



The Messenger

Volume 55 No. 9

First Congregational Church

Fairhaven, Massachusetts

November 2006

The First Congregational Church

34 Center Street
Fairhaven, MA
02719

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Pastor

Rev. Bette McClure
508-990-7513
bettemc2@juno.com

Student Minister

Greta MacRae

Director of Music

Matt Richard

Administrator

Sharon M. Dorian

Office Hours

Mon thru Fri
9:00am - 12:30pm

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



**God is Still
Speaking,**



New Pledges to be Received October 29th

"LOVING GOD BACK"

As you read this Messenger, we will be coming to the completion of this year's Stewardship Drive. Many thanks to the Stewardship Committee and their helpers for a focused, comprehensive and very visible campaign. Many thanks also to Al Jones, Carol Gage, and Bev Johansen for serving as Witnessing Stewards and sharing their thoughts

and experiences of stewardship with all of us. A very special thanks to all those who entered exhibits in our Dream for the Church Art Show. The brainchild of Kris Daniels (thanks Kris!), the exhibit is a wonderful display of talent and creativity. It puts into art so creatively so many of the dreams we have for our church. What a wonderful opportunity to express those dreams and share them with others. Al Jones also should receive many kudos for his brilliant idea for the Coffee Can Club – a novel and painless way to add treasure to the church coffers. Those of you unable to be in worship on Stewardship Sunday (October 29) will be sent pledge cards and we ask that you return them promptly. The Committee will be following up with phone calls to anyone who has not made a pledge this year as a reminder of how important this drive is to the life of our church. Please note that your new pledge will run from January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007.

**"Thank You"
Luncheon
November 5th
following
worship. All
are invited.**



Fairhaven Clergy Association
Ecumenical Thanksgiving
Worship will be held on

**Tuesday,
November 21st
7:00 p.m.
Place: TBA**



Our Men & Women in Service

Do you have a relative or friend who has been activated? Let us know. We are creating this list of service men and women so that we can stop each month to remember them and pray for their safe return.

L.Cpl. Tyler Tripp, USMC
Operation Iraqi Freedom
Grandson of Joe & Juliet Tripp

Sgt. Jonathan M. Rice, ARMY,
Afghanistan

P.O. Christopher H. Rice, NAVY,
Brunswick NAS

Betty Monk's Grandsons

Casey Crandall **Iraq**
Nephew of Barbara Penman (Bette's sister)

Capt. Barbara Webster, AN **Iraq**
friend of Pam Kuechler



-Rev. Bette McClure-

Dear Friends,

As Thanksgiving approaches I find I have so much for which to give thanks. One of the things I think about most is our current Stewardship Drive. While stewardship is really something we need to attend

to on year-round, it has been our main focus this past month. Given that, I offer the following for your use and consideration. Most of all, on this Thanksgiving Day may you feel blessed by God's presence and never-ending love. You will be in my prayers that day as you are each day.

Blessings

Bette

Top 10 ways to involve kids in stewardship

10. **Recycle everything from cans to clothes**
9. **Consolidate car trips; read a book while you wait**
8. **Shut off lights and appliances not in use**
7. **Harvest what you plant, share what you harvest**
6. **Share clothes with a sibling or parent**
5. **Use e-mail rather than long distance**
4. **Treat possessions as valuables**
3. **Ride a bike or walk for short errands and exercise**
2. **Wipe your feet**
1. **Eat leftovers**

Stewardship Prayer

"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."

O God, I resolve to put You first in my life. I recognize that You have blessed me with all that I have and all that I am. As your steward, I resolve to sacrifice when necessary but always to do so out of a spirit of sincere love, just as your Son, Jesus, did for me. I humbly accept the challenge to share from my means rather than from my excess. I recognize that being a good steward is nothing more than being truly Christian.

Dear God, I resolve, to be generous with my time, talent and treasure, giving in proportion to the gifts I have been given. I commit myself to taking care of my body and all of creation. I know there will be times when I will fall to be a good steward, but I pledge to keep on trying. I will confidently live each day with a spirit of true peace and joy in knowing that I am doing your will. Amen.

(Marlaine Doidge, Christ Lutheran Church, Glencoe MN)



Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship

On October 11th, a delicious baked chicken breast luncheon with many fixings and lovely decorated tables was hosted by Alice Cooney and Polly Hood. Thanks ladies. We welcomed another new member - Peg Rogers. Our business meeting was held followed by a quiet time of meditating and drawing. This program was developed for us by our church "artist in residence", Kristine Daniels for which we were very grateful.

