



# Herald of Good TIDINGS

*“Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, ‘Behold your God!’”*      *Isaiah 40:9*

## April and Everyday Miracles

We have many remnants of our pagan past even today. Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday are named for the Norse/Germanic gods/goddesses Odin, Thor, and Frig. Saturday is dedicated to the Roman god Saturn. The months we mostly get from Latin. We have July and August named after the first two Roman emperors, who the Roman senate declared gods. We also have April which is named for either Aphrodite, the goddess of love, or the Latin verb meaning to open. Both possible readings refer to April being about the flowers opening or the bursting forth of new life out of love. Either meaning is appropriate for what is going on in April around here. The grass is greening up, tulips and other early plants are blooming.

April weather tends to get good press. After all, can April's weather be worse than February or March? Since it has to be better than what happened in the earlier months we are happy with the weather. But if we had April's weather in June we would complain the whole time. The context sometimes determines what is good or bad. April is generally warmer than what came before and prepares us for even warmer times to come. Even cold days in April are more enjoyable because we know it is the last throes of winter and the cold will soon go away so that we can complain about the heat.

This is why I like four seasons. Each season brings good and bad weather, but when the season is young the good far outweighs the bad. Then as the season comes to an end we look forward to the next thing. In spring we can't wait for summer heat. In August we look forward to apple picking and cooler sweater weather.

Do we appreciate things that come everyday? Every hour? Or do we overlook it and under appreciate it? When the lights go out in bad weather we appreciate electricity more after the loss.

We can be that way with God. In a particular moment we can forget to thank God for His great love and care for us. Rather, people tend to turn to God in the tough times, not the good times. I remember a comic saying he felt bad for Jesus; because people only go to Jesus in the bad times, never the good times.

That is not always true. I have heard several athletes thank God in their victory speeches and point heavenward after a good play. But do they thank God for getting to work without a car accident? The other day it was 70 degrees and I took extra time to enjoy the lovely weather. From time to time it is good for us to take time to notice the wonderful miracles in the everyday.

May we feel God's love in the everyday miracles and let us pray God will let us be part of a miracle in someone else's life. Amen.

Pastor Brian

### **SERMON TOPICS FOR APRIL**

- 4/3 “They Will Pay (Oppression)”
- 4/10 “Pride & Charity” — Jennifer Bohn
- 4/17 “We Will Not Be Snatched”
- 4/24 “People Are More Important Than . . .” — children's time  
“Betrayal”

Mark your calendars for:

**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE  
CENTRAL ASSOCIATION**

**Sunday, May 1<sup>ST</sup>**

Look for more information to come.

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications are available in Fellowship Hall, and in the church office for anyone interested in applying for a scholarship. **Don't forget, applications are due by April 15th.**

### Happy Birthday to:

Ernie Smith - April 9<sup>th</sup>

Haydn McPherson - April 10<sup>th</sup>



### Coffee Hour Hosts

- 4/3, 10 ~ Music Committee  
 4/17 & 24 ~ Memorial/Scholarship, Library, Nominating & Historian  
 5/1 ~ Board of Trustees



### Handbells

Our Church presently has a two octave set of handbells. Are you interested in learning about handbells? Fran and I have been involved at various churches in their handbell program and would enjoy hearing our bells.

If you are interested in the possibility of adding handbells to our programs, please contact either the Church office or Herb Mower, [mower@alum.mit.edu](mailto:mower@alum.mit.edu), 508-434-2864 and we can see what we can do.

I envision our getting together sometime before the end of May to explore the possibility. Then we can look forward to setting up a schedule for the fall that works for all.

Herb Mower

## Fall Fair *Extravaganza*



The Fall Fair will return on **Oct. 15th & 16th.**

We anticipate another successful fair! And, once again, we're reaching out to the congregation for your ideas!

As you may recall, in recent years we've had various themes or themed tables such as crafts, jellies/jams (food items), pet, Christmas/Halloween sections, jewelry, etc. To ensure its success, the planning must begin NOW!

