



The Messenger

Volume 57 No. 1

First Congregational Church

Fairhaven, Massachusetts

February 2008

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



and deepen your spirituality.

Walking the Labryinth - Monday, Feb 11, 7-8:30

Walking a labryinth has become a popular spiritual practice around the world. It offers the opportunity to pray with both body and mind. The labyrinth is unicursal - this means there is one open, unobstructed path the walker follows into the center and back out again. A labyrinth is a metaphor for life. It can be a tool for calming, healing, community building, inner and outer peace, problem solving, stress reduction, reconciliation and spiritual growth. Join us in Babbit Hall to learn about and experience the possibilities labryinth walking offers.

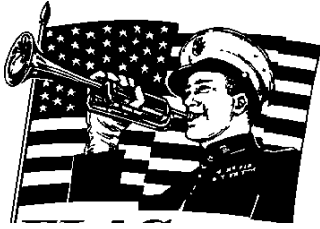
What's Lent All About Anyway - Thursday, Feb. 21, 7-8:30

Did you ever wonder about how we came to observe this season called Lent? Join us to explore the historical and scriptural basis for Lent and discuss ways to make the season more meaningful for us in this time of our lives

Chocolate for Lent - Thursday, Feb 28, 7-8:30

Using prayer, scripture, meditation and, of course chocolate, we will create space for deeper insights into self-discipline, conversion, acceptance, and maturing in Christ. Delving into the delicious depths of humanity, Chocolate for Lent uses themes from the 2000 Academy Award nominated film *Chocolat*. (You might want to watch the film prior to this program – but come even if you haven't seen it)

(Continued on page 3)



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



-Rev. Bette McClure-

Dear Friends,

You may be aware that February is American Heart Month and Black History Month but did you know it is also Library Lovers Month, National Bird Feeding Month, National Weddings Month and National Get to Know an Independent Real Estate Broker Month? And if those holidays are not enough for you, try celebrating National Pancake Week (3rd-9th), Jell-O Week (10th-16th), Texas Cowboy Poetry Week (29th - March 2nd), and my favorite, Love Makes the World Go Round; But, Laughter Keeps Us From Getting Dizzy Week (8th-14th)! Everyone knows about Groundhog Day (2nd), Mardi Gras (5th) and Valentine's Day (14th), but who would have thought that there are also days dedicated to Liberace (4th), Wave All Your Fingers at Your Neighbor (7th), Chocolate Mints (19th), and the Tooth Fairy (28th).

The holiday that gets the most attention during February is, of course, Valentine's Day. Although I dislike the commercialism that has sprung up around the day, I do applaud that there is a day that celebrates love. All too often in our world, we focus on hate - the hate that spurs envy and violence and war. We seem to forget the old adage that it is "love that makes the world go round."

This year Valentine's Day comes in the midst of the Christian season of Lent. During Lent we are called to walk with Jesus, remembering his life and pondering his teachings and his example of how we might live our lives. As part of our journey this Lent let's celebrate Valentine's Day in a new way. Along with the exchange of cards and chocolates and flowers, in addition to the romantic meals, let's pause and remember what Jesus taught us about love: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And if we take that teaching to heart, if we put it into practice, perhaps, just perhaps we might help make the world go round in new and more loving ways.

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."



A Service of Transition into the time of Lent

February 6th
7:00 p.m.

Led by Rev.
McClure and our
Confirmation Class.

(Continued from page 1 - Lenten Programs)

Holy Week through the Eyes of Artists - Thursday, March 13, 7-8:30

Recount the events of Jesus' last week by reflecting on various artists' renditions of Jesus as he walks toward the cross.

Tai Chi 101 - Date and time to be announced

Originally developed in China as a form of self-defense, Tai Chi is a graceful form of exercise that has existed for some 2,000 years. Practiced regularly, Tai Chi can help you reduce stress and enjoy other health benefits. Engaging in Tai Chi can also deepen your spirituality. Bill Fields has agreed to lead us in learning more about how to include this practice as part of our everyday lives. Watch for more information about this special opportunity.

Seminarian Scholarship Collection February 24th

Dear Members and Friends:

The Board of Deacons invites you to join with us in supporting the **Seminarian Scholarship** program. The purpose of this scholarship is to support and affirm individuals who have committed themselves to becoming ordained ministers. Recipients must be enrolled in an accredited Master of Divinity program. First consideration is given to active church members and second consideration is given to student ministers who are currently serving our church.

Scholarships are distributed at the discretion of the Board of Deacons following guidelines established by the Board. So that we can continue this important ministry we are asking for your financial support. A special appeal is planned for February 24th. We sincerely hope that you will join us in this effort by making whatever donation you feel is appropriate for you. **You may put your donation in the enclosed envelope and drop it in the collection plate or mail it to the church office at your convenience.**

Faithfully yours,
The Member of the Board of Deacons

The Board of Deacons is also now accepting letters of application for the Annual Seminarian Scholarship. Contact Rev. Bette or any Deacon with any questions.



A Different Way to Pay your Pledge?