Our next event will be our early Christmas Dinner. This is just for enjoyment and celebration before the Advent Season begins. The banquet will be held at the Huttleston House on Wednesday, November 8th at 5:00 p.m. One can order from the menu. To save a place at the table contact Marian Purington 508-997-5313 by Sunday, November 5th.

Watch for other events that may come up during the winter. Nothing is definitely planned until the Springtime. Happy Holidays!

Betty Monk, President



Building Update

■ Staging continues to be installed around the tower. Repair work should begin by October 30th.

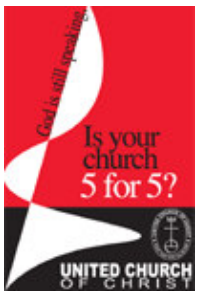
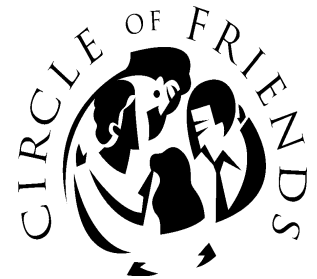
■ Electrical upgrade work should begin in November.

■ Test holes will be dug where the elevator is to be installed.

Buddy Club

Do you ever feel that you would like to go some place, but not alone? Betty Monk has come up with an idea. She has started a list of names of people who sometimes would like a buddy to do things with... e.g: a church or organization supper or luncheon, a meeting of interest, a movie, a worship service, or theater production. Call Betty to add your name to the list of Buddies and you will be provided with the list of people you can ask to join you for an outing. You can always say "No" if you're not interested or already have other plans at the time. Anyone you know can join the Buddy Club.

If interested contact Betty Monk, 508-992-2004. You can leave a message on her machine, or by e-mail: bettyfair@msncom



Our Church is 5 for 5

In October, our church received recognition for being a 5 for 5 church in the United Church of Christ. Being 5 for 5 means that we contribute to Our Church's Wider Mission with our basic support and through the four special offerings held each year:

- One Great Hour of Sharing
- Neighbors in Need
- Christmas Fund
- Strengthen the Church

National Basic Support provides for the funding of the core programs of UCC national ministries. The Massachusetts Conference gives 60% of Basic Support to national ministries.

Special Support provides funding for specific mission opportunities through the four special mission offerings of the UCC. 100% of contributions to Special Support are forwarded on to the national ministries.

Dinner for Two Books

Featuring over \$1,500 in FREE dinners, plays, concerts, cruises, dining and entertainment. The book will be available for purchase at \$29.95 each and all proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit the church. To purchase Dinner for Two books, please contact Ann Cochran at 508-990-2642

Pulpit Flowers



On October 1st -- in celebration of the September 30th wedding of **Jenny Bratby and Kenneth Burr.**

On October 15th -- in loving memory of **Cindy Thomas** by the **Bastien family, Carrie & Jonathan.** Also in loving memory of Cindy by her friends **Suzanne Gonsalves.**

On October 22nd -- in celebration of their 12th wedding anniversary by **Sally & Jerry Wheeler.**

On October 29th -- In loving memory of **Donald Cree** by **Ruth Cree.**

Congratulations

To **Amy (Waddington) & Mark Harger** on the birth of their first child, **Alexander Michael Harger.** Alex was also born on September 1st at 11:54 p.m. Grandparents are **Ron & Lynda Laverdure** and **Alan Waddington, Jr.** Great-grandparents are **Alan & Marie Waddington** and **Dot Pflug.** *(this notice is being reprinted to include information unintentionally omitted by the editor! My Apologies.)*

Deepest Sympathies

To **the family & friends of Marian Coulson Duran** -- Marion, the mother of **Julie Lawton,** died on September 26th in Pennsylvania. Her grandchildren include **Ginny Motta & Carol Lawton** and was the great-grandmother of **Becky St. Amand, Nick & Taylor Motta.**

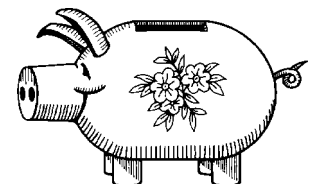
Church Women United to Worship at Tifereth Israel Synagogue

On November 3 at 7:30 p.m., the Tifereth Israel Friday Night Interfaith Service, 145 Brownell Avenue, New Bedford will host Church Women United in honor of CWU's World Community Day—an annual worship celebration experience in local communities nationwide that confirms CWU's commitment to justice and peace among all peoples and nations.