This is a great opportunity to get to know the rest of your church family! Please contact Cindy Ryan at 508-832-3416 and let her know you're interested in being a part of this church fundraiser.

Our next **Community Supper** is planned for

**Saturday, April 16th, at 5:00 p.m.**

On the menu: **Roast Pork Dinner**

Adults - \$10 Children - **FREE**

Servers: Stewardship Committee

**additional volunteers needed**

### CRADLE ROLL VOLUNTEERS

- 4/3 Theresa Stone & Rebecca  
 4/10 Lauren Webb & Rebecca  
 4/17 Lindsay Censabella & Paris  
 4/24 Katie Sharr & Rebecca  
 5/1 Liz Esposito & Paris  
 5/8 Lauren Webb & Rebecca



## SAVE THE DATE

**SATURDAY, JUNE 18th  
COMMUNITY YARD SALE**

We will be needing your help  
for a short time on Friday

the 17th at 6pm and again on Saturday the  
18th at 1:30 to carry tables out and back  
into the church. At this time, it looks like  
we will not be having a church table, but  
spaces are available to rent for only \$15  
(\$20 for non-Church members).

If you have questions or to rent a space,  
call me, Cindy Dube, at 508-832-6646 or  
the church office, 508-832-2845.

Greater Auburn Community Chorus

Under the Direction of Charles J. Pietrello  
Presents

## **WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW IS LOVE**

Saturday, April 9th at 7 p.m.  
Sunday, April 10th at 2:30 p.m.

at St. Joseph's Church,  
194 Oxford St. North, Auburn

Tickets \$12

For additional info call: 508-832-7711 ext. 2036

## **"LAUNDRY LOVE"**

Pastor Brian and Church members Pat Bukoski, Shirley and Steve Hill, Ellie Lowell and Marion Woodcock participated in the "Laundry Love" program on Thursday, March 10th. The Rev. Meredyth Ward organizes and leads this urban mission in Worcester, in the Main South neighborhood. This free laundry night is offered once a month, on the second Thursday of the month, at "Suds Up" on Southbridge Street in Worcester from 6-9 p.m. Through "Laundry Love" Rev. Ward takes the Gospel message to the people while meeting a very basic need of clean laundry. The "Laundry Love" ministry paid for 25 loads of laundry the first night when it started back in July. Now, it averages close to 150 loads for each monthly session, all paid for. Pizza and drinks are also provided. The Outreach Committee presented Rev. Meredyth with a check from First Congregational to help with this ministry.



Pictured: Marion Woodcock, Steve Hill, Shirley Hill, Rev. Meredyth and Pat Bukoski



## Potluck

### JOIN US — ALL ARE WELCOME!

We continue to hold potluck suppers (a combination of potluck and book/movie discussions) on the third Tuesday monthly. The next get together will be on **Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m.** when we will view the movie *Babette's Feast*. "Sisters Martine and Philippa grow to spinsterhood under the wrathful eye of their strict pastor father until one day Philippa's former suitor sends a Parisian refugee named Babette to serve as the family cook. Babette's lavish celebratory banquet tempts the family's dwindling congregation, who abjure such fleshly pleasures as fine foods and wines."

On **Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, at 6 p.m.**, we will hold a potluck with book discussion (title to be determined).

**CALL FOR ARTISTS** – The Auburn Cultural Council is once again preparing for its Spring Art Show — "Art for the Arts" show and sale to be held Saturday, May 7th, from 10-3 at Pakachoag Church. The show is free and open to the public. They invite adult artists and high school students in grades 11 and 12 from Auburn, as well as surrounding towns, to participate.

They are looking for original framed works in these categories: oil/acrylic paintings, water-colors, photographs, graphic art (pen and ink, graphite, colored pencils, pastels, charcoal), mixed media, and sculpture.

