



The Messenger

Volume 56 No. 9

First Congregational Church

Fairhaven, Massachusetts

November 2007

The First Congregational Church

34 Center Street
Fairhaven, MA
02719

Tel: (508) 993-3368

e-mail: fccof@juno.com

www.firstcongfairhaven.com

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



Are You "Going the Second Mile?"

New Pledges to be Received November 4th

"...If any one forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles" (Matthew 5:41)

As you read this Messenger, we are coming to the completion of this year's Stewardship Drive. Many thanks to the Stewardship Committee (Al Jones, Carol Gage, and Bev Johansen) for sharing their thoughts and experiences of stewardship with all of us.

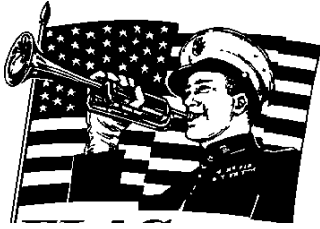
On **Sunday, November 4th**, you will be asked to make your pledge during the worship service. Please prayerfully consider making a generous pledge for 2008. Take a chance, heed Jesus' words, and go the second mile with us! If everyone increased their pledge by just \$2.00 each week, we would be much closer to our goal of covering our operating expenses with pledges.

A Pledge Card is included in this Messenger. If you are unable to join us on November 4th, please fill it out and return it to the church office as soon as possible.

New offering envelopes for collection of your 2008 pledge will be distributed in December.

We Need
Your
Pledge.





Our Men & Women in Service

L.Cpl. Tyler Tripp, USMC
Djibouti, Somalia
Grandson of Joe & Juliet Tripp

Sgt. Jonathan M. Rice, ARMY,
Fort Drum
P.O. Christopher H. Rice, NAVY,
Brunswick NAS
Betty Monk's Grandsons

Lt. Marc Lavoie, RCC 94th Iraq
son of friends of Ann & Jim Cochran



Hearing assist devices, large print bulletins and now large print hymnals are available for anyone who needs them to make worship a more comfortable experience. Ask the greeter or usher!

"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,

The issue of expanded, casino gambling is one of the current "hot topics" in our state. With the recognition of the Wampanoag Tribe by the Federal Government, and Gov. Patrick's support for casinos, many people feel that it is

inevitable that at least one casino will be opened in Massachusetts, very likely in our part of the state.

We probably hold a variety of opinions on this issue. So much of what we read in the press and hear on the radio or television seems to hold up expanded gambling as a panacea for our economic woes. I encourage you to read about the economic and social costs of expanded gambling on the Massachusetts Council of Churches web site - www.masscouncilofchurches.org. Copies of that information will be available at the church. I also urge you to attend a forum on casino gambling sponsored by a coalition that includes the Inter-Church Council of Greater New Bedford on November 12th at the Whaling Museum. As a member of the ICC's Advocacy Committee I have taken part in the planning for that event.

In the meantime, consider the following ethical questions as you think and pray about this issue:

- Does the policy have the capacity to be good news for the poor? Does it reverse the trend toward widening the gap between rich and poor?
- Is the policy good for children, the elderly and the disadvantaged?
- Does the policy represent the common good of society?

(continued on page 6 - Gambling)

The Action for Christ Committee has chosen to make up seven baskets this year which will be given to persons recommended by the Visiting Nurses, the Council on Aging, and the Town Veteran's Representative.

On Sunday November 4th, grocery bags will be handed out with lists of food suggestions for these Thanksgiving Food Baskets. **Bring your offerings back to church on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 18th** to be dedicated during the Morning Worship. Any excess will be used in the food pantry.



Thanksgiving
Food Baskets

Church Fair



The First Congregational Church Fair will be held in coordination with the Town's Old Time Holiday on **December 8th**.

If you are able to help in any way please contact: Beverly & Ron Johansen 508-992-7303 Peg & John Rogers 508-994-3607 or Ann & Jim Cochran 508-990-2642.

Home Cooking

Cheese

Jewelry

Children's Beads

Cookie Walk

Bake Table

Note Paper & Photographs

Luncheon

Christmas Ornaments

Coffee Shop

Centerpieces/Fresh Greens

Chance Auction

Dot Bungert

Bill & Ginny Vining

Donna Perry

Donna Perry

Mabel Filipek & Betty Monk

Ellen Rogers & Alice Cooney

David & Lee Ann Wood

Steven Dorian

Rev. Bette McClure

Marian Purington

Peg Rogers, Bev & Ann

Carol Lawton & Ginny Motta

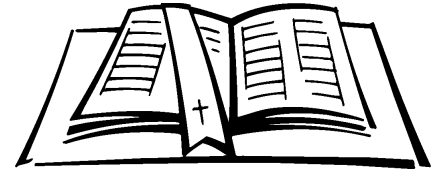
- Donna Perry thanks everyone for their donations of children's beads and at this point she believes she has plenty. She would like any donations of costume jewelry to sell or glass beads. You can bring them in at any time.
- Items will be needed for the Chance Auction - New items, gift certificates, etc. - NO RUMMAGE
- A men's table is looking for donations. Anyone with a talent for wood/metal crafts is invited to contribute.
- Crafters will be allowed to rent space for the day for \$45.
- More raffle tickets are available from the church office.