This is a wonderful opportunity for Confirmation classes, youth, and renewal study groups to attend. If you would like to attend, please let the church office know so we can arrange car pooling opportunities.

Join the Coffee Can Club

Put a coffee can or other container in a prominent place in your home where all family members can contribute their loose change (a dollar a day from each pledging unit, in addition to your regular pledge, will help us balance our budget.) Once a month bring it to the church for deposit. Coffee Can Club stickers are available at the church for your special container.



Boy Scouts/ Cub Scouts

Troop 55 is open to boys 5th grade or older than 11 to join them. They hold their meetings on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. in the church hall. Contact Norman Burr at 508-993-2171

Boys between the ages of 4 and 11 are invited to join Pack 55 Cub Scouts. We are also looking for adults to help us run the Pack or troop. There is training provided by the District and Council. A rally meeting will take place on October 19th. Contact Scott Fernandes at sjfern20@comcast.net

THE
**FAIRHAVEN COMMUNITY
CONCERT SERIES**
PRESENTS

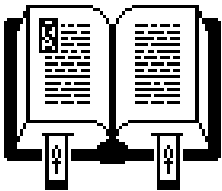


SHIPYARD WRECK UNPLUGGED
JAMES GAGNE-JOHN FERNANDES
NOVEMBER 19, 2006 2:00 P.M.

From the South Coast of Massachusetts, Shipyard Wreck is an original bluesy-funky-rock band that writes with originality, produces original albums and performs stunning, live shows. For this special "unplugged" presentation, James Gagne and John Fernandes will hold down the fort with their impressive vocals and guitar work.

\$10

Bible Sunday To Honor Nine



On Sunday, November 5th 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 Carrie Scott, Michael Young, Jordan Mello, Jonathan LeBlanc, Madison Oliveira, Angela Desrochers.

Other students who will be getting Bibles include Tyler & Brenden Paquette.

We will also honor Susan Drake, who became a member 50 years ago. Congratulations to all our Bible recipients.



Fairhaven Community Concert Series

<http://home.comcast.net/~fccs/>

Scheduled Concerts for Our 4th Season! 2006-2007

*Dedicated in loving memory of
Mr. Donald Cree*

November 19, 2006 2:00 p.m.
Shipyard Wreck Unplugged
Fairhaven's Own Blues/Rock Duo

December 17, 2006 2:00 p.m.
Sarah Manning & Joann Goldstein
Harp & Flute Duo

January 28, 2007 2:00 p.m.
New England Conservatory's
Honors String Quartet

February 18, 2007 7:00 p.m.
Paul Nossiter Jazz Band
and Mardi Gras Dinner 5:30

March 25, 2007 2:00 p.m.
Boston Vocal Artists
Patrice Tiedemann & Paul Soper

May 20, 2007 7:00 p.m.
Dori & Donn Legge
Jazz/Blues Quartet
Italian Feast 5:30

2006-2007

Individual TICKET PRICES:

Adult concert ticket \$10

Adult dinner ticket \$10

Child dinner ticket \$5

*All student-age children will be
admitted free of charge to any
concert with a paying adult.*

Bible Adventures

Sunday School



Psalms Anyone? What is a Psalm and why are they important to us.... Learn all about them on November 5, 12 & 19. A

special group activity will be held on the 26th.

YOUR HELP is needed to teach the children for most of the upcoming units. Please speak with Rev. Bette or any member of Christian Ed.

Children/Youth Activity Schedule

Kid's Supper Klub - 4th & 5th Graders

Sundays 4-6 p.m.

November 12th

December 10th



Youth Group - Middle & High School

Sundays, time varies

November 12th 6:30-8:00

December 16th 4:00-8:00

January 21st 6:30-8:00

February 4th 6:30-8:00

February 18th 5:00 p.m.

March 11th 4:00-6:00

April 22nd 3:00-4:30

May 6th 6:00-8:00

May 20th 5:00

June TBA

Thanksgiving Proj.

