



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,

Dec. 2nd
 1st Sunday in Advent
 Communion Sunday with
 Deacons’ offering
 & food pantry 10 a.m.

Dec. 9th
 2nd Sunday in Advent
 Cantata during 10 a.m. service

Dec. 16th
 3rd Sunday in Advent
 Children’s Pageant
 “Christmas Is ...”



Dec. 23rd
 4th Sunday in Advent
 Christmas Sunday
 Service 10 a.m.

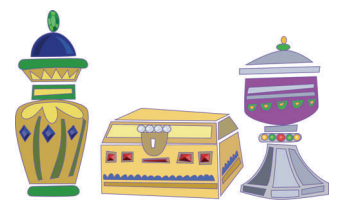
Dec. 24th
 Christmas Eve
 5 p.m. Family Service
 11 p.m. Candlelight
 Communion Service

Other December activities include **“Parents’ Night Out”** on **December 14th** from 6 to 8 p.m., **Youth Yankee Swap** will follow “Parents’ Night Out;” **Christmas Potluck and Sing-along** on **December 8th** at 5 p.m., and our annual **Cookie Walk** during coffee hour on **December 23rd**.

Christmas Fund 2012

The generous gifts of UCC congregations and individuals to the Christmas Fund enabled the Pension Boards’ Ministerial Assistance program to provide some form of ministerial assistance to approximately 1,600 persons over the past year.

- Christmas “Thank You” gift checks were sent to approximately 900 persons in 2011. Of those who received checks, 20 are over 100 years of age. The oldest person is 107. The 900 gifts totaled \$270,000.
- Monthly pension supplementation is being provided to 373 persons. These gifts total \$102,899 per month. A significant part of the annual total of \$1,255,885 comes from the Christmas Fund.
- Quarterly health premium supplementation is being provided to 250 families, totaling \$146,840 per quarter. All of the funding for health premium supplementation is derived from the Christmas Fund.
- Emergency grants totaling \$27,177 were provided to 22 individuals and families from January 1st through June 30, 2012.



WHAT SHALL WE GIVE HIM?

Your gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of retirees whose low income annuities make it difficult to meet increased living costs. You’ll find an offering envelope enclosed in this month’s *Tidings*. Please return it to the church, and **thank you** for your generosity.

The "Pumpkin Patch" is closed for 2012. It was a very successful year (\$8,000) and we hope, fun for all who took part. As you may have heard, our percentage earned for the Church exceeds all past years!

Our part of the fundraiser is:

- We pick the date we like the pumpkins to be delivered
- We unload the truck (which we have paid nothing for)
- We display all the pumpkins
- We get to sit in our beautiful "Patch" and collect money
- We tally and report each day's total sales via email
- We send the "Patch" a check for their percent

There is no output on our part at all.

We want to thank Denise and Judy, for once again, going over and above to make this year run so smoothly. Also, a special thanks to Bob Murray. Without his help and caring the "Patch" would not be able to be open.

It takes many, many people to get through the season, and we look forward to next year (don't we???)

We are hoping to meet next September to work on any ideas, suggestions, and planning to make 2013 even more successful than 2012.

We look forward to next year . . .

Thank you,



Diane, Shirley and Jen

Annual Coat Drive

Once again we are looking for help with supplying winter coats, hats, and gloves to the Goddard Elementary School children. The school is located in the Main South section of Worcester, and a large number of the students come from families living below the poverty line.

In addition to the 21 original requests for coats, we have now received word of 11 more children in need of coats this winter! Please contact Judy Murphy as soon as possible, if you're able to help.

Coffee Hour Hosts:

- 12/2 Board of Education
- 12/9 Historian & Memorial, Scholarship & Nominating Committees
- 12/16 Prudential Committee
- 12/23 Outreach Committee
- 12/30 Personnel Committee
- 1/6, 13 Trustees
- 1/20 Music Committee



Saint Nicholas



Now I am told that Santa Claus gets his name from Saint Nicholas, so I want to tell some stories I heard about Saint Nicholas. He was born to a rich family in Turkey. As a boy, his mother and father died. While still a young man, he heard of a father who thought he was too poor to put on a wedding for his daughters. The father's plan was to sell all three girls into slavery. Weddings are expensive, so rather than worry about a wedding for any of them, he would just get rid of all of his daughters.