Musical Transitions



We are pleased to announce that the positions of Music Director and Organist have been filled by two local musicians who are very excited to begin their ministry with us. **Jackie Maillet** started as our organist on October 24th. **David Touchette**, a music

educator in the Dartmouth School system, will be our music director and will be responsible for directing the choir and instrumental ensembles. David will begin on November 1st. Again we thank **Holly Gordon** for filling in as our accompanist and thank **Karen Elliott** and the Music Search Committee for a difficult job well done.



Bible Sunday To Honor Eight

On Sunday, November 4th we honor our 3rd grade Sunday School students by presenting them with their own Bibles during the morning worship. Each Bible will have a special verse underlined just for them.

This year Bibles will be presented to 3rd graders **Matthew Braley, Adam DeMoranville, Alexis Ferland and Victoria Henriques**,

We will also honor **Suzanne Gonsalves, Dorothy Holmes, Cindy Maguire and Alice Cooney**, who became members 50 years ago. Congratulations to all our Bible recipients.



Ensemble

Instrumentalists Needed

Mr. Dave Touchette, Music Director, is calling for instrumentalists of all ages and abilities to join the instrumental ensemble. Please speak to him after church if you are interested in playing. Specific rehearsal times will be arranged.

Pulpit Flowers



On October 7th -- In loving memory of mother, **Laura Felch** by Hal & Marian Purington.

On October 14th -- In loving memory of **Cindy Thomas** by the Bastien family, Carrie and Jonathan. Also flowers were given in memory of Cindy by Suzanne Gonsalves.

Congratulations

To **Matthew Manzone and Laurie Beaulieu** who were married on October 13th. Matt is the son of Ron & Nancy Manzone.

To **Meghan Dorian** who has been accepted as a People to People Student Ambassador and will be traveling to Australia this summer on a 20 day adventure.

To **Sally & Lawrence I'Anson** on the birth of their adopted son, **Ryan Gage** on October 23rd in Oklahoma City. Sally is the niece of Carol & John Gage.

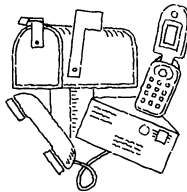
To **The World Champion Boston Red Sox** for giving us another great nail-biting season, lots to talk about and plenty of reasons to test our faith. WE BELIEVE!!



Women's Fellowship

A great meeting of the Women's Fellowship was held on October 10th. A delicious lunch was prepared by Alice Cooney and Polly Hood consisting of Meat and Vegetable Lasagna plus other goodies. The tables were beautifully decorated. Our speaker was Mrs. Maureen Deneault who taught us how to write our name in Hebrew. Volunteers were also arranged to clean the cupboards and dishes in Babbitt kitchen.

Our next event is a **Harvest Festival of Thanksgiving**. It will take place at the Huttleston House Restaurant on **November 14th**. Reservations can be made to Marian Purington by November 12th. (508-997-5313) **Please bring an offering for the food pantry.**



In the Mailbox

Hello Everyone!

Sorry that it took way too long to get back to you, but it has been a crazy time up here, after all it is October in Witch City. I just wanted to thank you so much for the care package. It means so much to know that even though I am away at school I know that my church family still cares about me. I will see you all very soon. God bless ...

Sarah Braley

Dear Church Family,

I recently received your thoughtful package of goodies at UNH. Everything you sent will definitely be used very soon.

Thank you again, Bethany DeBalsi

Dear Members,

Thank you so much for the "care" package I recently received from you. It was greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, Kristin DeBalsi

Dinner for Two Books

Featuring over \$15,000 in free dinners, plays, concerts, cruises and entertainment. They make a nice Christmas present.

The book will be available for your purchase for \$29.95 and all proceeds (\$10.00 for each book sold) from this fundraiser will benefit the church. To purchase, please contact Ann Cochran at 508-990-2642.

Fairhaven Community Concert Series Presents

Aoife Clancy
Folk & Irish Vocalist
Sunday, December 2, 2007
2:00 p.m.

Tickets \$10 for adults
students are free with paying adult.



Fairhaven Community Concert Series

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

**Scheduled Concerts
for Our 5th Season!**
2007-2008

Ms. Clancy brings a refreshing new voice to folk music, one that ranges from traditional Irish songs to ballads and contemporary folk. Her father Bobby Clancy of the legendary Clancy Brothers guided Ms. Clancy into the music scene when she was a teenager. At the age of fourteen she was giving performances in pubs in her native Ireland. This will be her first appearance with FCCS, and her second concert in the 2007 Clancy Legacy Christmas Tour.