LaSalette

Lip Sync

Game Night

Serve Dinner

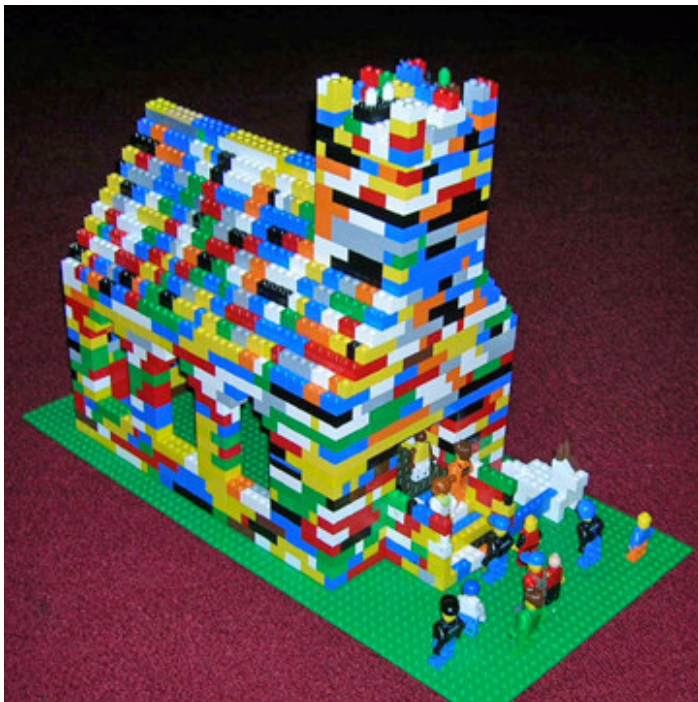
Movie

Yard Clean-Up

Walk the Bike Path

Serve Dinner

Year End Outing



My Dream for the Church

The multigenerational art exhibit was displayed in Babbitt Hall on October 15th and has since been moved to the sanctuary for us to further enjoy. Thirteen projects are being exhibited including this lego reproduction of our church created by 9 year old Michael Young. Michael says his project took him 3 days to complete and over 2,000 legos. He wishes he had more time to give more attention to the interior. It was his wish to add pews, but he ran out of time and legos.





The Action for Christ Committee will sponsor a large and a small family in the Holiday Hope Program through New Bedford Child & Family Services.

Gift tags will be available on November 26th. The purchased gift, wrapped and labeled with the tag, should be returned to the church by December 10th.



The Action for Christ committee also sponsors a mitten tree each year. During the four Sundays in advent a Christmas tree is located in the sanctuary waiting to be decorated with warm hats, gloves, mittens, scarves and socks. They will be distributed to the Salvation Army for those in need of warm things. Your donations are greatly appreciated.



The Cupboard Corner

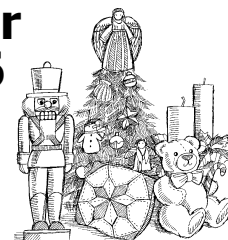
The Pantry was used **8** times in October. Your generous donations are always appreciated. A **Holiday Food Drive** will take place in November, with food to be brought in and dedicated on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 19th. Paper bags and lists of needed items will be provided on November 5th. The items will be used in both holiday baskets and the food pantry. Thank you for your continued generous donations.

If you can't get to the church with your offerings, please call the office or LeeAnn Wood (508-997-3851) to arrange a pick-up.

Old Time Holiday Fair December 9th, 2006

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

How can you help?

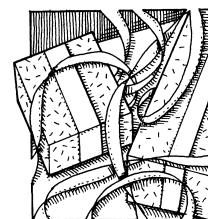


**Baked goods, cookies, crafts,
chance auction, luncheon, etc.....**

Once again your help is needed to help make our Annual Church Fair successful. Do you have an idea? Can you help out the day of the fair? Help will be needed on the day of the fair greeting visitors, helping at a table or luncheon, and especially getting everything cleaned up afterwards. See Sharon in the office if you are willing to help.

Wish Figri, our foster child, a Happy 10th 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 Jean Arbec for donating chocolate, helping the Youth Group make chocolate pops, and for taking the time to sell them at the yard sale netting \$75 for the Capital Campaign Fund.

To Peg Rogers for her work on Sunday School curriculum.

To Greta McCrae for being licensed by the Old Colony Church and Ministry Committee.

