



The Messenger

Volume 57 No. 6

First Congregational Church

Fairhaven, Massachusetts

August 2008

The First Congregational Church

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Pastor

Rev. Bette McClure
508-990-7513
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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

Fill a Back-Pack Campaign

During the month of August we are sponsoring a Fill a Back-Pack Campaign. Take advantage of the back-to-school sales and pick up some extra supplies to help us fill a backpack or two for children in need in Fairhaven Public Schools. Crayons, pens, pencils, markers, rulers, erasers, folders, notebooks, scissors, etc. are needed. Place items in the yellow box in the William Street entrance.



Lift Off

"Soaring to New Heights with God"

VACATION BIBLE CAMP

August 11 - 15, 2008

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

Special Service Blessing of the Backpacks

All children are invited to take part in this special "back to school" service on Sunday August 25th at 9:30 AM. We will celebrate children and teachers and the importance of education in words and song. Children are invited to bring their backpacks with them and we will offer a special blessing for the coming school year. Please make plans to join us for this "first time" event.





-Rev. Bette McClure-

Dear Friends,

“The seed cast on good earth is the person who hears and takes in the News, and then produces a harvest beyond his wildest dreams.”
(*MT 13:23 – The Message Bible*)

**Rally Day
September 7th**

**Sunday Worship
returns to
10:00 a.m.**

**Welcome our
children and youth
back to worship
and church school.**

During the last segment of my Sabbatical, I attended a two day retreat at the Genesis Spiritual Life Center in Westfield, MA. Despite my initial anxiety about being at a retreat that was billed as “silent,” I found the experience wonderfully nourishing and rejuvenating. The setting was peaceful, the food wholesome, the pace gentle and the people welcoming. The time away provided food for my spirit and my soul. Oh, and I should mention, much of the “silent” part was optional; I took most of my meals in the “talking” dining room!

The theme of the retreat was the parable of the sower where Jesus talks about seed scattered on various kinds of terrain - a path, rocky soil, thorny bushes, rich soil - and what happened to it. Fr. Warren Savage, the Roman Catholic priest who led the retreat had us plant seeds in rich soil and watch over them during the weekend. Warren had us reflect on the idea that we were the seeds and that in order for us to grow spiritually we needed to go down deep, deep into the heart, so that we might hear what God is calling us to be. He emphasized the importance of being spiritually grounded from within so that “we will not be consumed by everyone and by everything that enters into our lives.”

In the retreat notebook Warren gave us he wrote: “Each of us is a seed of God. Each of us is a spark of the divine in the world. Each of us has been uniquely created for a beautiful purpose: to be God-like in the world. We are sparks of love, compassion, peace, mercy, forgiveness, joy, goodness and kindness. We are friends and companions of God.”

In these last weeks of summer, I invite you to make room for the spiritual life. Pray, read and meditate on the bible, spend time listening to God in nature, join us on the Tuesday morning prayer walks or the Wednesday evening supper worship times. The garden of your soul needs the same loving care you give to the gardens in your yards. Don't neglect it!

“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.”

Blessings,
Bette



Join us for "The Last Hurrah"

Sunday, August 24
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, beverages and dessert (s'mores anyone?) supplied.

All ages welcome – singles, families, couples – everyone!



Tuesday Morning Prayer Walks Continue!

Every Tuesday at 7:30 a.m.
Fort Phoenix Beach Parking lot

A number of us have been gathering every week since the beginning of July to walk, chat and pray. Join us for a gentle and refreshing way to begin your day. We plan to continue this weekly practice until the snow flies! We meet rain or shine (unless it's lightning!) and generally finish up about 8:15. Hope to see you there.

Play Bridge? Want to Learn?

Marge Jones, an awesomely experienced bridge teacher, is offering bridge lessons and playing sessions to be held at times to be determined by those interested. Motivation is threefold:

- Sponsor fellowship
- Help Bill Gates and Warren Buffett revive interest in the game
- Make good use of our facilities (a small fee will be charged)

All levels of play will be covered from beginners to accomplished players. Young people as well as Seniors are welcomed. See Marge at church or coffee hour. She can be reached at 774-202-3336.



