



# The Messenger

Volume 57 No. 9

First Congregational Church

Fairhaven, Massachusetts

November 2008

## The First Congregational Church

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Fairhaven, MA  
02719

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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

## FY 2008-2009 Church Budget

In April 2008, the church membership rejected the proposed deficit budget presented at the Annual Meeting. The Church Council and Finance Committees were instructed to go back to the drawing board and come up with a balanced budget within the next 6 months. An ad-hoc Budget Committee was formed and it met almost every other week from late spring through early fall. The Committee found very few places to cut expenses. They realized that eradicating the deficit through reducing expenses could only be done by making drastic cuts in personnel and essential programming.

Through discussion, research and much prayer it was decided to present a revised budget that included a \$26,600 miscellaneous category. That amount represents what needs to be raised through fund raising projects and creative thinking about how to maximize the rental of our facility. We realized that proposing this budget was a leap of faith but Committee members felt that there was a renewed spirit within the church and that if we all worked together, with God's help, we could do it!

The budget was presented at a Special Meeting of the Congregation on October 19, 2008. The membership voted to accept the budget and to move forward in faith. With God, all things are possible!

*Faith* + SHARING =  
**EVANGELISM**

## Evangelism and Church Growth Initiatives

A group of about 10 church members is close to finishing a book study of *Unbinding the Gospel*, as part of our effort to look at ways to grow and revitalize our church. The author of the book, Martha Grace Reese is presenting a workshop in November and five of us are registered to attend. Hopefully, we will return filled with enthusiasm, energy, and new ideas for reaching out to others with the Good News.

Additional evangelism efforts have included the Blessing of the Animals Service in October. It was attended by some 40 folks and about 25 four-legged creatures. A great time was had by all, and no one tried to devour anyone of another species! More than three-quarters of the people attending were not currently affiliated with the church.

Just as this edition of the Messenger goes to press we will be reaching out to hobgoblins, witches, fairies and any other costumed young person as we offer the first Trick or Treat on the FCC lawn. If you missed it, you missed the chance to see Rev. Bette dressed up as a bat!

Do you have ideas for how we can find new ways of being a presence in our community and helping people get to know our church? If so, let us know!



**Tuesday Morning  
Prayer Walks  
Continue  
Until Snow Flies  
Every Tuesday at  
7:30 a.m.  
Fort Phoenix Beach**

**Mid-Week  
Pot Luck &  
Worship**

**Third Thursday  
of the Month  
6:00-7:15 p.m.**



Unable to get to Sunday worship as often as you want? Feeling the need for an extra "spiritual boost"? Join us for fellowship around the supper table – bring a dish to share with others. We will follow the meal with a brief, informal time of prayer and worship. Suitable for all ages from our littlest ones to our seniors.

*"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-

Dear Friends,

We are in a time of transitions. In the natural world we are moving from one season to the next. Some mornings I wake up to a deep chill in the air (and in the house!) and bundle up as I head out to church only to be shedding layers by noon, when the warm sun returns us to the balmy temperatures of spring. The leafy trees are putting on a fashion show – sporting vibrant colors of gold and red and yellow. Geese are flying south and squirrels are scurrying along the fence by my office, their mouths bulging with acorns. Even my cat is "puffing up" as she puts on her winter fur coat.

Our nation is at the brink of change as we elect a new president. Regardless of whom we support, we move through this transition with a myriad of feelings – vibrant hope, hesitant anticipation, perhaps even a bit of discouragement edging on fear. We pray that a new president will move us through the economic crisis we are facing; that he will lead us out of war and into peace; that he will bring a new spirit to a tired country. Yet, we are a bit jaded in many ways, and so this transition is fraught with more than a bit of skepticism for many.

Our church is in the midst of transition also and I believe God is breathing a new spirit into us. With faith, we approved a budget that challenges us to pull together to move it from a hope written on paper to a reality in our lives. We are reaching out to others in a variety of ways, hoping that God will help us spread the Good News to those around us. We are dreaming and planning and moving in new directions – and it's exciting, and energizing and tiring and scary and hopeful all at once!

