



The Messenger

Volume 58 No. 7

First Congregational Church

Fairhaven, Massachusetts

September 2009

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



September 13th.
Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Join us for a special worship service to start off the new Church Year. We will celebrate God's love for each of us and focus on some of the things we have learned from Jesus over the summer. Children will begin Sunday School following a special Children's Message. Oh, and did I mention? There will be balloons!!

Sunday School News

"What Jesus Has to Teach Us"

An exciting new Sunday School program will begin on Sunday, September 13th. Children in Pre-School through Grade 7 are invited to gather every Sunday following the Children's Message to hear stories about Jesus and what he has to teach us about friendship, accepting and reaching out to others, about compassion and other important lessons. Classes will include interesting and fun activities to help children learn. On long holiday weekends there will always be an activity for children who attend church.

We are always looking for help in teaching the classes. If you are interested in joining the teaching team even for a week, please speak with Sue Burr or Rev. Bette.

Church, Hot Dogs, Beans & Wii!! Saturday, September 19th, 4-7 p.m.

Join your church family for a good, old fashioned, Saturday night supper of hot dogs, beans, coleslaw and brown bread! Following the meal we will gather in small groups to talk about where our church should go in the areas of worship, hospitality, outreach and youth programs. These were the areas most folks expressed an interest in when we surveyed the congregation in the spring after talking about restructuring how we run the church at our April Annual Meeting.

We need to hear all voices and all viewpoints to make our ministries and mission successful. So come with ideas and open minds to plan for a vibrant and exciting future for our church.

Several Wii games will be provided for the children while the discussion is taking place. We will close our time together with a surprise dessert and a 5 minute closing worship. Don't miss it!

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 workout.

Prayer Walks

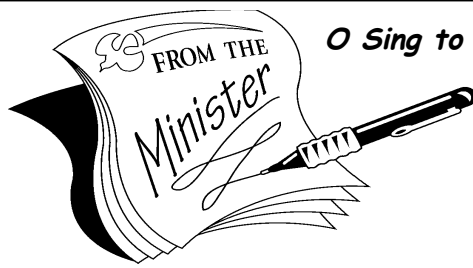
Begin your day with spiritual exercise on Fort Phoenix Beach. Thursdays at 7:30 a.m. until the snow flies.

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.

Family Fun Show

Another Family Fun Magic Show has been tentatively scheduled for Friday, October 2nd. In order for this to happen we need a commitment from at least 10 people to sell 10 ticket each. Please call or see Al Jones if you are interested in selling tickets (774-202-3336).



-Rev. Bette McClure-

O Sing to the Lord a new song..." (Psalm 96:1)

Dear Friends,

Music has always been such an important part of our worship here at First Congregational Church. Through singing we praise God, giving thanks for all God has done in our lives.

Each different hymn helps us to

express our faith in ways that mere spoken words are unable to do adequately. Most every one of us has a favorite hymn or hymns that reach our very core. For us, those hymns bring comfort and grounding even when our lives are turbulent and challenging.

Given all that, it's interesting to consider that the very music that speaks so deeply to our soul, might leave someone else feeling completely empty. I am always amazed when I ask folks, perhaps during funeral planning, what a favorite hymn of theirs is. Sometimes I nod enthusiastically, loving that particular hymn; other times, I inwardly groan because I find their favorite hymn one that I can barely abide!

The Parish Paper (Copyright 2009 by David Bales & Herb Miller) recently published an article about various worship-hymn preferences. According to that article a high percentage of American Protestants born before 1927 prefer *the old gospel hymns* such as "Blessed Assurance," "In the Garden," and "Tis So Sweet to Trust Jesus." Most of these old gospel hymns were written between 1870 and 1935. At least three-fourths of American Protestants born from 1927-1945 prefer *the great classic hymns* written between 1520 and 1870. Songs such as "A Mighty Fortress," "The Church's One Foundation," and "Holy, Holy, Holy" fall into this category.