Nicholas heard of the plan, and since in those days there were no social workers or foster parents, all Nicholas could do was give the girls money and hope that was enough to get them married and away from their evil father.

That night Nicholas crept up to the house. Now it was normal at the end of the day to hang your stockings by the fire to dry. Nicholas tossed the bag of money up into the chimney and it fell to the fireplace and landed in the oldest girl's sock. So that girl got her money for her wedding. Likewise when the day came that the middle girl was ready for her wedding, Nicholas threw money up into the chimney and it landed in that girl's stocking, and she used that money to plan her wedding.

Well, the father was upset that all this money was coming into his house to pay for weddings and he was getting none of it. So he let it be known that he was ready to sell his youngest daughter into slavery. So when Nicholas came to the house to throw the last bag of marriage money into the house, the father was hiding. As Nicholas made his pitch into the chimney, the father leapt out and tackled him.

Saint Nicholas made the father promise to keep this story secret (which obviously the father did not do because I heard the story and am now telling it to you). So that is how Nicholas became the patron saint of young women (girls) who aren't married yet, but want to be married.

Later, when Nicholas was named bishop (which is like being the head pastor of a city) he became patron saint of boys, and all children, when he healed three boys who had been attacked by an evil butcher. So he became the patron saint of boys as well as girls. So now he is the patron saint of all children.

Then the story goes that some sailors were on the sea when a storm brewed up and threatened to sink their boat. The sailors needed to get to a port where they would be protected from the storm. At that moment a man appeared on deck and told the sailors how to get to the nearest port. When the sailors got to port they wanted to go to church and thank God for their safety. When they got to church, there, in front preaching, was the very man who had appeared on the deck of the ship... Saint Nicholas. So Nicholas is the protector of sailors as well.

He's a busy man, and now I hear he travels around the world helping bring happiness to good boys and girls. We have saints, not to worship, for we should only worship God. Saints set an example. We are to be like Saint Nick and help boys and girls who need help.

Ho! Ho! Ho!
Merry Christmas!

Pastor Brian

Sermon Titles for December

12/2 ~ "The Backwards Thessalonians"
 12/9 ~ The FCC Choir Presents: "Angels of Christmas"
 12/16 ~ "Like Telling a Carpenter Not to Cut Wood"
 12/23 ~ "Sounds Like a Warrior"
 12/24 ~ "Not Just a Baby . . . God" - 11 p.m.
 12/30 ~ "The End of Jesus the Child"

Children's Sermons:

12/2 "The Crèche"
 12/9 "Be Good, Candy Cane"
 12/16 Children's Pageant
 12/23 "Do You Like Babies?"
 12/24 Skit & Pantomime - 5 p.m. service
 12/30 "Were You Good for Christmas?"



A Christmas Cantata

FEATURING: The First Church Choir
THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUBURN

Sunday, December 9th, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

Angels of Christmas by John Purifoy

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Hark, the Glad Sound!

My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord

Joy to the World / Angels We Have Heard on High

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

Songs of the Angels

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

Minister of Music: Heather Moore

The First Congregational Choir:

Soprano I

Lori Stockhaus
Pam Tentor

Soprano II

Sue Klaucke
Linda Mahlert

Altos

Lisa Cove
Carol Luther
Debbie Mahlert

Baritone

Alex Brownell
Ron Hanks

Narrator - Pastor Brian

Library Tidings

The Children's Library had an early Christmas present this year. Thanks to Dawn Murphy, HWG preschool director, a sleeping thought became a reality when she created a do-able schedule for several groups of preschool children to visit the Church's children's library once a month to borrow books. In addition, the school purchased a variety of appropriate books which they donated, and everyone who is involved with this program seems very enthused.

