



The Messenger

Volume 57 No. 8

First Congregational Church

Fairhaven, Massachusetts

October 2008

The First Congregational Church

34 Center Street
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

Catch the Excitement! Witness the Joy! Shape the Vision!

Help us Create a Vision....

Proverbs says, “ Without a vision the people perish .” The Apostle Paul was unable to proceed in his ministry until he had a “ vision “ of a man from Macedonia calling him. Peter had a vision that “ God shows no partiality “ and it changed his life. In this post-modern world the most vital churches are those that can clearly articulate how God is calling them into the future.



Dale Hempfen, Area Minister will be preaching on **Sunday, October 5th** and will hold a visioning session following worship.

Soup Luncheon will be served!

We request that all who are able join us for this important part of revitalizing our church. Please RSVP!!! (508-993-3368)

____ I/We would love to be there! Count me/us in.

____ I /We would love to be there, but have a previous engagement.

Name _____



Tuesday Morning Prayer Walks Continue!

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,

In our June newsletter I gave you an assignment for the summer. I told you to dream - to dream big and bold and wide. I asked you to dream about your vision for our church and its future and to talk about that vision with others. My hope was that, among all of us, we might be able to craft a direction for our congregation - one that is faithful to God and one that challenges us to move forward into a future filled with possibilities.

We've spent the past five years or so working hard on making our building accessible, renovating the tower and replacing the roof. We've hammered and nailed and built and painted. And everything looks great! We should be proud of what we have accomplished and we should thank God for giving us the courage to undertake such a project. But there are more challenges that lie before us.

So now is the time to turn in your homework! (You did do it, didn't you?) No excuses now! On Sunday October 5th, Dale Hempen, Associate Conference Minister for the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ will preach at our worship service. Following the service and a light meal of soup, salad and bread, Dale will lead us in a vision session that will help us put substance to our dreams and visions for our church. Hopefully, we will emerge from this process with renewed energy and a solid sense of where God is leading us next.

Join us, won't you? Help us to make dreams come true!

Blessings,

Bette

Call to Special Meeting October 19, 2008

A special meeting of the members of the First Congregational Church of Fairhaven will be held in the sanctuary on Sunday, October 19, 2008 directly after the worship service.

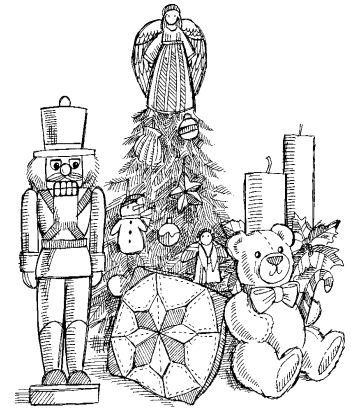
Article I: To VOTE on a revised budget for the fiscal year 2008-2009.

Signed:
LeeAnn Wood, Clerk

**(See Inserts for Detailed
Financial Information)**

Church Fair Planning

It's time again to plan for the Old Time Holiday Fair to be held on Saturday, December 13th. Chair persons are needed to coordinate the activities. Some members have already been thinking in that direction.



*Kraig Perry is looking for scrap pine wood that is large enough to build birdhouses with. Call Kraig at 508-993-0620 if you have any.

*Peg Rogers has brought in several bags of new yarn for knitters who would like some. It is mostly 8 oz. acrylic Red Heart in a variety of colors. Available in the church office.

Please speak to any member of the Church Council regarding your ideas or availability to help!

Blessing of the Animals to be held Oct 12th



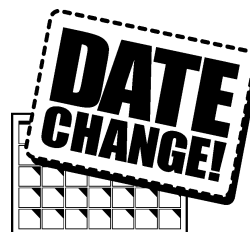
A special Blessing of the Animals on our lawn on **Sunday, October 12th at 2:00 p.m.** You are invited to bring your pet on a leash or in a cage/ carrier. There will be a brief time of general

prayer honoring God's creation and then each animal will be given a special individual blessing. Pets of all kinds – dogs, cats, birds, lizards, guinea pigs, rabbits, snakes – all are welcome. All pet owners are welcome also – children, youth, adults, seniors – whether from our church or not. Spread the word!