Handyman
MINISTRY

Handymen for Hire

Our Handymen have returned from Florida and 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.

Call Al Jones to schedule your job at 774-202-3336.

GoodSearch

Use 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.

shaws
Crazy about food.

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. Tell your friends and family to save them as well.



On June 1st -- In loving memory of Carol Ann Wyzga by the class of 1960.

On June 8th -- In celebration of their anniversary by Skip & Barbara Mills

On July 20th -- In celebration of Summer by Rev. Bette

On July 27th -- In loving memory of Harry Dorian by Steve, Sharon, Meg & Emily.

Congratulations

To Albert & Kelly Gregoire on the July 27th baptism of their daughter Lauren Paige Gregoire. Big sister Morgan, who was baptized here in 2004 participated. Albert & Kelly live in Fairhaven

Our Deepest Sympathies

To the friends and family of Ellen N. Rogers who died on July 11th following a brief illness.

Our Prayers are with...

Jean Campbell, Juliet Tripp, Matt Desimas, Karen Elliott, Bob Heskett, Janet Whiting, Maggie Fields, Suzanne Gonsalves, Jean Condon, Grace Battistelli, Lois Goulart, Alma Johnson, Elsie Jacobsen, Ruth Rebello, Dot Holmes.

To all our church family,

Please accept our heartfelt thanks for all your support through the loss of Ellen Rogers. You all helped her time of sickness to be a little easier through your kind words and deeds you shared with her. Her sudden passing into God's care was difficult for us, but you all rose to support our family during this time. We appreciate your words of comfort as we have seen you, your participation in the convocation through baking, your beautiful voices at her service, and your presence as we deal with this loss. Please know that it has meant so much to us all. We are so thankful to be a part of this caring community.

Dear Music Comittee, I would like to thank you for the music scholarship I received and would like to let you know that I have been enjoying the WONDERFULL WORLD OF MUSIC.

Sincerely, Michael Young



The Women's Fellowship will hold an Executive Board Meeting on Monday, August 18th at 10:00 a.m. in Maddaford Vestry.



Fairhaven Heritage Center
Summer Hours for 2008
Fridays 1-4 p.m. &
Saturdays 9-12 a.m.

Love, John, Peg and Martha Rogers, and Pam, Doug, Alex, and Alison Kuechler

Fairhaven Community Concert Series 6th Season Fast Approaching

There will be six concerts and three dinners this year. Season tickets are now available at a 10% discount as follows:

Concerts only	\$54
6 Concerts and 3 Dinners	\$80

We are also looking for Sponsors for the Concert Series. Sponsors names are noted in our concert booklets and funds may be donated in memory of loved ones. Donation categories are as follows:

Diamond	\$500
Platinum	\$250
Gold	\$150
Silver	\$100
Bronze	\$75
Benefactor	\$50
Patron	\$25
Friend	\$1-\$10

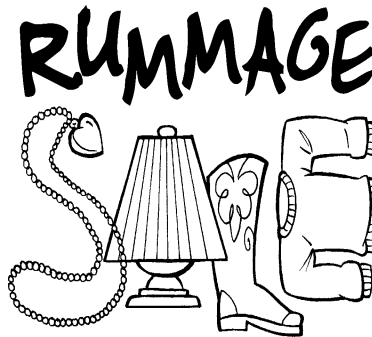
If you wish to be a sponsor, see Bev Johansen 508-992-7303 or Peg Rogers 508-994-3607.

See our exciting line-up to the right

Many, many thanks to everyone who helped to make the rummage sale, held in June, such a success. We realized \$806 profit. If you "scouted" through your closets, drawers, garages, attics and brought items to sell; if you "shopped" at the sale; if you enjoyed a coffee and pastry break; if you were a salesperson behind a table; told your friends about the sale; it all helped.