Deadline for applications is April 8th. Applications and entry rules may be obtained at the Auburn Library or online at [www.auburnguide.com](http://www.auburnguide.com) (on header click Boards and Committees and select Cultural Council). Please call Marilyn Kulesa at 508-832-4081 for any other information.

Not an artist? Then plan on coming May 7th and enjoy the show!

### Confirmation Class

We are looking to hold an informational meeting in June for teens (and their parents) who are interested in attending our next Confirmation Class series which will begin in September. These classes are for 8th and 9th grade students and are designed to prepare our youth for their confirmation in 2017. So, discuss the classes with your teen and look for more info to come.

### MANY THANKS

Once again we want to thank Ron and Connie Hanks for organizing the Easter flower orders. Much is involved behind the scenes to accomplish such a beautiful array of flowers on Easter morning so we want to express our heartfelt appreciation for all they do. We also want to thank Scott Stone for all he did in coordinating arrangements with the supplier.

*Dear Pastor Brian and our "Church Family,"*

*On behalf of my family we want to thank you for all of your prayers and concerns for Larry and me. It was a long struggle for us and my family. I know it meant so much to Larry when Pastor Brian and others called and visited him at our home and at the hospital and ICU and also following his surgeries when he was in rehab at Overlook for 2-3 months. I also want to thank you, Pastor Brian, for the beautiful memorial service you arranged for Larry and my family.*

*God Bless You! Love,*

*Cherolyn J. Cariglio & Family*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Well, Easter is over and spring is here. I love this time of renewal in our hearts and spirits as well as the earth's rebirth with all the budding trees and spring flowers. I pray you all had an Easter that renewed your spirit in the knowledge of our Father's love for EACH and EVERY ONE of us.

On Palm Sunday we were treated to a wonderful breakfast by our cooks, Jen Bohn and Ron Hanks. **Y**outh **O**n a **M**ission assisted with set up, serving and clean-up. Then YOM was off to get to the second, and much anticipated event of the day, the Easter Egg Hunt! Everyone went home with a bag of candy, or at least wrappers that once held candy, and a smile. The Butter Braids were also distributed on Palm Sunday. We raised \$405 for YOM and would like to thank anyone and everyone who participated. We hope you enjoy your purchase!

Easter morning YOM was out again assisting Pastor Brian in conducting the Sunrise Service, and as any of you who have or had teens knows, getting up to speak at a Sunrise Service as a teen shows real commitment. Thank you, guys!

Currently we are getting in contact with Overlook to look into helping them ready the soil to plant a garden. So, you see, the youth of the church are busy.

Sunday School has been practicing the old songs we remember from our Sunday School days like *Zacchaeus* and *Jesus Loves Me* with Jackie Knox. We will be singing for you in the coming month, so stay tuned.

We always welcome new faces, young or old, down in Sunday school so stop in and see what we are up to.

With His guidance we serve.

Jean McPherson, Director of Religious Education



## GOING GREEN

If you currently receive the *Tidings* newsletter via the U.S. Postal Service, and you have internet access, please consider subscribing to the *Tidings* electronically. Here's how it works: just contact the church office (508-832-2845, or via email at: [secretary@auburnfirstucc.org](mailto:secretary@auburnfirstucc.org)) and let us know you're willing to make the switch and we will send you an email notifying you once the latest version of the *Tidings* has been posted. Within the email will be a link to the church's website where you may view the newsletter. If you would rather read from a hard copy you may download and print the *Tidings* onto standard 8½ x 11 paper right in the comfort of your own home (and if you have a colored printer you'll see all the wonderful clip art in color!). Still not convinced to make the switch? There's no risk. If you find you prefer "snail mail," just say the word and we can always change your mailing status back. Keep in mind, we currently print approximately 220 newsletters monthly; however, we need only 200 pieces to take advantage of the bulk mailing reduced rate.

### ESTATE PLANNING?

Have you included the church in your will or estate planning? Please prayerfully consider if the Lord would have you remember your church when completing your will.

