



# The Messenger

Volume 56 No. 8

First Congregational Church

Fairhaven, Massachusetts

October 2007

## The First Congregational Church

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### Pastor

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

### Administrator

Sharon M. Dorian

### Office Hours

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

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



**God is Still Speaking,**

*"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."*

## Renovation and Capital Campaign Update

It has been many years since we first started dreaming of having a church building that is accessible to all. It also seems like a long time since we took those first tentative steps of making that dream a reality when we began exploring the possibility of launching a Capital Campaign. However, in the next month or so we will actually see the fruits of our efforts blossom when the renovations are complete and the elevator is functioning.

Much has happened in the last several years. We would like to share with you what has been accomplished, where we stand now and what awaits us in the future.



### Preliminary Steps

- 2003-2004 The congregation votes to undertake an architectural study of our facility to investigate repair needs and accessibility issues
- May 2004 Renovation Committee formed to develop, implement, and finance a plan of action
- June 2004 Congregation approves use of funds from Bob Swift Bequest to install a fire alarm system and make necessary roof repairs
- October 2004 Congregation approves the undertaking of a Feasibility Study as the first step in a Capital Campaign
- March 2005 Feasibility Study takes place
- May 2005 Congregation votes to proceed with a Capital Campaign in the amount of \$400,000 including \$240,000 in individual pledges/gifts; \$80,000 in Planned Giving; \$56,000 in grants; and \$24,000 in Mission tithe.
- Jan-Feb 2006 Capital Campaign takes place

### Capital Campaign Results

Our overall goal for the Capital Campaign was \$400,000. During the pledge campaign period, pledges were made in the following amounts: Planned Giving \$350,000 and Individual Pledges/Gifts \$180,000. The total of \$530,000 exceeded our overall goal.

To date, the following funds have been received:

Individual Pledges/Gifts	\$72,000
Grants	\$42,000 (with \$7,000 more committed)

(continued on next page)

It was clear to us early on in this process that because pledged funds will come in over a 3-year period, we would experience a temporary funding shortfall when construction began. To bridge the gap between expending construction costs and receiving pledged dollars, we voted at a special congregational meeting in September 2006, to borrow from our own invested funds in order to undertake the renovation projects including a new roof for the sanctuary and the installation of a LULA elevator. Our plan is to repay those funds as money from Planned Giving/Gift Annuities is received.

While the costs for our renovations have exceeded our first estimates and have outstretched the amount pledged in the Capital Campaign, we are indeed fortunate that we have not needed to go outside to borrow funds and pay interest on the loan. Being able to borrow from ourselves has been a real blessing!

We sincerely thank everyone who so generously pledged to the Capital Campaign. Your generosity and willingness to move this church forward is amazing! As we near the completion of the renovations, we appreciate any effort you can make to keep your pledge up to date or even pay it off early if that is possible for you. There is \$108,000 in outstanding pledges due in 2007-08. We need \$62,000 to meet committed expenses, hence the call to keep pledges current or better.

### **Renovations Progress**

Nov 2006 -Jan 2007	Renovations to tower take place
January 2007	Awarded a \$40,000 grant from the Mass. Historical Commission for tower renovations
April 2007	Construction on the elevator begins
June 2007	Replacement of sanctuary roof takes place

At this time the majority of the work that remains to be done is finish and cosmetic work such as cleaning, painting, flooring, etc. It is our hope that the entire elevator project will be completed within the next month. Then we can celebrate!

### **Challenges Ahead**

As is almost inevitable, our renovation projects have cost more than we had estimated. Funds spent to date include:

Sanctuary Roof	\$84,000
Tower Roof	\$55,800
Tower Masonry	\$25,000
Tower Painting	\$16,900
Unblock Tower Drains	\$1,050
Electrical Panel	\$5,309
Elevator*	\$193,230
Construction Insurance	\$1,505
Miscellaneous	\$216
Architect Fees*	<u>\$24,398</u>

\*not completely billed yet

Total expended/committed to date \$407,408

Thus far we have borrowed \$198,000 from our invested funds to meet construction costs.

The original estimate for all of the above projects was \$350,000. We have exceeded that estimate by approximately \$57,000 to date. The \$350,000 that was pledged during the Capital Campaign in planned giving is something that will help us in the future, however, we will no longer be able to rely on income from our invested funds to meet current operational expenses. It is clear that we need to be creative in the months and years to come to increase overall revenue for our church.

How will we do that? Let us, in the next months, prayerfully consider all our options. Let us move with faith and commitment into a bright and promising future by working together to face these challenges.

## "Going the Second Mile" 2007-2008 Stewardship Campaign

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



In the midst of his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus surprised his listeners with the words above. In Jesus' day, Roman soldiers could force a Jewish man or boy to carry the soldier's pack for a mile, but for a mile only. Roman law prohibited its soldiers from requiring anything beyond that first mile. So imagine how radical Jesus' words must have seemed – telling his followers that a faithful response was to go the second mile – to go beyond the base requirement.