A special thank you to those who came on the following Monday to decide what to do with the "left-overs." Thanks to Bev & Ron Johansen and Peg & John Rogers for delivering bags of good items to Savers, Hetty Green's, etc.

Mabel Filipek



Fairhaven Community Concert Series



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

2008-2009 Season

October 19, 2008 7:00
Javier Cabellero - cellist
Meat Pie Dinner & Concert

November 16, 2008 2:00
North Shore Acappella

December 14, 2008 2:00
Synergy Brass Quintet

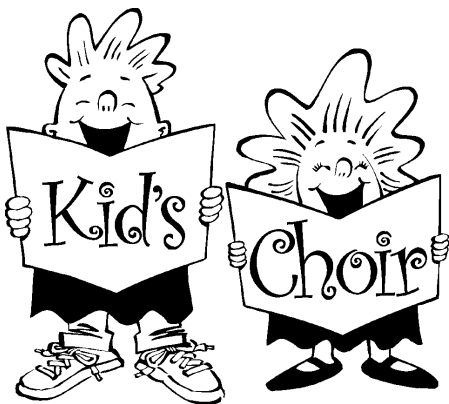
February 22, 2009 7:00
Matt Richard Quintet
Mardi Gras Dinner

March 8, 2009 2:00
Fumito Nunoya - Marimbas

March TBD, 2009
David Langevin, Organ Recital

Concert tickets are \$10.
Children are FREE with an adult.
Dinner tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

Help us make communications faster/easier. Receive announcements, reminders and the Messenger via e-mail by sending your your e-mail address to fccof@juno.com.



CALLING KIDS WHO LOVE TO SING

Let's have a Kids Choir again this year. I really missed it last year, did you?

Anyone grades K-5 who would like to sing in the choir is welcome. Hopefully we will be able to sing once a month and/or on special Sundays. If you are interested sign up on Rally Sunday. You must make the commitment to come to as many practices as possible. We will decide when to have rehearsals once we have some singers!

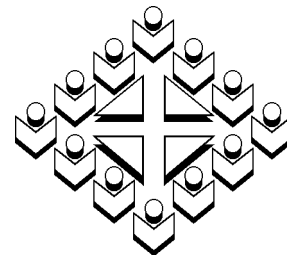
Also any middle school or high school youth interested in doing something musically? It could be a small musical production, some contemporary Christian music, Christian rock. Let's see if we can have our musically talented youth find a way to share their talents at church.



Corner Cupboard: Food for Life

The Food Pantry is in need of replenishing. Traffic has increased this summer with the children being out of school. **Eight** people were helped in June and **8** in July. Thanks to all who have helped restock. Your donations of non-perishable food items, health care items, paper products and especially protein items are gratefully appreciated. Donations of \$10 grocery gift cards are also accepted.

Ad-Hoc Budget Committee Update



Returns to date from the letter requesting pledge increases to help in cash flow problems have resulted in an increase to the annual pledging total of almost \$5000. This brings total pledging for 2008-2009 budget to \$80,975. Twenty five replies have been received to date, which is a heartening response. Thanks to all who have responded. We encourage others who can to add their support. About half of the responders showed interest in helping through Coffee Can Club and Shaw's receipts contributions. Both of these are viable programs.

Work continues on the projects listed in the last Messenger. We are working towards a presentation of a proposed budget for consideration of all in the near future. Meanwhile bills are being paid and we are praying for a mild winter.

Jerry Wheeler, Peg and John Rogers, Ann Cochran, Al Jones, David Wood, Bill Vining, Milt George, Skip Mills, Janet Whynacht and Rev Bette McClure.

Sweet Apple Theatre Presents

Joe! the Musical

Friday, Saturday, Sunday
August 15 - 17th
8:00 p.m.