*"One of the greatest missing teachings in the American church today is the reminder to men and women that nothing we have belongs to us."*

Gordon MacDonald  
American Pastor & Teacher

### NOTICE TO ALL BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

There will be a weekend clean out of all storage locations within the church including the attic, basement and stages. The clean out will be on April 30th. We ask that all boards and committees that have items in storage to please go through everything prior to the clean out weekend. We will be throwing out any items that are not labeled to keep in storage. **We will also be looking for help on the clean out weekend to make it quick and easy work.**

Thank you, the Board of Trustees



### From Here We Grow Preschool

Spring Has Sprung! In March we were visited by Neal Primeaux Photography who spent two days with us taking pictures of the children and their classmates. Once again, thank you to the Board of Christian Ed. for allowing us the use of a Sunday school room for the individual pictures.

**Here We Grow** hosted its Open House on March 8<sup>th</sup>. We were visited by many new families and some past families. We scheduled the Open House in the morning and had a much better turnout than years past and picked up 6 new 3-year-olds and 2 new 4-year-olds. As of this writing, we do have open spots in our morning and afternoon 3-year-old sessions and our afternoon 4-year-old sessions. We still have tours almost daily.

We are doing 2 Papa Gino's fundraiser nights. When we did only one evening we did not have enough room. The dates are April 5th and 6th from 4 to 9 p.m. Flyers are needed in order to credit us with 20% of your purchase. So, look for a flyer on page 7 of this newsletter.

Looking ahead, we will be closed April 18-22 for spring vacation. We are looking into setting up a date in April to have members of the Amber Alert Team, Massachusetts State Police and Auburn Police at HWG to do fingerprinting of our graduating 4's. We also have the "Reptile Man" coming in to do a show with the 4-year-olds. We are so excited!

We had such success with last year's Intergenerational Day that we have planned another for May 2nd. It will be from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. So, senior citizens, please look for a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

**Here We Grow** will be running a summer program June 20-24<sup>th</sup> ("What's Out There? SPACE") and June 27-July 1st ("The Olympics"). If you know of anyone who has children 4 to 9-years-old and would like to send them to our summer program, have them give the school a call for more information, 508-832-8184.

Until next month, stay well and keep looking for those crocuses.

Gina Basili, **Here We Grow** Preschool Director

On March 13th we celebrated the baptism of Lily Rose Braman.

Lily is the 2½-year-old daughter of Keith Braman and Tara Morton.

We pray for God's continued blessing upon Lily and her family.



Dear Church Members:

From time to time, we are asked about, and you may have noticed in the Church bulletin, the dedication of an anthem by a person or family member in recognition of a special event or in memory of an individual(s).

Music is an integral part of each weekly service. The requested anthems are added and sung by the Choir, personalized meaningful music, an added dimension of remembrance. The modest monetary donation gifted for the anthem is used to supplement the music budget in order to purchase new and replacement music.

Should you have any questions concerning an anthem request, please see Heather Moore, Minister of Music, or any member of the Music Committee.

Members of the Music Committee are: Steve Hill, Chairman, Barbara Allaire, Randy Bohn, Pat Bukoski, Deb Mahlert, and Herb Mower.

**HERE WE GROW PRESCHOOL**

# Papa Gino's Community Fundraiser

Our team will earn 20% of the sales made by our families and friends during this time. Be sure to submit your certificate when ordering.

Carry-out counts too!

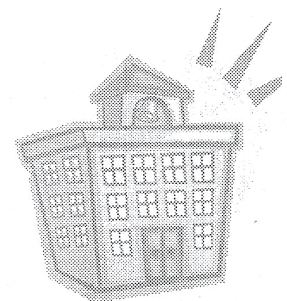
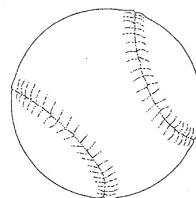
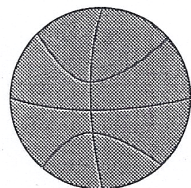
**If you cannot make it one evening, you can go on the other evening!**

**When:** April 5th & 6th

**Time:** 4 - 9 p.m.

**Where:** 459 Southbridge St., Auburn

**Phone:** 508-832-6583



- Any guest bringing in one of your flyers may not redeem coupons with their order.
- Papa Gino's Pizzeria will donate 20% of the total pre-tax sales from all the guests that come in with the flyer during your fundraiser.
- This is valid for all dine-in and carry-out orders. (Sorr, not valid on delivery orders).