The theme of our Stewardship Campaign this year is "Going the Second Mile." In recognition of Jesus' call to all his followers to respond faithfully by doing more than is required we are encouraging each member of our congregation to do the same. We invite everyone to dig a bit deeper, act a bit more courageously, and go the second mile by increasing their annual pledge for the work of our church. Are you willing to go the second mile with us?

Beginning on October 14<sup>th</sup> and continuing through the month, you will hear from members of the Stewardship Committee each Sunday. They will share with you their understanding of what stewardship means in terms of time, talent and treasure. Rev. Bette will explore some of the biblical concepts of stewardship in her sermons. You will also receive written materials about how our pledges will contribute to the work and mission of the church. And on **Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>**, you will be asked to make your pledge during the worship service.

Please prayerfully consider making a generous pledge during this year's Stewardship Campaign. Take a chance, heed Jesus' words, and go the second mile with us!



## Blessing of the Animals to be held Oct 7th

A special Blessing of the Animals on our lawn on **Sunday, October 7th 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!

## Celebrate Communion with the World!

World Communion Sunday (**October 7**) will focus on the sacrament of Communion – educating all of us about this practice and helping us to truly celebrate the joy and mystery of the sacrament. Children will be integrally involved in the Communion portion of the service and I believe all of us will come to more truly appreciate the richness and blessing of this sacrament. The special offering for Neighbors in Need will also be collected.



**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!**



## Pulpit Flowers

On September 9th --  
In loving memory of **Louise A. Walker** by the Kuechler family.

On September 23rd -- In  
loving memory of **Lucille G. McClure** by Rev. Bette McClure.

## Our Sympathies

To the family & friends of William Perry -- Bill, the husband of Nancy and father of Meg Hunt died unexpectedly on September 3rd. He was a local educator who loved spending time with his grandchildren.



## Women's Fellowship

The Women's Fellowship had a very productive meeting on September 12th. We were served a delicious chicken, vegetable and dessert for supper by Carol Gage and Marge Jones. Several more ladies joined our Fellowship (making 26 members).

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday, October 10th at 12:30 p.m.** Vegetarian or meat lasagna will be offered for \$6.00/person. For reservations call Polly Hood by October 8th. (508-999-6771). A program entitled "Ancient Basics" will be presented by Maureen Deneault. I hope many of you will be in attendance. Bring a guest!

A couple of future dates to put in your calendar are October 30, Old Colony Women's Association and November 2nd Church Women United. More info will be forthcoming.

## Church Fair Planning Update

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

The updated list of tables is below. All of these folks will be looking for helpers before and during the fair.



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 is looking for costume jewelry to sell and beads for children to make beaded bracelets with. You can bring them in at any time.
- 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.

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.

## Raffle Tickets Enclosed

Two sets of six raffle tickets are enclosed in this Messenger. If you would like to purchase them, please send your payment and stubs back to the church office or give to one of the Fair Coordinators listed above.

Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 -- They will be on sale through December 8th. Ask your family & friends to participate.

The first is for a framed print of an **Arthur Moniz watercolor** of the Pergrin Falcon on our church tower from an original photograph taken by Carolyn Longworth. (Blue Ticket)

The second is a **get-a-way weekend** donated by Briar Rose Bed & Breakfast in their luxury historic 1891 Queen Anne Victorian home overlooking the New Bedford Harbor. (Pink Tickets)



## Fairhaven Community Concert Series Presents



## Fairhaven Community Concert Series

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

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

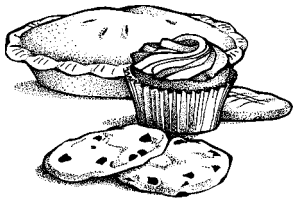
**ATWATER-DONNELLY TRIO**  
**American & Celtic Folk Music & Dance**  
**Sunday, Oct. 28, 2007 7:00 p.m.**  
Tickets \$10 for adults  
students are free with paying adult.

October 28, 2007 7:00 p.m.  
Atwater-Donnelly Trio  
Meatpie Dinner 5:30 p.m.

December 2, 2007 2:00 p.m.  
Aaoife 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



Join us before the concert for a  
Meat Pie Dinner at 5:30 pm  
\$10 Adults/\$5 Children

## Music Search

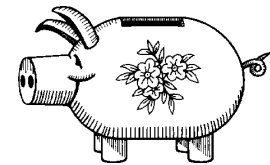
*Karen Elliott, Search Committee Chair*

The Music Director Search Committee is working hard to fill the position of music director. Interviews were held all through the weekend of September 22 - 23, 2007. We had five qualified applicants and were able to arrange four interviews. The committee is in the process of considering second interviews and tending to other business related to the hiring for this position. We ask that you remember us in your prayers. God's guidance in this matter is welcome as well as needed because music is a big part of life at the Congregational Church is Fairhaven. More news is coming soon.



## Summer Study Scholarship Fund

Thank you for your continued donations to the Matthew Richard Scholarship Fund. Contributions to date total \$300. 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	\$33.35
Shaws Receipts	\$330.44
Coffee Can	\$1,763.43
Handyman	\$1,450.00

**OTHER (Your Idea Here!!)**



## Say YES to Sunday School

The success of our Sunday School program depends on the willingness of many folks to help teach. We urge everyone to step

forward and take part in a rewarding ministry – helping our youngest members grow in faith.

