



The Messenger

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First Congregational Church

Fairhaven, Massachusetts

November 2009

The First Congregational Church

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Administrator

Sharon M. Dorian

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Mr. David Touchette

Organist

Mr. Bruce Gardzina

Office Hours

Tues thru Fri
8:30am - Noon



“God is Still
Speaking,

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

Old Time Holiday Fair December 12th, 2009 10:00 – 3:00pm

Calling all fair volunteers!!

We are coming up to the big day and we need YOU! If you haven't signed up for a job, please visit the sign up board at coffee hour. You will see that there are lots of wonderful ways to participate on Saturday, December 12, 2009. Whether you can staff a table for an hour, serve lunch, help with set up or clean up, greet the public as they enter the church or be at the fair all day, everyone knows that this is a fantastic and fun event.

Lobster Roll Luncheon

Our luncheon is usually a sell out! Steve Dorian has generously volunteered to run the Lobster Luncheon again this year, however he needs help preparing and serving the meal. Please contact Steve Dorian at 508-991-5845.

Chance Auction

New or original items, gift certificates, movie tickets, tickets to the theater or sporting events and gift baskets are all very popular. Leave items in church office well marked "Fair 2009," or contact Laura Gardner, Greta Berg or Meg Hunt at www.hunt828@comcast.net or call 774-930-1625.

Raffle Table

We will be raffling off a "Doll House" made by Al Jones. Contact Al if you have any other ideas for the raffle table 774-202-3336.

Craft Table

Our craft project table is growing! Look for the "Holiday Fair News Board" in the William Street entrance. Please consider making and sharing something to sell at the fair. A few suggestions: ornaments, wreaths, wood crafts, bird houses, bird feeders, suet treats, hats, mittens, scarves, jelly, candy, dog treats, dog coats, table runners, or cookies in a jar, etc... Thank you in advance.

Jewelry Table

Do you have jewelry you haven't worn in a long time? Diane Hassett is looking for beads and baubles for her table. Please send them in as soon as possible as it takes time to ready them for display.

Gourmet Table

One of the delicious parts of the fair is the gourmet table. Be creative and surprise us with a small container (frozen and clearly marked) with a delicious delectable, whether it is something sweet or a home made meal. See Dot Bungert with your ideas.



-Rev. Bette McClure-

Dear Friends,

As we approach the season of Thanksgiving with Christmas close on its heels, our thoughts often turn to giving and reaching out to others. As a church, for many years,

we have had an in-gathering of food that we use to fill Thanksgiving baskets for families and individuals in need. Each year, under the sponsorship of the Action for Christ Committee, we adopt a family or several families and purchase gifts for them to make their Christmas a little more cheerful.

Last year and again this year we are packing and sending "goodie" boxes to children in other countries through Operation Christmas Child. We are good at putting into practice the biblical passage "it is more blessed to give than to receive."

Scripture encourages us to be giving people. Tithing was a practice among people in ancient times that required them to return one tenth of what they had back to God.

"All tithes from the land, whether the seed from the ground or the fruit from the tree, are the Lord's; they are holy to the Lord." (Leviticus 27:30)

While the New Testament does not specifically speak to the idea of tithing, there are numerous passages that deal with giving and generosity.

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. (2 Corinthians 9:6)

Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you." (Luke 6:38)

In these tough economic times it is difficult, for all of us, to think of donating even more than we currently give to others. And yet we know that most of us are very fortunate in terms of our material possession and we acknowledge that many other families are forced to do with so little.

And so, as you enjoy your family time this holiday season, ask God to help you find at least one new way to reach out. Perhaps you can increase your church pledge by some amount. Maybe you can make a contribution to a local charity that you haven't helped out before. How about tithing some time to volunteer here at the church or in the community? We always need willing hands for a wide variety of tasks within the church, and local agencies such as Habitat for Humanity, Horizons for Homeless Children, Market Ministries, etc. are desperate for volunteers.

I guarantee that whatever you do, you will feel blessed by God and you will make a real difference in another person's life, too.

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."



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Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

It is a tradition here in Fairhaven for our churches to join together for a Thanksgiving Service each year. This year the service will be held on **Tuesday evening, November 24 at 7:00** here at First Congregational Church. The local clergy have gathered and we have planned a service that is different from previous years. We

will be singing well loved Thanksgiving hymns, reflecting on our blessings for which we thank God and including visual "centerpieces" to help us focus. Hopefully, we will have a multi-church choir to sing anthems and, following the service, we will all gather for fellowship and refreshment up in Babbitt Hall. We have not hosted this service since 2003 so I hope many of you will join us in welcoming our sisters and brothers in faith to our church.