Happy Spring! April is Alcohol Awareness Month, National Autism Awareness Month, National Child Abuse Prevention Month, National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, and National Donate Life Month. It is also National Facial Protection Month, Occupational Therapy Month, and Sports Eye Safety Month.

April 4-10 is National Public Health Week

April 7 is National Alcohol Screening Day and World Health Day

April 12-23 is National Infant Immunization Week

April 25-29 is Air Quality Awareness Week and Every Kid Healthy Week

Please check the closet if you or someone you know needs anything. If it's there, please feel free to borrow it for as long as you need it. Items continue to come and go and that's what the closet is for.

Also please check the health table in Fellowship Hall if you need services for a loved one. There is information about help coming into your home, paper work to help with end of life decisions, and also how to start those conversations.

The widows/widowers group continues to meet the first Friday of the month. We have had 6-7 and I know of at least 2 more that might be interested. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me ahead at 508-612-4521.

My Parish Nurse sisters have not been able to meet monthly like we used to. We haven't gotten together this year at all and I miss their support. I have registered for a 2 day seminar on Parish Nurses, "Looking at Parish Nursing Through a Different Lens." It is at St. Anselm in Manchester, NH in June and I am looking forward to it. I have been to other seminars there and they have been a refresher for me.

God Bless,

Debbie Pranaitis  
Parish Nurse

#### THOUGHTS FROM YOUR STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

*"God is able to make all grace to you, so that in all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."* 2 Corinthians 9:8

As a committee that meets year-round, we are reminded that Stewardship is a year-long commitment and not something to be only thought of in the fall months. Giving to, and doing for, our church is an ongoing experience. To put some emphasis on this, we, with Denise's help, have now added a scripture relating to generosity into the weekly bulletin. You will find it printed after the Offering Prayer. We hope you will find these messages meaningful. Also, periodically we will be hearing from our Treasurer and Financial Secretary to keep us updated regarding our giving (see charts on page 9).