The article raises an important issue when it states that for "many people born since 1960...most of the hymns in both hymn-types noted above are boring, devoid of meaning." They go on to say that the hymn preferences of worshippers born since 1945 fall into three categories: 1st Generation Contemporary: Modern Praise Songs written between 1960-1978 (an example is "They Will Know We are Christians by Our Love"); 2nd Generation Contemporary: Restorational Praise & Worship Songs written between 1978-1995 (an example is "Shine, Jesus, Shine"); and 3rd Generation Contemporary: Missional Worship Songs written since 1995 (an example is "Lord Reign in Me").

The authors suggest, and I would concur, that in order to avoid continued shrinking church membership and attendance in the coming years, churches need to "consciously decide to

(Continued on next page)

"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."



Choral Workshop

Choral Workshop Featuring Composer / Arranger Lloyd Larson

to be held
October 24th

Registration: 8:30 a.m.

Workshop: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Cost: \$30 (includes music & lunch)

Since 1982, Larson has been an active composer and arranger for several major publishing companies. His publications include nearly 300 choral octavos, Christmas and Easter cantatas, several keyboard collections, numerous vocal solo and duet collections, instrumental solo and ensemble publications, orchestrations, and handbell settings. His past includes extensive recording experience as a singer, keyboard player and arranger. He has done arranging for an internationally-broadcast radio program, and frequently is called upon as a guest conductor, composer and clinician.

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. beginning September 9th.** Band rehearsals are announced and are held before choir. Come work with Music Director, Dave Touchette and add your musical gifts to our worship.

(Letter: from page 2)

provide worship experiences that match the spiritual preference of young-adult age groups." They recommend, for churches our size, that we provide a blended worship service that includes, every Sunday, the great classic hymns, an occasional old gospel hymn and at least two of the three categories of contemporary praise songs.

Doing so is not a total change for us, as we have tried to include a variety of hymns in our services. But, if we do want to grow, and if we do want to attract and keep younger people, we need to be even more intentional in our selection of music each week. Let's work on that this fall, and have open discussions about our own preference in music while respecting and honoring the fact that not everyone will like the same things. Let us all learn to sing both an old and a new song to the Lord.

Blessings, Bette

Blessing of the Animals



A special

Blessing of the Animals on our lawn on **Sunday, October 4th 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!

For Everything there is a Season...A Time to Be Born, and a Time to Die"

Planning for the Time of Death

It's Benjamin Franklin who is credited with saying something to the effect of "there is nothing certain in this world other than death and taxes." Given the inevitability of our own death and that of our loved ones it makes sense for all of us to do some planning for that day. To help with that task we will be offering a series of workshops that will cover various topics including advanced directives/living wills, funeral planning, burial and related issues. More details will be forthcoming during the month.

**Thursday Evenings,
October 1st, 8th and 15th
7:00 -8:30 p.m.**

If there are specific topics you would like included, please let Rev. Bette know.

Pulpit Flowers

On August 30th - in loving memory of Margaret Fields by Bill, Ellen & Kristen.

Congratulations

To Kate & Silvino Martinez on the August 23rd baptism of their boys, Benjamin and Christian Martinez.

Our Prayers are with...

Jean Campbell, Matt Desimas, Bob Heskett, Ron Dawson, Priscilla Faber, Suzanne Gonsalves, Jean Condon, Grace Battistelli, Lois Goulart, Alma Johnson, Elsie Jacobsen, Ruth Rebello, Dot Holmes, Ron Simonsen, Vi Braley.

The Women's Fellowship is also undergoing a restructuring and wishes to encourage ALL women to participate as schedules permit. There are no dues to join. Women by their very nature are nurturers and we need to let our nurturing instincts work for the church and for each other.



Our first activity will be a **Salad Potluck on Thursday, September 17th**. Gather at 6:00 p.m. in Maddaford Vestry for munchies and "mocktails", then sit down to eat at 6:30 p.m. Even if you decide to come at the last minute just arrive with a salad to share... anything from arugula to zucchini!