Health Precautions for Flu Season

Everyone has heard the predictions of widespread seasonal and H1N1 flu this winter. While we don't want to buy into or add to any sense of impending disaster, it does make sense to be cautious and observe common sense health-related behavior. Please remember:

- Cough or sneeze into a tissue that you dispose of right away or into the crook of your elbow
- Wash your hands frequently and/or use hand sanitizer
- Stay home from work and from church!! **if you are ill**
- Consider getting flu shots

At church we will continue to monitor the situation and take precautions as necessary. Some things we are already instituting:

- Hand sanitizer is available in the front and rear of the church as are boxes of tissues
- While we will continue to greet one another at the beginning of our service, feel free to use another way of greeting than shaking hands, i.e. smile brightly, wave, bow your head, bump elbow...
- Rev. Bette will use hand sanitizer before greeting you at the end of the service

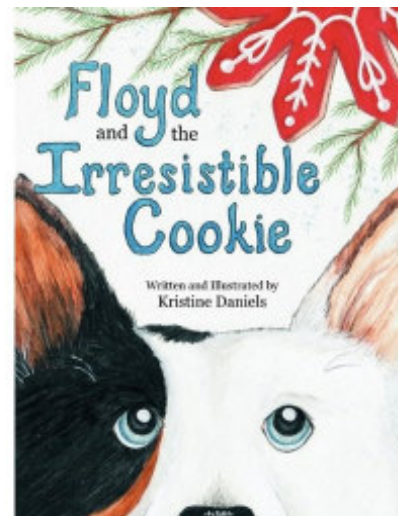
Let's all remain vigilant and stay healthy all year round!

Doll House Raffle

This year's raffle prize is this beautiful doll house made by Al Jones. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 Tickets are included in the Messenger. See Al with any questions. (774-202-3336)



Come Meet Floyd



Who is this lovable canine? Find out at the Old Time Holiday Fair! Kristine Daniels will be signing her book *Floyd and the Irresistible Cookie* from 10 - 3 on December 12th! She will have a limited number of books available to purchase the day of the fair, or you can get yours on-line today at www.amazon.com or www.barnesandnoble.com.



Bible Sunday Honors Five

On Sunday, November 1st we honor 5 special people with gift Bibles presented during the morning worship. Third graders receiving Bibles are **Jenna Desrochers, Sam Henriques, Reagan Morton and Steven Scott.**

We will also honor **Phyllis Allen**, who became a member 50 years ago. Congratulations to all our Bible recipients.

Pulpit Flowers

On October 4th -- In loving memory of **Laura Felch** by Hal & Marian Purington.

On October 11th -- In loving memory of **Cindy Thomas** by the Bastien family, Carrie & Jonathan. Also in memory of Cindy by her pal, Suzanne Gonsalves.

Congratulations

To **Erinn & David Lanczyki** on the October 4th baptism of their second daughter **Brynn Kelly Lanczycki**. Brynn and her family live in Swansea.

Our Prayers are with...

Jean Campbell, Matt Desimas, Bob Heskett, Ron Dawson, Priscilla Faber, Suzanne Gonsalves, Jean Condon, Grace Battistelli, Alma Johnson, Elsie Jacobsen, Ruth Rebello, Dot Holmes, Ron Simonsen, Katie Gilmore, Bob Bavelock (Greta MacRae's father).

Ongoing Activities

Bridge Night

Mondays at 7:00 p.m. All levels welcome.

Tuesday Yoga

Gather with Bev Johansen in the nursery on Tuesdays at 8:00 a.m. to enjoy a recorded yoga work-out.

Prayer Walks

Begin your day with spiritual exercise on Fort Phoenix Beach. Thursdays at 7:30 a.m. until the snow flies.

Handymen

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. Schedule your job today! Call Al Jones at 774-202-3336.



Women's Fellowship

Cupcake Decorating

Thursday **November**

5th at 6:30 p.m. Just in time for the holidays Jean Arbec has generously offered to

show us some cupcake decorating techniques. Come have a cup of decaf or a cup of tea, visit and learn. Please call Carol Gage- 508-994-7901-by Monday Nov. 2nd to reserve a cupcake.

Wednesdays & Saturdays

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

We are well stocked with sweaters and coats for the coming colder weather. Come in and see our selection of clothes for the family.

Also many household items and treasures as well as Christmas items. New items weekly.



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

A special thank you to Carol and John Gage and Reverend Bette for rides to Dana Farber.

Bob & Bev Heskett