Transitions can be hard – we know that from living through them and helping our children manage them. But in addition to challenge, transitions bring all sorts of new possibilities, beauty, joy and excitement. As Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote: "Nothing is secure but life, transition, the energizing spirit."

May we experience the energizing spirit of our God all through us as we move into the future with faith.

Blessings,  
**Bette**



**Fairhaven Clergy Association  
Ecumenical Thanksgiving  
Worship will be held on  
Tuesday,  
November 25th  
7:00 p.m.  
St. Mary's Church  
Main Street**

## Old Time Holiday Fair

December 13, 2008  
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Our Old Time Holiday Fair is fast approaching and we need volunteers to head some of the tables. Coordinators will be looking for volunteers to help them run the tables. This fundraiser is second only to the Concert Series and helps support our budget. As the saying goes, "**Many hands make light work.**" - John Heywood

Coordinators to date:

Bake table

Chance Auction

Cookie Walk - Betty Monk, Mabel Filipek

Cheese table- The Vinings

Gourmet table- Dot Bungert

Craft table

Luncheon - Steve Dorian

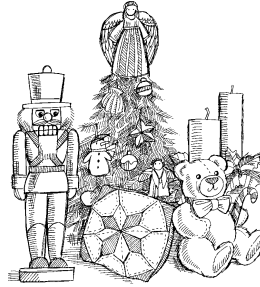
Jewelry-Donna Perry

Raffle – Sandra Henriques

Greeter / Elevator

Decorations

Do you have an idea for a table?

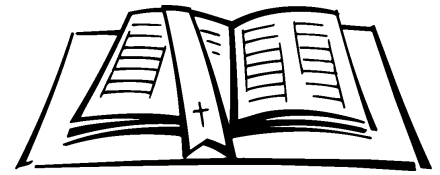


What kind of crafting do you do? We have combined the Men's and Craft tables and are looking for items. Anyone with a talent for wood/metal crafts, knit goods, scarves, hats, dog sweaters, quilting, pictures, jewelry (new/old) note paper, home made cards, canned jelly, pickles recipes in a jar, Christmas ornaments, etc. is invited to contribute. We are accepting previously purchased new items to be regifted (mugs, perfumes, new body lotions) There is a sign up sheet at coffee hour or speak to John Rogers 508-994-3607, Bill Vining 508-758-3584, or Donna Perry 508-993-0620.



### Bird House Raffle

The raffle prize for this year's fair is this lovely birdhouse handmade by Marty Henriques. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 Tickets are included in the Messenger. See Sandy Henriques with questions. (508-994-3944)



### Bible Sunday To Honor Five

On Sunday, November 2nd we honor 5 special people with gift Bibles presented during the morning worship. There are no third graders this year, but we will present Bibles to **Nathan & Nicole Jones** who recently returned to the States and their hometown.

We will also honor **Mike Bobola, Meredith Hathaway and Bill Vining**, who became members 50 years ago. Congratulations to all our Bible recipients.



### Bridge Night Continues

Bridge lessons and play will continue on Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. All levels of players are welcome. We have enjoyed 12 to 16 participants ranging from beginners to accomplished players seeking to improve their game. Marge and Al Jones hope to grow this mission of fellowship and fun to a point where we will have a regular duplicate bridge game weekly as well as lessons.



**Heifer Honor Cards are available from the church office for your holiday giving.**

## Pulpit Flowers

On October 12th -- In loving memory of Cindy Thomas, by the Bastien family, Carrie & Jonathan. Flowers were also given in memory of Cindy by her friend, Suzanne Gonsalves.



## Congratulations

To Kyle and Andrew Bueno, who have both been accepted into the New Bedford Symphony Youth Orchestra. Keep up the good work!

