



The Messenger

Volume 57 No. 7

First Congregational Church

Fairhaven, Massachusetts

September 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



Volunteers Wanted!!!

Would you like to build new relationships and have a sense of community? Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit Christian housing ministry with a mission to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness, so that people can live and grow into all that God has intended. The Byrne Circle Build in Wareham is looking for volunteers to paint/landscape. **Action for Christ has set a date for Saturday, September 20, 2008.** We may be painting or landscaping as the finishing touches are being completed on this build. No special skills are necessary. If you are interested, please fill out the survey form and returned to Donna Perry. The minimum age is 16, although waivers can be signed. The time and necessary supplies will be firmed up soon. (SEE INSERT FOR THE VOLUNTEER SURVEY.)



September 7th

"Let's Shine for God!"

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

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



Pot Luck Fellowship & Program

Friday, September 26, 2008
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!



Tuesday Morning Prayer Walks Continue!

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

Since the beginning of July we have been walking along Fort Phoenix Beach and having a time of prayer in the middle of the walk. We've decided to continue "until the snow flies" and hope many more will join us. We walk and chat, stretch and pray and enjoy God's beautiful creation. Generally we are on our way home again by 8:15.

**Help dedicate our
renovations and new
elevator on Sunday,
September 21st
during worship!**

"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,

When I work with children, one of the things I try to help them understand is that "church" is not simply the building where we come to worship on Sunday or where they attend Sunday School. I explain that God is everywhere in the world and that God wants us, God's church, to reach outside of the walls of our sanctuary and minister to everyone, reflecting God's love to the whole world.

That is why our Action for Christ Committee is working hard to provide opportunities for each of us to do some "hands on" mission work. That is why we are attempting to offer our youth some new mission-oriented experiences. And that is why the church as a whole is focusing on being more visible in the community through new programs and activities.

Recently I was presented with a new opportunity that I believe will help to connect our church even more with the wider community. As of the beginning of September I will be serving as Minister of Pastoral Care with the Inter-Church Council of Greater New Bedford (ICC). This is a 12 hour a week position that will be **in addition** to my ongoing work here as your pastor. I will be coordinating the volunteer Protestant chaplains at both St. Luke's and Tobey Hospitals. My work will include facilitating a monthly chaplains' group at each hospital, recruiting, training and supervising new chaplains as needed, coordinating services and procedures with the hospitals, scheduling local pastors to provide overnight emergency coverage and maintaining reports and statistics. In addition, I will facilitate a weekly meeting with two ICC staff who are involved in the housing ministry.

The Inter-Church Council has a long history of involving the member churches in the life of New Bedford and neighboring towns. I anticipate that the pastoral ministry I do at ICC will link our church with other ministry and community services in a way that will enhance our visibility and our outreach to the larger community. It is exciting and energizing to find new ways to serve God.

Blessings,

Bette



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.



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, September 2nd
through September 30th
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.

The MACUCC will hold a conference featuring Martha Grace Reese on November 15th. To be part of our team, see Rev. Bette.



Handymen for Hire

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.



For health, safety and esthetic reasons, the Nursery has been moved to the Preschool Classroom off Maddaford Vestry.

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 August 31st -- in loving memory of **James Henry Fitts, III** by his family.

Congratulations

To **Timothy & Rebecca Lagasse** on the August 10th baptism of their daughter Aubrey Rose Lagasse.

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, Dot Gammans, Pete Braley.



Time to get Together Again - The Women's Fellowship will be having a Supper and Meeting on **Wednesday, September 10th at 5:30 p.m.**

It will be an "Italian dinner a la Riccardi's." Cost is \$6.00 and reservations are necessary. These are to be made with Carol Gage 508-994-7901 by **September 7th**. Post cards will also be sent out by Mabel Filipek.

All ladies of the Parish are welcome to attend and will be most welcome. Call Betty Monk 508-992-2004 if you need a ride so arrangements can be made.

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.

Boy Scouts Troop 55/Pack 55 Rally

Pack 55 and Troop 55 will be holding registration on **Thursday, September 11, 2008 @ 6:30 p.m.**

Boys in grades 1 through 5 will sign up with the pack which is geared toward family activities. Boys in grades 6 and up or ages 12 and over will sign up with the troop. The troop program is geared toward outdoorsman, and leadership skills. Both are always fun. E-mail Scott Fernandez (sjfern20@comcast.net) or call Norm Burr (508-994-6472) for more information.