Carol Gage at 508-994-7901 or Betty Monk 508-992-2004 for more information.

(See entire letter on back of calendar!)

**Now
Featuring
Fall
Merchandise**



Our half-price sale is over and we are now featuring fall and winter clothing. Donations are welcome of LIKE NEW, clean, stain-free clothing. The thrift shop has been a tremendous success so far and serves a dual purpose. We are reaching out to the community providing clothing and household items at a nominal price, while generating income for the church. Thanks to all who have donated. Stop in and see our many new items. Heavenly Treasures is open Wednesday & Saturdays from 10:00-1:00.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Shawls have been made for centuries to provide warmth and comfort to the wearer. Prayer shawls are knitted (or crocheted) by folks in churches, either in small groups or individually, at home and after being dedicated at a church service, are given to individuals during illness and recovery, at times of loss or even in times of joy. Knitters say a prayer for the recipient of the shawl as they begin knitting and a written prayer is attached to the shawl when it is given to someone.

We have provided prayer shawls to a number of people over the last several years including folks in the hospital, in nursing homes and those going through difficult times. The good news and the bad news is – we've just about used up all our shawls!

If you are interested in this ministry, please let the church office know. We have directions for both knitting and crocheting shawls and we also have a small supply of yarn.



Fairhaven Community Concert Series

Support the Fairhaven Community Concert Series and your business at the same time. Advertising is available in the Concert Series program book. Rates are affordable and help defray the cost of printing throughout the year. Contact Peg Rogers (508-994-3607) or Bev Johansen (508-992-7303) if you would like to place an ad.

Here's your chance to become a Concert Series Sponsor in one of the following categories:

Gold	\$100
Silver	75
Bronze	50
Patron	25
Friend	10

Pick up Sponsor Forms in the church office or see Peg Rogers or Bev Johansen. Your sponsorship will appear in our program through out the series. Make checks payable to First Congregational Church.

F.A.M.E

(Fairhaven Assoc. for
Music Education)
Presents

The Matt Richard Group and
The Southcoast Jazz
Orchestra
Saturday, September 26, 2009
7:30 p.m.
FHS Performing Arts Center

Adults \$10, Seniors \$5,
Students \$2
Tickets are available in the
church office or by calling
508-996-0541



"Now turn to hymn 206. Sing the first
verse. Mumble the third. Hum the fifth."



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

2009-2010 Season

October 18, 2009 7:00
Glen Shane Irish Duo
Meat Pie Dinner 5:30

November 15, 2009 2:00
Susan Lainey, Vocalist

January 31, 2010 7:00
Original "Dissonance"
Jazz Band
Mardi Gras Dinner 5:30

March 7, 2010 2:00
Boston Guitar Quartet
with Jim Robitaille

May 2010 Still TBD,
Daniela Chirigotis String
Quartet with Fhvn/NB Youth
Orchestra Students

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

Help us make communications faster/easier.

**Receive announcements,
reminders, updates and the
Messenger via e-mail by sending
your e-mail address to
fccof@juno.com.**



**Worship and Bible
Adventures Sunday
School take place each
Sunday at 10:00 a.m.**

Please Join Us!!



Youth Reaching Out

**Organizational Meeting
Friday, September 18th
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.**

Youth in grades 6-12 and their parents are invited to join together for pizza and conversation about a new plan for youth activities during the coming year. Our hope is to provide a variety of mission activities, both locally and in the wider community, through which youth can reach out to help others. The possibilities are endless and the purpose of this meeting is to explore options for all youth in this age group to take part. Some ideas at this point include being involved in a Habitat for Humanity build, helping out at the new Gifts to Give program, serving meals at Market Ministry or another feeding program, providing programs at a senior housing facility. We hope you will have ideas to add to ours! **Please call the office by Wednesday, September 23rd to let us know you will be attending.**