She has sung with the acclaimed Irish American group "Cherish the Ladies." She has been a featured soloist with the Boston Pops and the Cincinnati Pops. While performing with Cherish the Ladies, she collaborated with the Boston Pops Orchestra to produce a Grammy nominated Celtic album. She keeps a rigorous concert schedule of two hundred dates per year. She adds to her credits seven recordings over the last ten years. With all of this hard work, she has established herself as a diva of Irish and contemporary folk music.

Recently, Ms. Clancy has toured with her own group highlighting songs from the CD "Silvery Moon." At the December 2, 2007 concert, she will perform solo. This solo appearance will be quite a treat for our audience. A quote from the *Boston Globe* calls Ms. Clancy "an irresistibly amiable entertainer who has come to realize how effective a performer she is." With the intimate setting of the sanctuary of the First Congregational Church of Fairhaven, an audience of her fellow town's people and friends, and the fun and beauty of Irish and folk music, a great afternoon will be had by all!

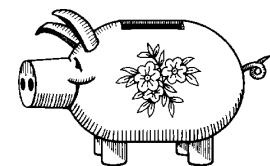
December 2, 2007 2:00 p.m.
Aoife Clancy
Folk & Irish vocalist

January 27, 2008 7:00 p.m.
Mack Williamson
Jazz percussionist
Mardi Gras Dinner 5:30 p.m.

April 13, 2008 7:00 p.m.
The Brentwood Brass
Dinner 5:30

Summer Study Scholarship Fund

Thank you for your continued donations to the Matthew Richard Scholarship Fund. Contributions to date total \$345. The funds will be awarded next 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.



Fundraiser Updates

Goodsearch	\$35.64
Shaws Receipts	\$377.62
Coffee Can	\$1,763.43
Handyman	\$1,720.00

OTHER (Your Idea Here!!)



Bible Adventures Sunday School

One way you can "Go the Second Mile" is to help out in our Sunday School. The November Unit is called "A Schemer and a Dreamer" and will focus on God's astonishing faithfulness even in the face of human failings.

In December the Sunday School will prepare something very special for Christmas Sunday.

We will need teachers again beginning in January.

See Pam Kuechler, Stacey Burr or Janet Desrochers if you can help.

(Gambling - continued from page 2)

rather than the interest of an elite few?

- Is the policy based on true analysis?

Does it disclose its true intention?

- Does this policy show sensitivity to the spirit of the golden rule?

Finally, consider this: "...Two billion dollars is the amount that Massachusetts residents must gamble and lose here for the state to take in the proposed \$400 million in "new revenues." The average Massachusetts resident currently spends \$903.63 on the lottery each year (a staggering figure, since it is an average not reflecting persons who do not buy lottery tickets). If the legislature were to approve slot machines and casino gambling, Commonwealth residents could be asked to lose another two billion dollars. What kind of public outcry would there be if the government proposed a two billion dollar tax increase on poor and working people and on seniors? That is not good stewardship—either on the part of state government or personal financial resources."

[www.masscouncilofchurches.org/
EthicalQuestionsGambling.htm](http://www.masscouncilofchurches.org/EthicalQuestionsGambling.htm)

Blessings,

Bette



Youth Groups

Kid's Supper Klub

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

November 4th

December 9th

Youth Group

Middle & High School - Sundays, time varies

November 11th @ 6:30

T-Day Favors

December 16th

LaSalette

January 13th

Bake Bread

February 10th

Lead Sunday Worship

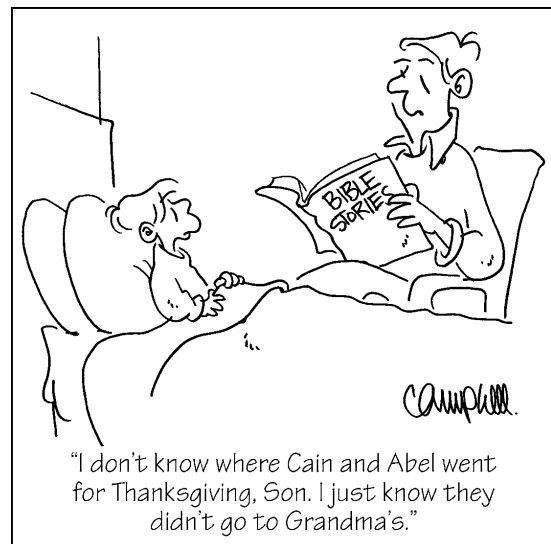
March 2nd

March 9th

April 13th

May 18th

June 29th



Pot Luck Fellowship

November 16, 2007

6:30 p.m.