Handymen Looking for workers



Our Handymen 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. New volunteers are always being sought!

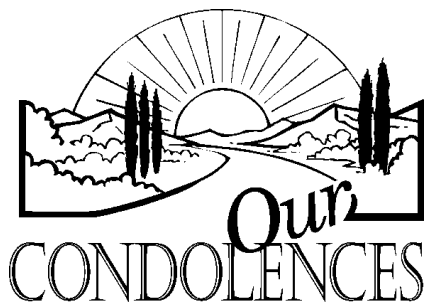


Pot Luck Fellowship & Program

Friday, October 3rd
6:30 p.m.

See Australia through the eyes of Meghan Dorian. Meg will share photos of her summer journey "Down Under" as a People to People Student Ambassador. All are welcome and bring a friend!

Our Deepest Sympathies



To the family & friends of Nancy Bunnell -- Nancy, wife of Christopher Bunnell, died on September 5th after a long illness.

To the family & friends of Maggie Fields -- Maggie, mother of Bill Fields, died on September 11th at Tabor Street Nursing Home.

To the family & friends of Janet Whiting -- A long time member, Janet died on September 21st at The Royal Nursing Home.

To the family & friends of Juliet Tripp -- Also a long time member, Juliet died on September 25th after a long illness.

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.



The Women's Fellowship will meet on **Wednesday, October 8, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.** A supper of chicken over rice, vegetables, etc and a diabetic desert will be served. Cost is \$6.00 and reservations should be made by October 5th with either Polly Hood 508-999-6771 or Allie Clooney 508-993-8668. A program planned by Carol Rodrigues will follow entitled "Good Reads" by Doreen Skidmore, Millicent Library Circulation Assistant. All ladies are welcome to attend.

Old Colony Fall Meeting

Old Colony Women's Association will hold its Fall Meeting at the Smith Mills Congregational Church at 11 Anderson Way, Dartmouth on October 21 at 9:00 a.m. Lunch of Soup and Sandwich with a surprise dessert. Cost is \$5.00. Rev. Richardson will present "Hands Across the Pond" sharing his experiences of his trip to England.. Car pooling can be arranged by calling Betty Monk 508-992-2004.

Choral Workshop Featuring composer Mark Hayes



**Sat, October 18th
8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

**Pilgrim United
Church of Christ
94 School Street, New Bedford**

**Registration forms are available
in the office. Cost is \$30 for
music, snacks and lunch.**

**Free informal concert at 2:00
p.m. Open to the public.**

**Contact Dave Touchette for further information:
508-542-2295 or e-mail: muntjac8@aol.com**



Javier Caballero kicks off Sixth Season

The Fairhaven Community Concert Series begins its sixth season on Sunday, **October 19, with a Meat Pie Dinner at 5:30 p.m.** followed by performance of the outstanding cellist **Javier Caballero at 7:00 p.m.**

Javier R. Caballero, born in Puerto Rico, received his Master's degree as a student of Rhonda Rider at the Boston Conservatory, where he won the 2005 String Department Honors Competition. Previously, he received his Bachelor's degree from the University of South Florida under Scott Kluksdahl. He has performed with Diana Ross and the Supremes, Sarah Brightman, Mannheim Steamroller, and the Irish Tenors and served as principal cellist of Tampa's Mostly Pops Orchestra and chamber soloist with Florida Pro Musica, an early music ensemble. He has also participated in the Apple Hill Chamber Music Festival, International Baroque Institute at Longy, Brandeis Summer Music Festival with the Lydian Quartet, and Cello Seminar in Salem, NY.