Would you enjoy the freedom of giving your pledge electronically? Would you like to have your pledge automatically deducted from your checking account or billed on your credit/debit card? Electronic giving is currently available to UCC churches through Vanco Services, and the Church Council would like your feedback. ***If this is something you would be interested in, please speak to Skip Mills, Rev. Bette or Sharon Dorian.*** If there is enough interest we can get the church set up for electronic giving.

Electronic giving can save time, reduce costs, increase cash flow and improve pledge loyalty. Many of us can already get started by adding the church to our on-line banking account. This helps to remind us that even on those Sundays we can't be worship, that the church is important.



Once again this year, the four United Church of Christ congregations on the Southcoast will take part in a Pulpit Swap where each pastor will preach at a different church. **On February 24th**, Rev. Bette will preach in Wareham, Rev. Bob Richardson from Wareham will be in our pulpit. Rev. Bob Macfarlane from Marion and Rev. Dr. Virginia Child from Mattapoissett switch pulpits also.



On December 9th -- In loving memory of **Joseph Filipek** on the occasion of his 90th birthday by his family.

On December 24th -- In loving memory of **Paul DeSorcy** by Doreen, Jackie & Donna.

On January 13th -- In loving memory of **Haig & Agnes Terzian, Lucy Bobola and Dorothy & Walter Howarth** by the Bobola Family.

Congratulations

To Christopher Arruda and Christie Rebelo on the January 20th baptism of their son **Noah Matthew Arruda**. Christopher & Christie live in East Freetown.

Our Deepest Sympathies

The family & friends of Everett Douglas Mills, Sr -- Mr. Mills, the father of Beth Trull, died on December 5th after a long illness.

To the family & friends of Dick Bryan -- Dick, husband of Mitzi Bryan died on January 25th in Michigan after a period of declining health. His funeral was held on January 29th.



Coordinator Needed for Spring Fair and Plant Sale

The Church Council would like to hold a Spring Fair and Plant Sale sometime in late May or early June. We need a person or persons to step up to coordinate this special event. The coordinator reports to the Church Council, but is fairly free to design an event as he/she sees fit. Please think about how you can contribute your time and talent to running a great fundraising event.

Please join us at the church for a pasta supper/fundraiser! Be there on **Saturday, March 1st at 5:30 p.m.** as we help send **Meghan Dorian** to Australia as a "People to People" student ambassador. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for students and \$3.00 for kids under 10. They are available at the church office or from Meghan 508-991-5845.



Adopt-a-Platoon Soldier Support Effort Campaign!!

Adopt-a-Platoon is a nonprofit organization managed nationwide by volunteer mothers to ensure that deployed United States Service Members, in all branches of the military, are not forgotten. The MOMs Club of Fairhaven will be sending a care package on February 13th to a troop in Afghanistan. Items needed are snack foods, toiletries, and some clothing. A list of suggested items is available on the website adoptaplatoon.org or in the church office. If you would like to contribute to their effort, drop any items off at the church before 10:00 a.m. Feb 13th.





Campaign Update

First, I wish to thank all of you again who have so generously contributed to the Capital Campaign. Without your support we would not have been able to accomplish this very important project. As you can see most of the work has been completed with just

some painting and finish work left to be done. I would like to send a big thank you to John Rogers, Norm Burr and David Wood for their time and dedication to make sure all the work was done as planned. We now have a sound roof over the sanctuary and an elevator that allows handicap access to all four levels of the church.

As we enter the third year for the Capital Campaign, I thought it would be a good idea to update everyone on the financial status of the campaign. To date we have spent about \$513,000. There is still another \$40,000 needed to complete the work and pay off the contractor. We have used all of the Invested Funds that were approved for this project. There is about \$6,000 left in the Capital Campaign fund so we may need to borrow the remaining \$34,000 until the rest of the pledges come in.

All of us combined to pledge \$180,000 in individual cash contributions with another \$270,000 in planned giving. Thanks to the hard work of the grant committee we were able to get another \$52,000 in grants. As of December of 2007 we have received \$152,000 in individual pledges with another \$26,000 due over the next year. This leaves us \$8,000 short of the remaining \$34,000 needed to complete the construction. Considering all the extra work we had done while the scaffolding was up that's not bad. If everyone were to add just another 5% on to their pledge we would be able to pay it off.

Once again thank you all for everything you have done to make this Capital Campaign a great success. May God bless each and every one of you.

Acting Chairman,
Skip Mills

Summer Study Scholarship Fund

Thank you for your continued donations to the Matthew Richard Scholarship Fund. Contributions to date total \$425. The funds will be awarded this summer to youth of our church for instrumental, vocal or drama/vocal lessons, workshops, or camperships. If you would like to contribute to this fund forward your donation the Matthew Richard Scholarship Fund, c/o First Congregational Church.

Student Musicians should begin thinking about ways this scholarship might help you this summer. Applications will be available in April.