Incidentally, the list with all of the current information for "Dinner and Discussion" should be available in the adult library, probably on the table and if not, get after us. There are also some new volumes on the bookshelf among the traditional and appealing treasures for Christmas and year round. However, there is one omission that causes us grief.

If it's missing, we're tempted to throw out those gifted donations. Simply include your name underlined with anything you donate to the library.

With the new year around the corner we're also mentioning special requests and "shut-ins." I confess that to date I've miserably neglected someone seeking information on the book of Revelation. And there are also "shut-ins" to consider. We also want to note that Joyce Ringgard recently gave us a "like new" selection of children's books.

Special thanks, especially for the hardcovers, Joyce.

Hopefully, next month, we'll feature an outstanding true story by a neurosurgeon who discovers the power of prayer. . . one patient at a time. Sue Klaucke chanced to pick up this book at an airport. It's exceptional - titled "Gray Matter" by David J. Levy, M.D. with Joel Kilpatrick.

May the warmth and true spirit of Christmas fill your heart with peace and love, from all of the Library Committee.

Jean McPherson, Debbie Pranaitis, Charlotte Steffen, and Gloria Whitehead

From the Stewardship Committee:

Thank you all for your response to our "Step It Up" campaign. The current pledge total as of November 26th is . . . \$114,000.00 (with approximately 23 folks still uncommitted whom we are following up with).

We appreciate everyone's pledges, which help First Congregational plan the budget, and the time, talents, and treasure that you all contribute to help us thrive.

If you haven't yet returned your pledge card, it is not too late! Please contact the church office or a member of Stewardship (Donna Dube, Linda Hardy, Shirley Hill, or Ellie Lowell).

Sincerely,

Your Stewardship Committee

Cradle Roll Schedule:

12/2 Shirley Hill
12/9 Judy Murphy



12/16 Cynthia Dube
12/23 Tori Stockhaus
12/30 Bessie Morgan

Sunday School Volunteers:

Thankfulness Unit 12/2

Art: Donna D. & Karen F.
Cooking: Sue C. & Beth S.
Music: Lillian M. & Nancy G.

The Gift of Jesus Unit: 12/9-12/30

Cooking: **Volunteer Needed**
Storytelling: Caitlin Gardner

Music: Lillian McPherson
Art: **Volunteer Needed**

Please Note: Parent Helpers Needed for this Unit.

Happy Holidays from Here We Grow Preschool



The children and staff are preparing for the busy holiday season which is fast approaching. We look forward to the festive holidays and the excitement they bring.

Happenings which took place in November include the following. The children of *Here We Grow* learned about the first Thanksgiving and the act of giving to others. They had the opportunity to bring in food items for the Giving Basket. Denise and Judy were kind enough to sort the food donations, and Pastor Brian delivered them to families in need throughout the area.

We celebrated our Thanksgiving feasts on Monday the 19th with the 4 year old children and on Tuesday the 20th with the 3 year old children. Both days went well with a lot of help from our parent volunteers. Our appetizer was cornbread which was made by the 3 year olds, a friendship fruit salad and dip, cold meats, cheese and crackers, and for dessert we had brownies (which were made by the 4 year olds) topped off with cool whip.

On Thursday, November 15th, *Here We Grow* hosted a Holiday Auction as one of our fundraisers. Thank you to all who stopped in to do a little holiday shopping.

With plans well on the way for the next winter holiday, the children have gone from Thanksgiving songs to singing songs for our winter holiday programs. During the month of December, *Here We Grow* will participate with the Auburn Police in the collection of toys and items for children ranging from infant to 16; the police department will distribute everything collected to children living in Auburn. The holiday programs will be on December 20th and 21st. A tradition we have had is that the 4 year old children will sign and sing "Happy Birthday" to Baby Jesus.

The school will be closed from December 24th -January 1st. The *Here We Grow* staff and families wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season.