To Derek Burnham & Bethany Rivas on the September 28th baptism of their son, Ayden Michael Rivas-Burnham.

To Adam & Julie Foster on the October 5th baptism of their son, Caleb Adam Foster.

## Our Deepest Sympathies

To Family & Friends of Thomas P. Hiller -- Tom, the son of the late Capt. Emerson Hiller, died suddenly on October 27, 2008. His funeral service will be in the sanctuary on Saturday, November 1st.

## Our Prayers are with...

Jean Campbell, Matt Desimas, Karen Elliott, Bob Heskett, Ron Dawson, Suzanne Gonsalves, Jean Condon, Grace Battistelli, Lois Goulart, Alma Johnson, Elsie Jacobsen, Ruth Rebello, Dot Holmes, Dot Gammans, Pete Braley, Ron Simonsen.



**Women's Fellowship**

The Courtyard Restaurant will be the location for the Women's Fellowship's Annual Holiday Dinner, Wednesday, November 12th at 5:30 pm.

recruit others as needed. This mission has been well received by many including Church Members and the community in general. It is truly a win-win situation for all parties and the Church treasury benefits. Contact Al Jones at 774-202-3336.

## A Testimonial

There could not be anyone on Angie's List (have you seen the commercials?) who could possibly compare to the FCC Handymen. As a very satisfied customer, let me recommend their services. John has serious arthritis issues and we have asked them for help with seasonal jobs. Not only do they do the jobs but they organize so that all will be ready for next season. Ron and Al are not only Handymen but they are GENTLEMEN. What a wonderful MISSION they are for our church! When they arrive I immediately try to think of other jobs to keep them around. We love the chats and jokes. FYI .....sometimes they HINT for coffee (have that ready) but that only prolongs the fun. What they do gives new meaning to WIN/WIN. YEAAAAA! for Al and Ron!

Sincerely,  
Carol Gage



## Handyman - A Win-Win Ministry

The Handyman ministry continues throughout the winter months. Even though Ron Johansen will depart for Arizona, Al and Marge will be staying on this year. Kraig Perry has joined the ranks and Al expects to



## Concert Series

Presents  
**North Shore  
Acappella**

**November 16, 2008  
- 2:00 p.m.**

The North Shore

Acappella has been performing in the Boston area for twenty-six years. Their blend of harmony and rhythm allows them to present a very entertaining performance without any instrumental backup. The voices of Tommy Duarte, Paul Lopes, Jimmy Martin, Vinny Straccia, and Jimmy Caserta are blended together to delight audiences. There is no particular lead singer of the group. Each of their musical selections is arranged to feature a different group member as the lead. They include hundreds of hit songs from the last five decades in their repertoire. Anyone of any age should find something to like in this show

The group is very well known in the Boston area. They have been highly recommended by the March of Dimes and the Massachusetts Special Olympics for charity appearances they have made. They have appeared with Roberta Flack at Symphony Hall in Boston and have been the opening act for The Temptations, The Platters, Ben E. King and many others. They are very excited about bringing their entertainment to the South Coast for the first time. Please make plans to come. Go to [www.northshoreacappella.com](http://www.northshoreacappella.com) for more information.



## Ordination News from the North

I was graduated from Bangor Theological Seminary with the degree of Master of Divinity this past May. In September, I received and accepted a call from the Smith Memorial Congregational Church, UCC, in Hillsborough, NH to be their next pastor and teacher. On November 23 at First Congregational UCC in East Millinocket, Maine, I will receive ordination to the Christian ministry by the Aroostook Association of the Maine Conference, United Church of Christ. In January of the new year I shall take up my new office in Hillsborough. I cannot begin to tell you how grateful I am to the Fairhaven church for nurturing me in my faith and in the discernment of my call to pastoral ministry.