So many thanks to my friends at church for your visits, flowers, cards and prayers while I was at the hospital and at Rehab. I came home on 8/16 and boy am I glad to be back in my own bed! I'm feeling better and I'm sure all of your thoughts and prayers helped. Thanks again!

Love,
Sue Gonsalves

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.

Fairhaven Community Concert Series



<http://fhnccs.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

April 26, 2009 7:00
David Langevin, Organ Recital
Spring Dinner

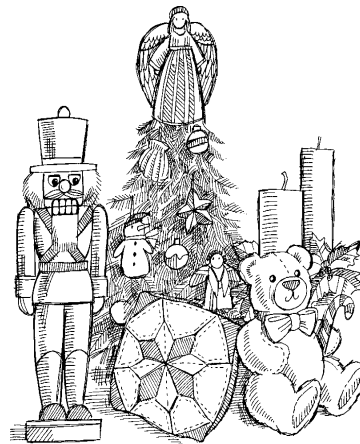
Concert tickets are \$10.
Children are FREE with an adult.
Dinner tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

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!



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

Third Sunday of the Month – 6:30-8:00

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

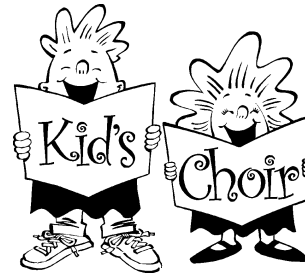
Second Sunday of the Month – 6:30-8:00

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



Join the Kid's Choir

Anyone in 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.



Praise God with Music

Youth and adults are welcome to join the choir and band. Choir rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Band rehearsals are announced and are held before choir. Come work with Music Director, Dave Touchette and add your gift to worship.



Corner Cupboard: Food for Life

The Food Pantry continues to supply many area families and individuals.

August was particularly busy serving **10** clients. Thanks to all who have helped restock and donated gift cards. 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.



This organization provides basic essentials to low-income and homeless children (birth to pre-teens) and opportunities for meaningful,

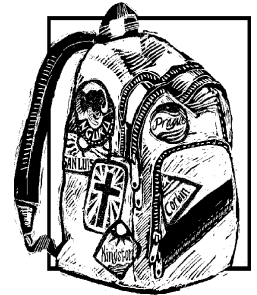
tangible volunteerism. See the schedule in the William Street entry for dates & times to volunteer.

Community Nurse & Hospice Care

Volunteers are Needed! Training session to be held on Friday, Sept 12th & Saturday, Sept 13th from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at main office on Center Street, Fairhaven. Call Jo-Ann Beaulieu at 508-992-6278 for info.

Fill a Back-Pack Campaign

Thank you for all the back to school supplies and back-packs donated to our fill a back-pack campaign. Four filled packs were given to East Fairhaven School and two were supplied to the Wood School. The remaining supplies were distributed through the food pantry.



Peaceful Parenting

Is it possible? Yes, says Dr. Nancy Buck, founder of Peaceful Parenting, Inc. who will bring her expertise to a conference in the Community Center at Ft. Tabor, New Bedford on Saturday, September 27th. The conference is especially oriented to parents and to professionals who work with parents. Social Workers will be able to obtain six NASW CEU's. The cost, including lunch, is \$10.00 for parents and \$25.00 for social workers who seek continuing education credits. Call Family Nonviolence, Inc. at (508) 996-1100 for registration before September 22.

Coalition Supports Keeping the State Income Tax

The state ballot in November will include Question 1, the repeal of the State Income Tax. This is a very serious attack on many state services, on state support for public education, on repair of our roads, bridges and other infrastructure, health care and aid to cities and towns. Presently 40% of the state budget depends on the State Income Tax.

The Coalition Against Poverty is mounting a drive to raise public awareness of the critical nature of this attack and is seeking for help for the members of the public to do telephoning, to do other types of outreach, and to support the effort with funds to make the effort successful.

Anyone who would like to be part of this effort can contact the Coalition at (508) 999-2777.



Thanks & a Tip of the Hat to...

To Bette McClure, Dot Bungert, Sharon Dorian, John & Peg Rogers, Al & Marge Jones, Bev Johansen and anyone I missed who shared their faith through the Lemonade on the Lawn Ministry.