Write to Erwan our sponsored child at the following address

Erwan Ramadhani
132/059533/01079
Putro Linuwih/4244
Christian Children's Fund
P.O. Box 1364
Jakarta 10013 Indonesia

OR YOU CAN E-MAIL!
sr132@ccfindonesia.org



Confirmation Class

As we have done for the past several years, we will be offering a Confirmation program for youth in grades 8 & 9. The program is designed to help youth explore their faith, learn more about our church and our denomination, explore the teachings of other faiths and make a decision about renewing their baptismal vows and joining the church. Youth in grade 9 will be confirmed in the spring if they so decide.

We will meet at least monthly at a time that is convenient to class members. Activities will include discussion, videos, outreach activities and even some fun! Letters about the program will be going out in the next several weeks. If you have a son or daughter in 8th or 9th grade and you do not receive a letter, please call the office to receive more information.

Help Wanted

On occasion there are folks in our church family who need assistance with transportation - whether it's a ride to church each Sunday or to an appointment, the grocery store or pharmacy. We are looking for volunteers who are willing to be on a call list for such situations. Arrangements will be coordinated by the Board of Deacons and we hope to get enough people signed up so that no one person is always being called to help out. This is a simple way to be of service within our family of faith. If you are willing to help, please leave your name at the church office. There is a current need for someone willing to drive one of our members to run errands around town, mid-week, for 1-1.5 hours.



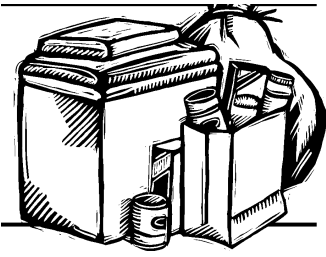
Kid's Supper Klub

Are your children too young for our Middle and High School youth program? Would they enjoy a chance to gather with other kids at church to share a meal, have some fun and grow in faith? If so, we have a special activity designed just for them!

Kid's Supper Klub is a once a month youth activity designed for 3rd - 5th 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. – Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 22, Dec. 20, 2009
(watch for dates in 2010 to be announced soon)

Who: Kids in grades 3-5 (friends are welcome even if they don't belong to this church!)



Corner Cupboard

Our pantry continues to serve people in need. **Six** families were helped in August. Thank you to everyone who generously donates items to keep the pantry so well stocked. Here is a list of items that need replenishing: toothpaste, tooth brushes, bars of soap, ramen noodles, snacks and boxes of potatoes and/or rices.



World Communion Sunday

October 2, 2009

World Communion Sunday is a day when various Protestant denominations around the world join in unity around Communion Tables. As we have done in the past we will join in the day's celebration with a service focusing on what unites us as Christians.

Help us make this service especially meaningful by contributing a small loaf of home made bread – preferably bread from your family's country of origin (or a country you particularly like!) All the bread will be displayed on the Communion table and shared by worshippers. Children will have a special part in the Communion service.



Decas Build Begins!

A new build schedule is set and ground is being broken on Buzzards Bay Area Habitat's next build - a single family home located at 39 Minot Ave in Wareham.

The Build Committee anticipates needing volunteers beginning the weekend of September 12th and 13th and ending shortly before Thanksgiving. Plumbing and electrical work provided by Upper Cape Voke-Tech students will continue throughout the winter. Finish work will begin in the spring with a June completion date.

New Volunteers are desperately needed both skilled and unskilled. Contact volunteer coordinator Mike Paoletta at habitatvolunteers09@gmail.com or 508-317-9625.

Cub Scouts Rally



Pack 55 and Troop 55 will be holding registration on Thursday, September 17th at 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 Fernandes (sjfern20@comcast.net) or call Norm Burr (508-994-6472) for more information.

Church Fair Planning

It's time again to plan for the Old Time Holiday Fair to be held on Saturday, December 12th. Chair persons are needed to coordinate the activities.

Please speak to any member of the Church Council regarding your ideas or availability to help!