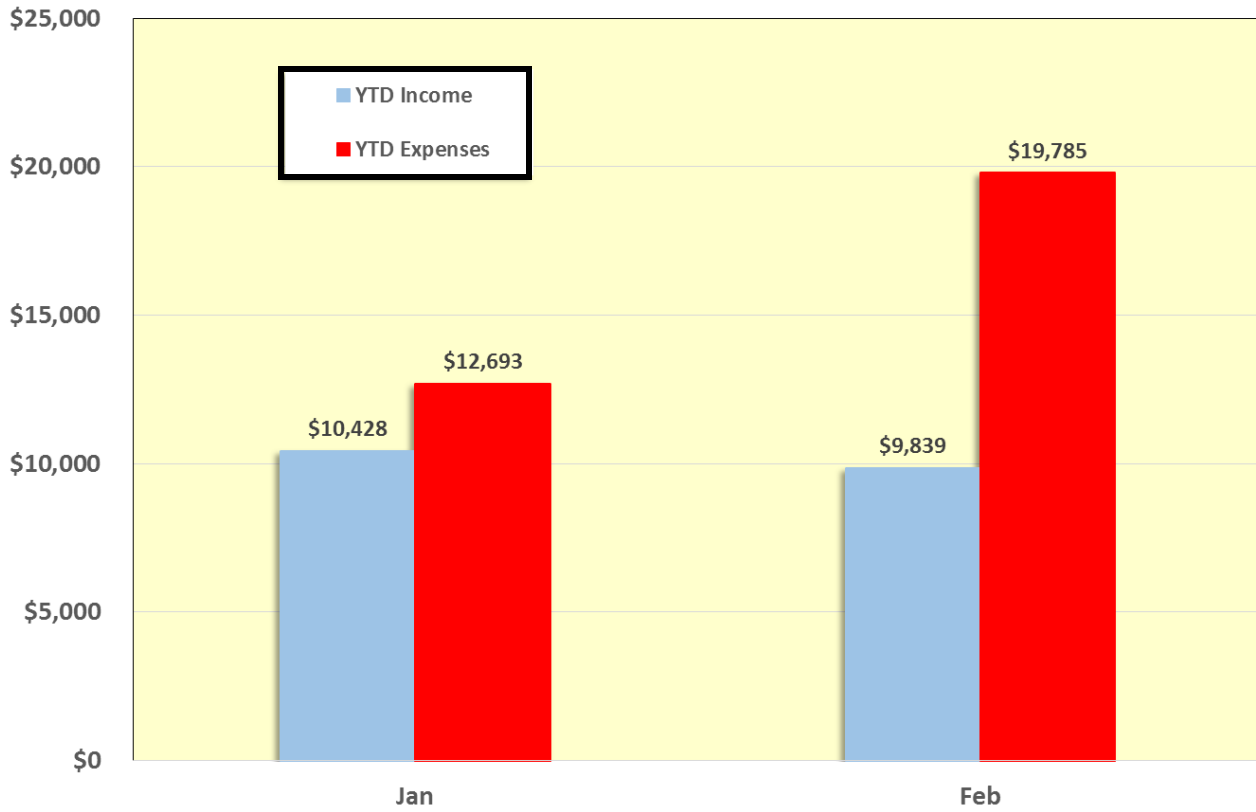
As a committee we look forward to keeping in touch with you throughout the remainder of this year.