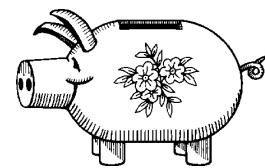
Fairhaven Community Concert Series

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

Scheduled Concerts for 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.**



Fundraiser Updates FY 2007/08 Tallies

Goodsearch	\$45.20
Shaws Receipts	\$778.39
Coffee Can	\$891.77
Handy Men	\$1845.00
Christmas Fair	\$5290.73
Dinner for Two	\$250.00

OTHER (Your Idea Here!!)

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.

Feb 3, 10 & 24

"The 40 Year Camp Out"

(The Israelites in the Wilderness)

March 2, 9, 16 & 30

"All About Easter"

(Focus on the Easter Story)

April 6, 13, 27 & May 4

"Mothers and Others"

(Ruth, Naomi, Hannah & Samuel)



Youth Groups

Kid's Supper Klub

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

February 10th

April 27th

March 16th

May 18th

Youth Group

Middle & High School - Sundays, time varies

February 10th

March 9th

May 18th

March 2nd

April 13th

June 29th

Confirmation Schedule

Feb 3

Feb 6

March 2

March 16

March 21

April 27

May 4

May 11

Super Bowl Sunday

Ash Wednesday Worship

Class

Palm Sunday Brunch

Serve at Market Ministries

Class

Class

Confirmation Sunday



Don't forget to add Figri, our foster child, to your Valentine greetings list.

Figri Abdyansayah

132/340204/00154

Proyek Panti Nugeraha 3795

P.O. Box 1364

Jakarta 10013 - Indonesia



Give a heart



One way to show love is to do something nice for someone else. Luke 10:27 tells us to love our neighbors, but who are our neighbors? Everyone is!

Make these fun heart treats to share with some of your neighbors.

What you need:

- Saucepan
- 2 tablespoons of butter
- 2 or 3 bags of miniature marshmallows
- 4 cups of crisp-rice cereal (regular or chocolate)
- 9 x 13 pan
- Heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Bag of chocolate chips (milk or white chocolate)
- Bowl
- Zipper sandwich baggie
- Scissors

What you do (with adult help):

1. Melt butter in saucepan and add marshmallows.
2. Stir until mixture becomes difficult to stir anymore. Mix in cereal and stir.
3. Butter the 9 x 13 pan and spread the mixture evenly in it. Allow to cool.
4. When cool, use cookie cutter to cut out heart-shaped treats.
5. Melt chocolate chips in a bowl in the microwave.
6. Spoon melted chocolate into a baggie. Cut off a corner and drizzle chocolate over the treats.
7. Enjoy giving a heart to your neighbor!



Carrie & Jack take part in a dressing race during Sunday School.

Bring your children back to basics by bringing them to church to participate in our Bible Adventures Sunday School.

Volunteer Teachers are always welcome!



**Souper Bowl
of Caring
Feb 3rd**

**Your monetary
contributions
will go to**

**Market Ministries. Also, please
bring in a food item for the
Church Pantry!**



Thanks & a Tip of the Hat to...

To **Bill Vining, John & Peg Rogers, Skip & Barbara Mills, Donna Perry, Dot Bungert, Tom Hebert, Julie Lawton, Bob Heskett and Joanne Bobola, Bob Doucette & Bette McClure** for painting

To **Sandy Henriques** for revitalizing the advent wreath.

To **John & Peg Rogers, Jim & Ann Cochran and Ron & Bev Johansen** for co-chairing the Christmas Fair.

To **all** who helped with the Christmas Fair.

The **Youth Group** for making lollipops to sell.

The **Action for Christ Committee** for coordinating Thanksgiving Baskets, Adopt-a-Family and the Mitten Tree.

To **Alan & Marie Waddington** for their continued commitment to Market Ministries.

To **Ann Cochran** for selling the Dinner for Two books and for coordinating the Shaw's Receipt Program.

To **Alison Kuechler, Pam Rogers, Bev Johansen, Betty Monk, Molly Bobola, Bob Heskett and Sharon Dorian** for their service as Layleaders in December and January.

To **The Desrochers Family, Bev & Ron Johansen, Peg & John Rogers, The Dorian Family, Sue**

& Norm Burr, and the Fields Family for greeting and hosting coffee hour in December and January.

To **Arthur Harris** for helping to encourage folks to sign up for coffee hour and greeting.

To **Ron Johansen, Barbara Mills, Dot Bungert and the Dorians** for providing Arthur with rides to worship.

To **all** who donated to the Mitten Tree and the Adopt-a-Family program. Your contributions helped make the holidays brighter both in the giving and the receiving.

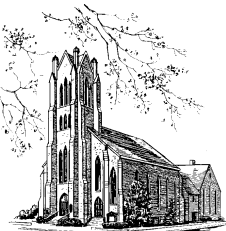
To **Deb Oliveira, Pam Kuechler, Linda Ferland, Peg Rogers, Debbie Cordeiro, Bill Fields, Stacey Burr, Janet Young & Janet Desrochers** for helping with the Sunday School in December & January.



Next Messenger Deadline: February 22nd

The Messenger

First Congregational Church
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