God bless and keep you all,  
Andrew J. MacLeod

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, 11 Maple Street,  
East Millinocket, ME 04430 207-746-5575 Res. 207-731-4664

## Fairhaven Community Concert Series



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

### 2008-2009 Season

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| <b>November 16, 2008</b>                               | <b>2:00</b> |
| <b>North Shore Acappella</b>                           |             |
| <b>December 14, 2008</b>                               | <b>2:00</b> |
| <b>Synergy Brass Quintet</b>                           |             |
| <b>February 22, 2009</b>                               | <b>7:00</b> |
| <b>Matt Richard Quintet<br/>Mardi Gras Dinner</b>      |             |
| <b>March 8, 2009</b>                                   | <b>2:00</b> |
| <b>Fumito Nunoya - Marimbas</b>                        |             |
| <b>April 26, 2009</b>                                  | <b>7:00</b> |
| <b>David Langevin, Organ Recital<br/>Spring Dinner</b> |             |

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





### **JESUS AND ME**

A Youth Group for Grades 1-3  
Third Sunday of the Month – 3:00-4:30

### **KIDS SUPPER KLUB**

Grades 4 & 5  
Second Sunday of the Month – 4:00-6:00

### **YOUTH NIGHT OUT**

Grades 6-8  
Third Sunday of the Month – 6:30-8:00

### **MISSION BOUND**

Grades 9-12  
WATCH FOR KICK-OFF EVENT!

## **Baptism Sunday November 16th**

We are a baptizing church! Each year we baptize a number of babies whose parents are seeking an open and welcoming place in which to have their child blessed. We believe that by providing this kind of hospitality, we are planting seeds of faith that, with God's help, will blossom as the child grows and matures. While many of the families whose children we baptize do not choose to take part in church activities we pray that somewhere they will find a church to become involved in.



As an extension of our "baptism hospitality," this year we are planning a Baptism Sunday. We have invited the families of all children baptized here in the past twelve months to join us on November 16 for a time of renewal of vows and celebration. Together with them, we will celebrate God's extravagant welcome to all who seek God's love. Join us for this special day!

## **Here is Erwan Our New Sponsored Child**

Dear The First Congregational Church,  
I am Erwan's mother who helps him to write you a letter because he is not able to write yet. How are you and your family? I hope that you and your family are fine. My family and I are fine too, thank you. It is a pleasure for me to write you a letter again. I want to tell more about my family. I also insert my family picture inside the letter. I hope that you are happy to receive it.

We are so happy that you pay attention to Erwan. He becomes more enthusiastic to go to school because of you. We always lead him to be a smart and happy boy. I take him to school everyday.

Erwan likes reading. He is able to read, even not so well. I want to introduce my family. His father's name is Ngadiyono, 49 years old. He works as a peasant. My name is Tugiyem, 38 years old. I do not work. He has an elder brother, Eko Winamo, 17 years old. He studies at third grade of Senior High School.

He has also a younger brother, 5 years old who studies at Kindergarten. All of us are proud having a sponsor like you.

Now we are having rice harvest time. We can have rice harvest if the rice is yellow.

Our family and I are so grateful that Erwan can become your sponsored child.

I hope that he can have a better life through this. I think that is all my writing. I will always pray to The God for your health and your family's health. I send a love greeting for you and your family.

Best regards,  
Tugiyem, Erwan's mother  
On behalf of Erwan Ramadhani





**November 16,  
2008 Holiday Hope  
gift tags will be avail-  
able.** Help us adopt-a-  
family this Christmas  
season. Pick a tag, purchase,  
wrap and return the gift with the tag attached.



Action for Christ will have numerous mission opportunities for our congregation in the next couple of months.

**October 26, 2008 we will begin our annual food drive,** which will help a number of families receive Thanksgiving food baskets. We contact the Community Nurses, Senior Center/Council on Aging, and the Veterans Agent along with Reverend Bette to obtain names. If you know a person in need please contact anyone from the committee. **Bring your offerings in on or before November 23 for dedication.**



Thanksgiving  
Food Baskets

**November 30-Dec 21,  
2008 Fill up the Mitten Tree** with warm hats, mittens, gloves, socks, scarves... to be distributed throughout the winter months.