Cindy Dube, Linda Hardy, Marilyn Kulesa, Sheila Skog and Lauren and Jacob Webb

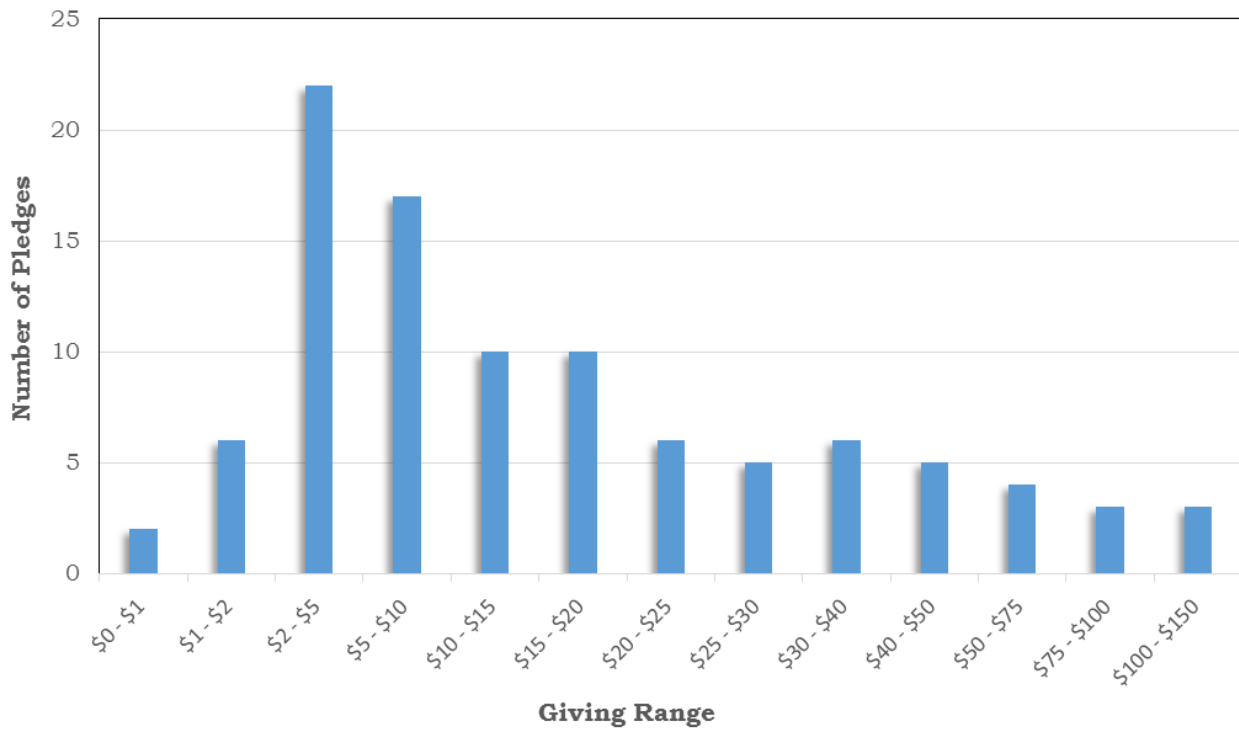


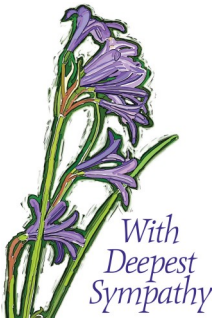
### **A FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT:**

#### **First Congregational Church 2016 Income & Expenses**



#### **2016 First Congregational Church Pledge Giving per Week**





Please remember in your thoughts and prayers the following families.

**Avis B. (Smith) Britton**, 89, longtime resident of Auburn died peacefully on Tuesday, March 22, 2016. Her husband of 64 years, Benjamin B. Britton, died in 2010. She is survived by her children, Brian A. Britton, Barbara A. Allaire and her husband, George, and Jo-Ann A. DeRosa and her husband, Gilbert; three grandchildren, Benjamin Allaire and his wife, Amie, Gina DeRosa and her husband, Kevin Bullock, and Sara DeRosa; two brothers, Horace T. Smith, Jr. of St. George, Utah and Paul D. Smith of Port Charlotte, Florida; she is also survived by several nieces, nephews and cousins. She was born in Providence, Rhode Island, daughter of the late Horace T. and Beatrice M. (West) Smith. In 1945, Avis graduated from East Providence High School.

Avis worked as a library associate at the Auburn Public Library for over 22 years. Many of those years she drove the bookmobile, which provided the children of the Auburn community access to reading. Avis was a member of the First Congregational Church of Auburn where she was an active member of the Women's Fellowship Group, a 30-year member of the choir, and an active participant and leader of several other committees. She was a member of the Auburn Grange and she enjoyed volunteering many hours at the Life Care Center of Auburn, the former Hahnemann Hospital, Auburn Youth and Family Services, and the library at Julia Bancroft Elementary School in Auburn. Also, Avis and her husband Ben had been actively involved with the 106th Infantry Division Reunion Group. A memorial service celebrating and honoring her life was held March 29th here at First Congregational Church. Burial will be at a later date in Hillside Cemetery, Auburn. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the First Congregational Church Memorial Fund, 128 Central Street, Auburn 01501.

**Arthur Michael Pappas, M.D.** of Auburn passed away on Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center in Worcester, MA at the age of 84. A native of Auburn, Dr. Pappas graduated from Auburn High School, Harvard College and the University of Rochester School of Medicine. He spent two years in the U.S. Navy doing research at the National Naval Medical Center at Bethesda, Maryland.