To Doug Braley for mowing the lawn during the summer.

To Kristine Daniels (and contributors) for the art exhibit.

To Matt and the Choir for their contributions to worship.

To Hal Purington for making 2 wooden special offering collec-

tion boxes which will be installed in the sanctuary.

To Milt George, Ron Johansen, Barbara Mills and Jerry Wheeler for their leadership in worship during October.

To Carol Lawton, Bev Johansen, Al Jones and Carol Gage for sharing as Witnessing Stewards.

To Marge & Al Jones, The Stewardship Committee, Mabel Filipek & Ruth Cree, the Mello family, and the Arbec & Kuechler families for greeting and hosting coffee hour in October.

To Peg Rogers & Jean Arbec for teaching the 2nd unit of Sunday School as well as Debbie Cordeiro

and Linda Ferland for their consistent dedication to our children.

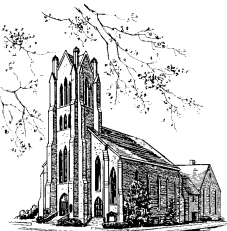
The Indoor Yard Sale was a HUGE success. Thanks to everyone who donated items. We made over \$1,600 that will help us meet our current expenses. MANY thanks to Peg and John Rogers, Carol Gage, Bev Johansen, Diane Hassett, Dot Bungert, Millie Allen, Betty Monk, Norm and Sue Burr, Stet Drake, Sharon Dorian, Jim Cochran, Ruth Cree, Mabel Filipek, Ron, Aaron, and Chris Johansen for many hours of hard work. Look what happens when we all pitch in one way or another.

Jazz Vespers
Sunday, December 3rd
5:00 p.m.

Next Messenger Deadline: November 17th

The Messenger

First Congregational Church
34 Center Street
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EST 1794

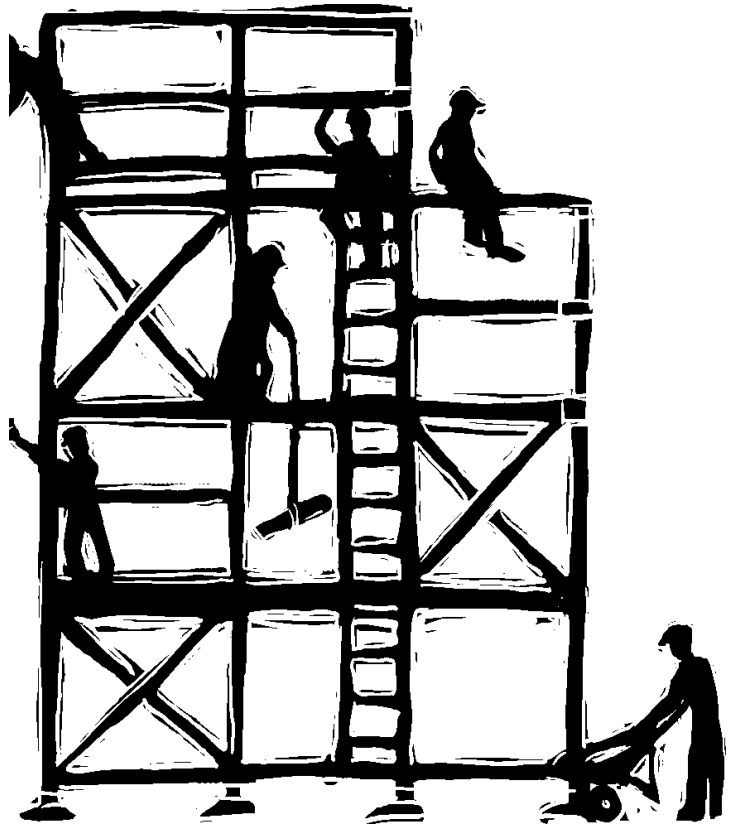
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED*

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11/2006

As we move through this exciting time of improvements to our church facility, we all need to be especially alert to keep things safe. Parents, please keep an extra vigilant eye on your children and their whereabouts while they are in or around our building. Remind them to stay away from the scaffolding and, as construction on the elevator begins, remind them again to avoid areas that have work going on in them. If you see something that could be potentially dangerous – alert church staff right away so it can be remedied. If all of us work together we should get through this time safely and be ready to celebrate the great things that we have accomplished with



God's blessings.