Church Family Fun Night - A time for children, youth and adults to eat, talk and play together. Cost of admission is a dish to share.

The Cupboard Corner

The Pantry was used **6** times in October and is greatly in need of your donations to restock it. All items especially canned meats, tuna, hearty soups/stews, paper products and beverages. See page 2 for details on the Holiday Food Drive. If you can't get to the church with your donations, please call the office to arrange a pick up.



Church to Sponsor 2 Families in Holiday Hope

Every year, in response to the invitation of Child and Family Services, the church has assisted families who have "fallen on hard times." The Action for Christ Committee has decided that we will sponsor two families this year.

Our members can become sponsors who are asked to buy gifts for the adults and children in these families. Gift tags will be available after Thanksgiving. More information will follow soon.

Figri Update

Another year has gone by and Figri, our sponsored child, is growing into a handsome youth. His progress report just arrived and it states: "Child has been grown-up, cheerful, kind, braver, responsible to his school and homework, diligent in learning, active in study group activity." Figri writes to us of some of the opportunities he has received through the CCF program...

"The benefits I received [help me] to widen my knowledge, to celebrate National Children's Day at Safari Garden, to receive book packet. [Also] counseling about nutrition and health for my mother to widen her horizon."

Figri is now in the 6th grade and is doing well in school. He loves to play soccer and has changed his aspirations from being a pilot to being a policeman. He is now about 4' 6" tall and weighs about 66 pounds.



This new picture was taken while Figri competed in a drawing competition at the project.

Please consider writing a note to Figri at the address to the right. He would surely appreciate your sentiments.

Also remember that the Mitten Tree that will be set up in the sanctuary during the four Sundays in Advent waiting to be decorated with warm hats, gloves, mittens, scarves and socks for those in need. They will be distributed through the Salvation Army.

(Anyone who has an artificial tree that they would like to donate for use at the church should call the office.)



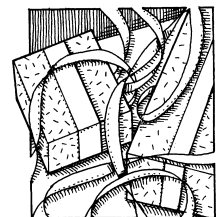
Opposition to Expansion of Gambling

At the last meeting of the Action for Christ Committee the members decided to support the effort of the Inter-Church Council and other organizations in their stand to oppose casino gambling.

An anti-gambling rally will be held on November 12th at 7:00 p.m. at the Whaling Museum and information on this movement is available at www.casinofacts.org. Sign the on-line petition, contact our Representatives or volunteer.

Wish Figri, our foster child, a Happy 11th birthday on November 2nd at the following address:

Figri Abdyansayah
132/340204/00154
Proyek Panti Nugeraha 3795
P.O. Box 1364
Jakarta 10013 - Indonesia





Thanks & a Tip of the Hat to...

To the following who cleaned the Babbitt Hall kitchen: **Peg Rogers, Ellen Rogers, Ann Cochran, Mabel Filipek, Millicent Allen, Carol Gage, Bev Johansen, Julie Lawton, Janice Dawson, Karen Elliott.**

To **Chet & Meredith Hathaway** for donating new microwave.

To **Sharon, Steve & Emily Dorian** for cleaning in Babbitt Hall.

To **Sue and Norm Burr** for painting and cleaning.

To **Peg Rogers, Pam Kuechler, Debbie Cordeiro and Linda Ferland,** for teaching Unit 1

of Sunday School. Also to **Pete & Priscilla Braley** for teaching Unit 2.

To **Bev Johansen, Bob Heskett, Carol Gage, and Al Jones** for their leadership in worship in October.

To **Mabel Filipek, the Bobola Family, Karen Elliott, Dot Bungert, the Arbec Family and the Kuechler Family** for greeting and hosting coffee hour in October.

To **Karen Elliott, Tom Hebert, Joe Dawicki, Pam Kuechler, Cindy LeBlanc and Bill Fields** for their work on the Music Search Committee.

To the **Dorians, the Johansens, the Gages and the Jones** for driving Arthur Harris to church in October.

Pictorial Directory

We are hoping to have the pictorial directory completed for distribution in January. If you have not had a photo taken, you may e-mail a digital picture of your family to the church office or make arrangements with Sharon to take your picture.

We will be checking contact information at coffee hour or during office hours. Please communicate with Sharon any updates in your contact information.

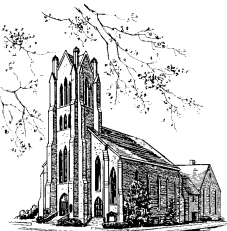
Bette is on Sabbatical from November 5th to December 5th. Greta MacRae will be preaching and covering for pastoral emergencies.



Next Messenger Deadline: TUESDAY, November 20th

The Messenger

First Congregational Church
34 Center Street
Fairhaven MA 02719-2931



EST 1794

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