Mr. Caballero has toured China and was featured on PBS and QVC. Performances have taken him from Jordan Hall, Boston Public Library, Forest Hills Cemetery, Boston's MFA and the TD Banknorth Garden to clubs such as Ryles Jazz Club, Karoun, Lizard Lounge, TT the Bear's Place, Club Felt and Makor (NYC). He has also performed and recorded with the Balmus Ensemble, the Tami Machnai Ensemble, the Tim Janis Ensemble, the indie rock bands Verona Downs and Cordis Music, and with local singers Ingrid Gerdes and Jenn Taranto. A frequent freelancer in the Boston area, Mr. Caballero has also worked with the Wheelock Family Theater, Boston Lyric Stage, Concord Players, Reagle Players, Fiddlehead Theatre, and Longwood Players.

Fairhaven Community Concert Series



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

2008-2009 Season

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| October 19, 2008 | 7:00 |
| Javier Caballero - 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 | |
| April 26, 2009 | 7:00 |
| David Langevin, Organ Recital
Spring Dinner | |

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

**Discounted Season
Tickets are available
until 7:00 p.m. on
October 19th!**

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.**



JESUS AND ME

A Youth Group for Grades 1-3

Third Sunday of the Month – 3:00-4:30

Kids in grades 1-3 are invited to join in a new, fun activity designed just for them. Each month we will meet for games, crafts, snack and a brief worship/prayer time. Open to youth in the church and their friends. Parents may be asked to provide snack supplies and to help out one time during the year.

KIDS SUPPER KLUB

Grades 4 & 5

Second Sunday of the Month – 4:00-6:00

In its 3rd year, this popular group meets to prepare a meal together, play games and discuss their interests.

YOUTH NIGHT OUT

Grades 6-8

Third Sunday of the Month – 6:30-8:00

A newly designed program that will include fun activities, food and outreach opportunities. Open to church youth and their friends.

MISSION BOUND

Grades 9-12

Second Sunday of the Month – 6:30-8:00

Learning about the needs of others and reaching out a helping hand is an important part of the process of growing into adulthood. High School youth are being offered a new opportunity to serve others in our community and beyond. Come to the first meeting to learn more about this exciting new venture.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Grades 8 & 9

Fourth Sunday of the Month -- 6:30-8:00

Welcome Erwan: our New Sponsored Child

June 5, 2008

Dear First Congregational Church,

I am Erwan's mother who help him to write you a letter because he is not able to write yet. My family are very grateful to know you are willing to become his sponsor. We have supposed you as our family member.

Actually, Erwan has hoped to have a sponsor like his friends for long time because he wants to enjoy his childhood well. My family are not able to fulfill all his needs. My husband works as a labor(er) with low and uncertain income, while I do not work because I have to take care of little Erwan.

At the present, Erwan is 7 years old. He is a clever boy. I will lead him to be a smart boy and will not make you disappointed.

I hope we can have good relationship. If you have time to write, send me a letter. If there are several questions about Erwan, you can ask me

through letter. I promise I will answer all your questions as well as I can.

I think that is all my writing. Next time, we can continue it again and may God bless you and your family.

Best regard,
Tugiyem (Erwan's mother)

Your can write to Erwan and his family at the address below:

Erwan Ramadhani - 132/059533/01079
Putro Linuwih/4244
Christian Children's Fund
P.O. Box 1364
Jakarta 10013 Indonesia

OR YOU CAN NOW E-MAIL! Just send your message to sr132@ccfindonesia.org. Your message will be printed and forwarded to our child and a return letter will be sent.



Corner Cupboard: Pantry Sees Record Use

September set a record for use of our pantry. **Eigh-**
teen families - many referred here by other agencies- were helped by your donations. However, that means that the cubboards are very bare. 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.



Operation Christmas Child



The Action for Christ Committee along with the confirmation class is sponsoring Operation Christmas Child this year. This outreach program - a project of Samaritan's Purse - delivers shoe

boxes to poor, sick, and suffering children worldwide at Christmas time. These shoe boxes are filled with toys, school supplies, candy, and other gifts.