We have purchased a new curriculum this year for grades K-5 entitled *Kid Connection*. Developed by *Faith Alive Christian Resources* in cooperation with the Children's Ministry Office of the Reformed Church of America, the curriculum is designed to provide a variety of teaching options for leaders and diverse learning activities for students. It is especially geared to smaller Sunday Schools.

The commitment is only 3-4 Sundays one time a year. During that time you will work with the same group of youth. Lesson plans are ready for you to review and are written in a user-friendly fashion. All supplies are provided. All you need to do is say YES and share your love and faith with our children.



## Turning Trash into Treasure for Our Schools

Saving Box Tops for Education is a great way to help support our schools. If you don't already save them for someone, you can drop them in the offering plate or in the church office and Sharon will see that they get distributed to our Fairhaven Schools. Each box top is worth \$.10 and can be found on a wide variety of products.



## Kids Supper Klub



Kid's Supper Klub is a once a month youth activity designed for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. We prepare a simple meal together, take part in a "burn off energy," full of fun activity, and have a time of simple worship to recognize that we are blessed as children of God. Each meeting will have a theme and will be packed with fun.

Rev. Bette will be leading this group but will need help each month from one parent.

**When: Sundays, 4-6 p.m.**

**Oct. 21, Nov. 4, Dec. 9**

(watch for dates in 2008 to be announced soon)

**Who: Kids in grades 4-5** (friends are welcome even if they don't belong to this church!)

**Questions: See Rev. Bette**

## 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.

## Pot Luck Fellowship

**October 19, 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 **8** times in September and is greatly in need of your donations to restock it. All items especially canned meats, tuna, hearty soups/stews, paper products and beverages.



-Rev. Bette McClure-

Dear Friends,

When Jesus taught his friends to pray he included

these words in the prayer we now call The Lord's Prayer: "And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us." (Luke 11:4) Each Sunday we pray a version of those words, asking and offering forgiveness for those things we have done wrong or failed to do right.

It's rather easy to glibly mouth the familiar words of The Lord's Prayer, without really thinking about what we are saying. That's especially true, I think, for the words about forgiveness. Forgiveness, true forgiveness, is a tough nut to crack. The old adage of "forgive and forget" is much easier said than done for many if not most of us. And there are times when forgetting is not appropriate - but we can still work on forgiveness.

Our Jewish brothers and sisters recently observed their high holy days - Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Yom Kippur is a day of atonement when observant Jews atone for sins of the past year against God. In preparation for that they are expected to reconcile with any person against whom they sinned and right the wrongs they committed. While this is not our practice it does seem to be one that is worthy of emulation.

As we begin this new church year, let us ponder the issue of forgiveness. Let us confess before God, but let us also make right those wrongs against others. As my mother always told me, "confession is good for the soul." Let's do something good for our soul, for our church and for all the communities in which we gather.

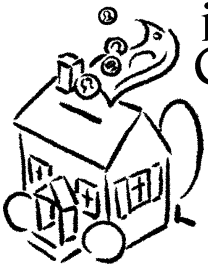
Blessings,

*Bette*

## A Time to Care

Members of our congregation are invited to share a time of reflection on the impact of family violence. Sponsored by the Clergy Conference Task Force, this mini-workshop will be held on **October 16, from 8:30 a.m. - Noon** at the Mattapoisett Congregational Church, 27 Church Street. Included will be main speaker, Rev. Beverly Stenmark of the United Methodist Church in North Kingston, RI; panel discussions, a video presentation and discussion.

## Neighbors in need Offering



**Sunday, October 7th** we celebrate communion with the world on this special day of unity. We also collect on that

morning the special Neighbors in Need offering which helps us to reach out in partnership with people on the margin of society, providing a hand up, not a hand-out. Neighbors in Need supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

Write to Figri, our foster child 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 Ron Johansen and Al Jones for painting the front doors.

To Norm and Sue Burr for the gardening and cleaning.

To John Rogers for the oversight of the elevator installation.

To Doug Braley for mowing the lawn this summer.

To the Sunday School children for the new banner.

To Cindy LeBlanc and the choir for their continued offerings.

To the Stewardship Committee, Peg & John Rogers and Betty Monk for greeting and hosting coffee hour in September.

To Al Jones, Joyce Howland, Alison & Pam Kuechler for their worship leadership in September.



**Help us make  
communications  
faster/easier by  
sending your your  
e-mail address to  
fccof@juno.com.**



## 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*

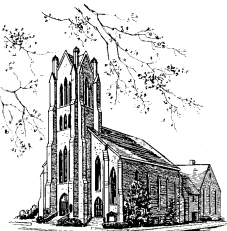
**Capt. Barbara Webster, AN** Iraq  
*friend of Pam Kuechler*

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

## Next Messenger Deadline: October 22nd

### ***The Messenger***

First Congregational Church  
34 Center Street  
Fairhaven MA 02719-2931



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