To Al Jones, Ron Johansen, Kyle, Andrew & Peter Bueno and Nathan Jones for their work contributions to the Handyman Ministry.

To Bette McClure, Sue & Norm Burr for cleaning & moving the Nursery into the Maddaford

Preschool Room.

To Julie Lawton for her continued painting stewardship.

To All who helped make Vaction Bible Camp a success!

To Jerry & Sally Wheeler for hosting the Music Gathering and for those who attended for their donations to the food pantry.

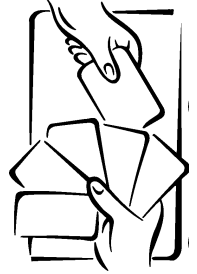
To Carol & John Gage, John & Peg Rogers, Jerry & Sally Wheeler, Al & Marge Jones, and Bob & Bev Heskett for greeting and hosting coffee hour in August.

To Carol Gage, Al Jones, Barbara Mills, Sally Wheeler and Bob Heskett for their worship leadership in August.

To all who have attended the numerous opportunities this summer for worship & fellowship!

Bridge Nights

Monday
Evenings



Sept 8th - Sept 22nd
7:00 p.m.

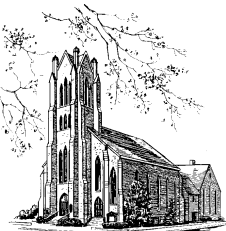
All levels welcome!



Next Messenger Deadline: September 26th

The Messenger

First Congregational Church
34 Center Street
Fairhaven MA 02719-2931



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MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

The Apostle Paul wrote, “For the body does not consist of one member but many...there are many parts, yet one body...Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.” Each of us, not only the ordained pastor and paid staff of the church, is called to share in the ministry of Christ. Through our baptism we become ministers and God ordains us to spread the Good News. Please consider fulfilling your call to ministry through one or more of the ministries offered by your church. There is room for everyone to participate. Join us in making this church all that it can be!

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Bradford-Russell Ministry - We have a substantial sum of money that was given to us some years ago when the Bradford-Russell Home closed. The funds are to be used to assist elderly person in Fairhaven to maintain comfortable homes. Join a small team that will reach out to community agencies to find individuals who can benefit from these funds.

Transportation Ministry – Volunteer to provide transportation to folks who need to get to church, shop or keep medical appointments. You can sign up to be called occasionally or can agree to provide this important ministry on an on-going basis.

“We Care Calls” Ministry – Join a team who follow up with regular worship attendees who we haven’t seen for awhile. This ministry involves phone calls to check on individuals and see if there is a way the church might better meet their needs or just be a friendly voice saying “we miss you.”

Visitation Ministry – Members of our church who are house-bound get lonely. We are looking for folks to help keep these members connected to the church through occasional visits and phone calls. All that’s needed is a listening ear and a loving heart. Training will be provided.

Community Ministry – The Action for Christ Committee will be planning occasional hands-on projects throughout the year. Watch for more information.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Kids Supper Klub – Volunteer to help run this monthly program for 4th and 5th grade youth. Help with cooking supper, playing games and craft work. Folks needed for one time during the year or on an on-going basis

Youth Night Out – Be part of a small team that works with Rev. Bette to plan and supervise a monthly group for Middle School youth

Mission Bound – Interested in helping others? Join us to help develop a new High School program that will involve youth in mission and outreach work.

JAM (Jesus and Me) – This new ministry program will provide a monthly recreational activity for children in grades 1-3. Volunteer to help get it off the ground.

Bible Adventures Sunday School – Minister to the young in our church family by volunteering to be a Sunday School teacher. We need people to teach in 1 to 4 week blocks. We are also looking for someone interested in working with our 8-12 grade youth once or twice a month.

MUSIC & WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Adult Choir – Join the choir and be part of leading worship each Sunday. Middle & High school youth and adults are welcome.

Kids Choir – God calls all of us to be part of ministry. Kids are invited to learn new songs and add joy to our worship services.

Band – “Make a joyful noise to the Lord!” Whatever instrument you play and whether you are a youth or an adult, come make music to praise God.

Worship Team – Folks are needed to work with Rev. Bette to plan special worship services and to help imagine some creative new ways to worship each Sunday.