If you are interested in helping us out, pamphlets will be available beginning October 5th. These pamphlets include all the information needed about packing a shoe box, suggested gifts, and also a list of what ***not*** to include. It will be fun to see how many small gifts you can fit inside a shoe box knowing that this gift will bring joy to children around the world.

The collection week for the shoe boxes is November 17-24 and we are also planning a dedication Sunday in November. More information about this project will be included in the bulletin and the November messenger. If you have any questions, please call Lee Ann Wood at 508-997-3851.



Kraig Perry helps with some finish work, while David Wood and other volunteers help landscape at the Habitat for Humanity build in Wareham on September 20th. Thanks to the Perrys the Woods, the Heskettts and Barbara Mills, who helped out that day!





Thanks & a Tip of the Hat to...

To the Women's Fellowship for hosting three funeral collations in September.

To Sue Burr for all the flowers, decorating, cleaning and set-up done.

To Norm & Chauncy Burr for fixing up the choir robe closet.

To Julie Lawton for her continued painting efforts.

To Kyle & Andrew Bueno, Kathleen Abel, & Laura Gardner for their musical offerings in September.

To Ron Johansen, Al Jones and the Dorians for providing rides to Arthur.

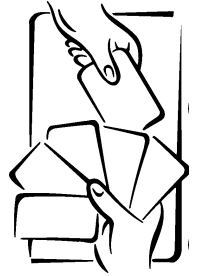
To Ron & Bev Johanse, The Whynacht family, Al & Marge Jones and John & Peg Rogers for greeting and hosting coffee hour in September.

To Marian Purington, Karen Elliott, Al Jones and Bev Johansen for providing worship leadership in September.

To all who have helped teach Sunday School in September.

To Rev. Bette for designing and implementing several exciting new youth programs, and to all who have come to enjoy them and help out.

Bridge Nights



Continue on
Monday

Evenings at
7:00 p.m.

All levels welcome!

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

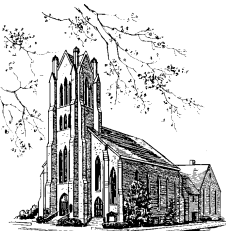
Exciting Things are
Happening Here!
Be a Part of It!



Next Messenger Deadline: October 24th

The Messenger

First Congregational Church
34 Center Street
Fairhaven MA 02719-2931



EST 1794

Please do not delay
Time value - dated material
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Budget Update and Our Financial Position

Since early spring, a group known as the Budget Committee has been working hard to make a concise report of the Church's Financial position and to propose a revised budget for the fiscal year 2009. As was requested at the annual meeting in April, a report back to the congregation was to be made by September. This page contains a reconciliation of the Capital Campaign Account and the following pages contain the revised budget in both narrative and line-item form. Please review this information carefully. **A special meeting will be held on October 19th following worship** to approve the 2009 budget as revised and to answer any questions there still may be on our financial position.

Most notable in the revised budget is \$50,440.04 budgeted for fundraising and other income. Of that nearly \$10,000 has already been raised via special events, coffee can club, shaw's receipts etc. An additional \$9,000 budgeted for hall use and an additional \$26,602 budgeted for miscellaneous fundraising. This is where participation by members is critical. Your ideas for funding this category are most welcome!

Capital Campaign Account Reconciliation

INCOME

Cash Pledges received	\$147,752
Other Cash Income	19,350
Grants	<u>52,000</u>
Total cash collected	219,102
Borrowed from our funds	267,633
Interest Income	<u>3,280</u>
Total Income	490,015

EXPENSES

Invoices Paid	487,719
Cash on hand	2,296

Future Pledged Income

Due on cash pledges	32,770
Planned Giving pledges	<u>350,000</u>
Total	382,770

All future income is to repay the loan made to ourselves from our invested funds.