristol Symphony Orchestra, Cape Community Orchestra as well as groups in Connecticut. **Robert Kidd** is a graduate of Boston University with a Doctor in Musical Arts and professor emeritus from Cape Cod Community College. He is a choral and instrumental conductor and a performer on renaissance and Baroque wind instruments. He is active with several classical and jazz ensembles including Brentwood Consort. **Robert Leech** is a graduate of Eastman School of Music and has performed with the Rochester Philharmonic, the US Army Band and as a singer, conductor and bass player. He has played with Bobby Hackett and Vic Dickinson and performs actively on Cape Cod.

Join us before the concert for a Pasta Dinner catered by The Pasta House Restaurant at 5:30 p.m. Concert is at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for the dinner and \$10 for the concert. Reservations may be made by calling 508-993-3368. Handicap Accessible.



Fairhaven Community Concert Series

<http://fhnccs.googlepages.com/>

**Remaining Concert in
our 5th Season!
2007-2008**

**April 13, 2008 7:00 p.m.
The Brentwood Brass
Dinner 5:30**

**Concert tickets are \$10.
Children are FREE with an
adult.**

**Dinner tickets are \$10 for adults
and \$5 for children.**

Figri's Sponsorship Ending



Our church received a letter from the Christian Children's Fund which began "I am writing to share some exciting news concerning the PROYEK PANTI NUGERAHA project where Figri Abdyansyah, your Christian Children's Fund child in Indonesia, is enrolled." The letter from Michale Raikowitz, Director of Child Sponsorship, went on to say that the sponsorship of Figri will terminate in May 2008.

Mr. Raikowitz wrote that the Christian Children's Fund had made so many improvements in the health and education of the children of that community that "CCF sponsorships will no longer be necessary." He cites the advances that have been made: "Almost 90% of the children under five years old now have a normal health status. The project routinely conducted supplemental feedings and deworming campaigns, along with supplying vitamins to the families. All of the families have access to medical care and all children under five have received the basic immunizations. Additional meals are provided to all malnourished children, while their parents receive additional health and nutritional training."

He also said that we would be receiving notice about another child that we can sponsor in May.

Because of the long association of our church with Figri (starting in 1999), **a special offering for Figri's continued education will be taken during worship on April 6th.**

The Women's Fellowship John & May Dampman Scholarship

is available to any High School Senior with ties to our church. It is given at the beginning of the 2nd semester in college. Applications can be obtained from Ms. Millicent Allen, Mrs. Mabel Filipek, Mrs. Betty Monk or Sharon at the Church Office. Deadline is May 1st.



Youth Groups

Kid's Supper Klub

4th & 5th Graders - Sundays 4-6 p.m.

April 27th

May 18th

Youth Group

Middle & High School - Sundays, time varies

April 13th

May 18th

June 29th

FCCS Arts Scholarship

A \$600 scholarship will be presented to one graduating member of the Fairhaven High School class of 2008 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. Deadline for application is May 1st.

UCC Undergraduate Scholarships are available for college Sophmores, Juniors and Seniors. Please direct requests for application materials to: scholars@ucc.org or call the toll free number (866) 822-8224, ext. 3848. All application materials must be received in the PLL office no later than May 18th.

See brochure at <http://www.ucc.org/assets/pdfs/undergrad.pdf>

The Matthew Richard Summer Study Scholarship Fund continues to grow. Student musicians who wish to take summer lessons or go to music camp, should get an application from the church office. Deadline for submission is June 1st.

Confirmation Schedule

April 27

May 4

May 11

Class 6:30 p.m.

Class 6:30 p.m.

Confirmation Sunday

Bible Adventures Sunday School



We continue to seek teachers for upcoming Sundays. The curriculum is easy to follow, all supplies are set up for you, and

you are guaranteed to have FUN!

See Pam Kuechler, Stacey Burr, Janet Desrochers or Bill Fields if you can help.

April 6, 13, 27 & May 4

"Mothers and Others"

(Ruth, Naomi, Hannah & Samuel)

March Mission Donations

Family Nonviolence, Inc. - \$100

Community Nurse and Hospice Care - \$100

Women's Center (New Bedford) - \$100



To **ALL** who have painted in the Annex. To **Julie Lawton & John Rogers** for their supervision.

To the **five men and the officer** from the House of Correction for cleaning the sanctuary and to the **three women and officer** for cleaning the bathrooms and cleaning and painting the Babbitt Hall Kitchen.

To **Bill Fields** for leading a Tai Chi class.

To **Peg and John Rogers** for helping to set up the labyrinth.

To **Rev. Bette** for donating a television set to the church.

To **Meghan Dorian** for playing drums to accompany choir and to **all our church musicians** for their dedication.

To the **Confirmation Class and their parents** for the Palm Sunday Brunch.

To **Alderbrook Farm** for donating 12 dozen eggs to the brunch.

To **Rev. Bette & others** for hosting the Easter Sunday breakfast.

To **Mabel Filipek, Ruth Cree and Amanda & Michael Bobola** for greeting and hosting coffee hour in March.

To **Molly Bobola, John Rogers, Sally Wheeler, Sharon & Meg Dorian, Skip Mills and Bob Heskett** for their worship leadership in March.



Corner Cupboard: Replenishing Needed

The Food Pantry is in need of replenishing. We've had **10** people use the pantry in March and supplies are dwindling. Your donations are gratefully appreciated.

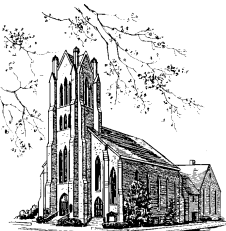
Thank you to **Bill Vining** for getting juice from Ocean Spray and to our **donator** of all the boxes of cereals!



Next Messenger Deadline: April 25th

The Messenger

First Congregational Church
34 Center Street
Fairhaven MA 02719-2931



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