**December 7, 2008 Please return all  
Holiday Hope gifts** so they can be dedicated. Our delivery date is December 9 & 10.

**December 15, 2008 Erwan  
Ramandhani, our sponsor child, turns 8  
years old** and Action for Christ would like to send pictures of the children in Sunday school and ask them to make birthday cards for him. If you would like to include a card or note, please speak to any A.F.C. member. You may also email Erwan at [sr132@ccfindonesia.org](mailto:sr132@ccfindonesia.org) and Christian Children's Fund will print and forward it to him.



**November 9, 2008 Carl  
MacDonald from Boston  
City Missions** will preach about missions. **Join us for a light lunch** and some hands on projects that Carl has put together. He will also help Action for Christ put together a plan for other hands-on mission projects.

**November 16, 2008  
Operation Christmas Child  
gifts will be dedicated,** so that they can be delivered on November 17. If you are interested in helping us out, pamphlets are available. The pamphlets include all the information needed about packing a shoe box, suggested gifts, and also a list of what *not* to include. Shoe boxes are available for anyone who needs one.





## Thanks & a Tip of the Hat to...

To Mabel Filipek & Ruth Cree, The Fields Family, Karen Elliott & Betty Monk and Janet & David Young for greeting and hosting coffee hour in October.

To Karen Elliott, Sharon Dorian, and the Kuechler family for their worship leadership in October.

To Sue Burr for helping with the Dedication of the Elevator Sept. 21st

To Sharon, Steve and Emily Dorian for making soup for the Oct 5<sup>th</sup> Luncheon.

To Rev. Bette for camping out at the church on Oct 23rd & 24th to be on hand for our Bioneer on the Bay Hostel groups.

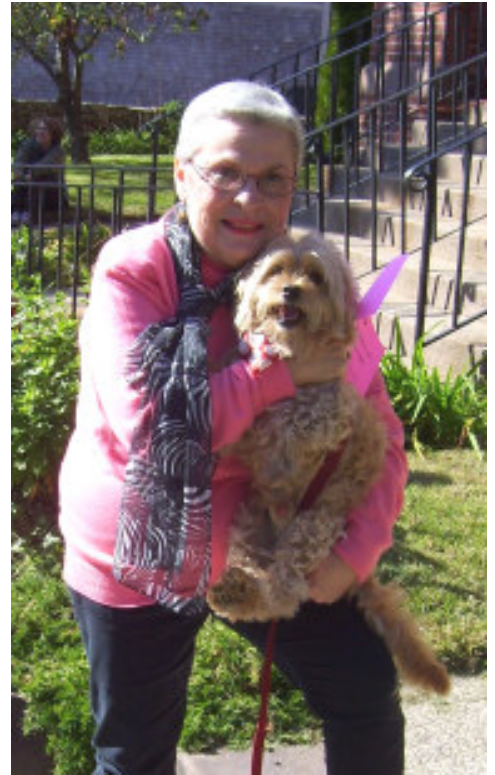
To Ron Johansen, Sharon Dorian, Susan Burr and Barbara Mills for supplying rides to Arthur.

To all who helped in Sunday School in October.

To LeeAnn Wood and Ellen Fields for shopping and restocking the food pantry.

**Worship and Bible  
Adventures Sunday School  
take place each Sunday at  
10:00 a.m.**

**Please Join Us!!**



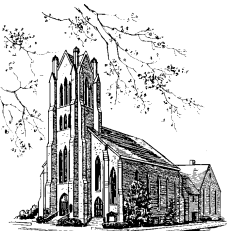
*Karen Elliott and Reggie both smile after receiving their blessing from Rev. Bette at the Blessing of the Animals on October 12th.*



### Next Messenger Deadline: November 21st for Dec & Jan activities

#### ***The Messenger***

First Congregational Church  
34 Center Street  
Fairhaven MA 02719-2931



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