Dr. Pappas had a long and distinguished career as a leader in orthopedic medicine, academia, child advocacy, sports medicine and philanthropy. He was the founding Chair of the Department of Orthopedics and Physical Rehabilitation at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center. Dr. Pappas served as Vice President for Affiliate Relations for UMass Memorial Health Care, Professor of Pediatrics at UMass Medical School and Chair of the Board of Fairlawn Rehabilitation Hospital in Worcester. For over five decades Dr. Pappas brought not only his skills as an orthopedic surgeon but also his leadership in orthopedic residency programs to the University of Massachusetts Medical Center as well as to the Children's Hospital, Massachusetts General Hospital and Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston, as well as to the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Roxbury, Massachusetts.

Considered by many to be a pioneer in the field of sports medicine, Dr. Pappas focused his teaching and patient care primarily on the orthopedic needs of handicapped children and the care of professional as well as amateur athletes both young and old. He was the Medical Director for the Boston Red Sox for over twenty-five years. Dr. Pappas was also a former president of the Association of Professional Baseball Physicians, a member of the Sports Medicine Committee for the American Academy of Pediatrics, president of the Massachusetts Amateur Sports Foundation and sponsor of the Bay State Games.

Dr. Pappas was the recipient of a number of honors including the Massachusetts Medical Society Lifetime Achievement Award, Worcester District Medical Society's Dr. A. Jane Fitzpatrick Community Service Award, and the Physician Achievement Award from the Arthritis Foundation. Dr. Pappas was also honored by receiving the Massachusetts Hospital School's Edward H. Bradford Lifetime Achievement Award for Program Development for Handicapped Children and the Shining Star Award from UMass Children's Medical Center.

Dr. Pappas and his wife, Martha R. Pappas, Ed. D., were highly regarded for their community service and generosity. They received the 2012 Isaiah Thomas Award for leadership and philanthropy from the Worcester Telegram & Gazette. The couple unveiled a youth athletic complex, The Arthur M. and Martha R. Pappas Recreation Complex in their hometown of Auburn, MA. In 2001, a renovated teaching amphitheater was formally dedicated to the Pappases for their philanthropy to the Medical School and the UMass Medicine Foundation.

Dr. Pappas was a 33° Mason and also a member of the Joel H. Prouty Masonic Lodge in Auburn, MA.

Dr. Pappas leaves behind his wife, Martha R. Pappas, Ed. D., and his beloved cats, Patches and Blizzy.

The family is planning a Celebration of Life to honor Dr. Pappas near the date of his birthday in July of this year.

**"I am the resurrection and the Life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."** John 11:25

Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ  
217th ANNUAL MEETING ~ June 17 & 18, 2016

University of Massachusetts (Hotel UMass), 1 Campus Center Way, Amherst, MA

“Boldness” to Characterize the 217th Annual Meeting! “...proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.” - Acts 28:31  
Says one children’s song: “Be Bold, Be Brave, for the Lord our God is with us!”

The Annual Meeting is an opportunity to gather around God’s immense table of grace, to spend some time in a season of discernment concerning our future. It is a time when bold new initiatives are presented, worship is creative and uplifting, networking is possible at every turn, new ideas are introduced, and the people and ministries of the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC shine with the good news of Jesus the Christ. Come celebrate, worship, and be joyful together as the Body of Christ!

“[Paul] proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!” [Acts 28:31]. Our Annual Meeting will be an opportunity to focus on our “boldness” in sharing the good news of God’s love and grace as exemplified and made visible through the gathered individuals and in our work together as the Body of Christ. The **Keynote Speaker** is The Rev. Otis Moss III who serves as senior pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, IL. He is an ordained minister in the Progressive National Baptist Convention and the UCC, carrying dual standing in both denominations. The Rev. Dr. Moss received his Bachelor of Arts in religion and philosophy from Morehouse College and a Master of Divinity from Yale University.

TIDINGS is a monthly publication of  
**First Congregational Church,  
United Church of Christ  
128 Central St., Auburn MA 01501**  
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*God’s church in Auburn Center  
doing Christ’s work in the world.*  
*Web: [auburnfirstucc.org](http://auburnfirstucc.org)*



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OR CURRENT RESIDENT