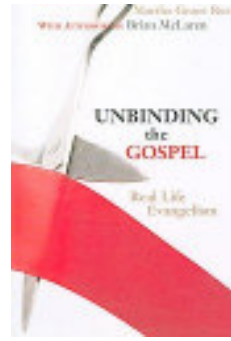
on Stage at the First Congregational Church of Fairhaven

Tickets \$15.00



Help Wanted Rental Task Force

In order to maximize the use of the great space we have in our church and as way of bringing in additional income, we are looking for new ways to rent our facilities. If you have some ideas about this and would be willing to work on a short-term task force to explore possibilities and develop guidelines please let us know. We want to start working on this ASAP. Please speak to Rev. Bette if you can help out on this important initiative.



Unbinding The Gospel

Real Life Evangelism
Tuesdays – 10:00-11:00 a.m.

We will continue meeting to discuss this book by Martha Grace Reese and to look at ways to reach out to others with the Good News our faith offers. Even if you haven't been part of the group in the past, join us and lend your perspective. If you need a copy of the book, see Rev. Bette.



Lemonade
on the
Lawn

**Thursdays, through August
21st, 7:00 p.m.**

In an attempt to be more visible in the community, the church is seeking volunteers to pass out literature and refreshment at summer events. Handing out refreshments and brochures and inviting unchurched community members to join us for an activity is just one step we need to take in revitalizing and re-energizing our church. Please let Bette or Sharon know if you are interested in sharing our story with others in the community.

Coming in

September.....

Meet our new sponsored child

Rally Day & Sunday School

Prayer Walks Continue

Kids Supper Klub

Youth Group

Budget & Finance Reports

Ronnie Simonsen thoroughly enjoyed his time at an actor's camp in Venice Beach, California this summer. He had dinner with Chad Everett (Medical Center) and had a part with him in "The Greatest Story Ever Written." Juss Walton (Young and the Restless) was also there to help with the acting.



Thanks & a Tip of the Hat to...

To Mabel Filipek and all her helpers for organizing the Rum-mage Sale.

To Bette for all the alternative worship opportunities.

To Emily Dorian for helping with Flag Day decorations for shut-ins.

To Bill Vining, Rev. Bette and the Council for cooking & hosting the ICC Annual Meeting.

To all who helped at the Hot Dog Booth at Homecoming.

To Bev Johansen, LeeAnn Wood, Marge & Al Jones & Rev. Bette for hosting Lemonade on the Lawn in July.

To Sharon, Steve & Emily Dorian, Rev. Bette, Bev

Johansen, & Karen Elliott for helping with the Farmer's Market Booth.

To Ron Johansen & Al Jones for earning \$2,130 to date with their handyman ministry.

To the Women's Fellowship for helping with the Ellen Rogers' funeral collation.

To Sue Burr for flowers.

To Al & Marge Jones, Sally & Jerry Wheeler, Ron & Bev Johansen, Bev & Bob Heskett, & Mabel Filipek for greeting and hosting coffee hour in June & July.

To Al Jones, Sally Wheeler, Bev Johansen, Bob Heskett, Karen Elliott and Sharon Dorian for providing worship leadership in June & July.

To Al Jones, Ron Johansen, Carol & John Gage, Sharon Dorian & the Hesketts for providing rides to church for Arthur in June & July.



Opportunities for Worship & Fellowship

The Last Hurrah

August 24 – 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Bring hot dogs & burgers to cook – salad and beverages supplied – all ages welcome

Early morning prayer/meditation

– **Tuesday at 7:30 a.m.**

Gather at Fort Phoenix Beach every Tuesday morning

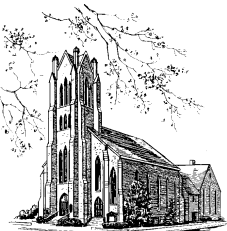
Mid-week worship and supper – Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Bring a dish to share and/or box supper. Share in food, conversation and a brief, family friendly worship.

Next Messenger Deadline: August 22nd

The Messenger

First Congregational Church
34 Center Street
Fairhaven MA 02719-2931



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