Until 2013, Happy Holidays to all.
Dawn Murphy
Director, *Here We Grow* Preschool

Toy Collection



Happy birthday to:

Rebecca McPherson	~	Dec. 28th
Lori-Ann Stockhaus	~	Dec. 28th
Donald Slongwhite	~	Dec. 30th



Congratulations to the Schillinger Family, on the birth of Samantha Swan Schillinger, born Nov. 4th and weighing in at 7 lbs, 11 oz and 21 inches long. She is the daughter of Michael's oldest, Melissa, and her husband, Justin. Proud grandparents are Michael and Michele Schillinger.



Worcester Fellowship, Inc.

PO Box 3510, Worcester, MA 01613-3510. www.worcesterfellowship.org
The Reverend Elizabeth M. Magill, Pastor - pastorliz@worcesterfellowship.org
Ellie Latham, Administrative Director - ellie@worcesterfellowship.org
Georgeanne Bennett, Outreach Director

December 2012

I am writing to introduce you to Worcester Fellowship, an outdoor church reaching homeless and at-risk adults. We meet on Worcester Common each Sunday at 1pm, serving lunch and providing worship outdoors every Sunday.

Our outreach is aimed at being in ministry with people traditionally classified as “chronically homeless”; while they are often in housing they move into and out of homelessness regularly. Our existing support systems do little to get at the self-judgment and unworthiness many in this population feel. The lack of hope and lack of confidence that they deserve a better life work to keep these individuals in the cycle of poverty.

Worcester Fellowship is committed to ending isolation by providing spiritual care and by nurturing community. Using worship, bible study, leadership meetings, worship planning meetings, book groups and more, we help to create a sense of a community of support. By preaching a non-judging message of God’s love for all of God’s children we share the good news of the gospel.

We are hoping that your congregation would like to be involved at Worcester Fellowship and these are some of the ways you can help.

- provide 80 lunches (see our calendar on our web site for available dates)
- visit with your choir or youth group or mission team. Bring your voices, socks or bring nothing (but do let us know the date you'd like to come in advance – see our calendar on our web site)
- sponsor one of our programs: host a social event or mission activity at your church and invite us to take part with you in fellowship

Sponsor one of our programs financially:

Book group on Mondays - 2 hours at \$25 per hour = \$50 per week x 52 weeks = \$2600 per year or \$217 per month

Books for book group - \$100 per month

Mediation group - 2 hours x \$25 per hour x 12 weeks = \$600

Leadership meetings – 3 hours x \$25 hourly x 12 months = \$900

Leadership food for meetings is \$70 per month x 12 months = \$840 per year

Bible study is 2 hours x \$25 per hour = \$50 per week x 52 weeks = \$2600 per year or \$217 per month

Worship is 3 hours x \$25 per hour = \$75 per week = \$3900 per year or \$325 per month (twice that to have two paid ministers = \$7,800 per year or \$650 monthly)

Funerals, weddings, hospital visits, 3 hours x \$25 per hour = per month \$75 or \$900 per year

Visits to indoor churches, sermon preparation, 26 per year, 5 hours each x \$25 hourly = \$3250 per year or \$270 per month

Leadership retreats - 8 hours x \$25 per hour = \$200 each x 4 (quarterly) = \$ 800 per year

Leadership retreat food - \$150 each month x4 (quarterly) = \$600 per year

Visiting social service agencies - 6 hours per month x \$25 hourly = \$1800 per year or \$150 monthly

Worcester Fellowship is the place to find a listening ear. Worcester Fellowship is the place to find non-critical listening. Worcester Fellowship is the place to tell your story in full; even it takes weeks or months to find the trust and courage to share. Worcester Fellowship is a church family. Thank you for your consideration to support our ministry for the homeless and at-risk of Worcester.

- Liz
508-450-0431



Christmas arrangements made of fresh greens will once again be available for you to purchase during coffee hour on Dec. 9th and 16th. All the greens are gathered locally, so there is no expense involved. All monies taken in will go to the church's general fund.

When doing your holiday shopping keep these in mind; they make lovely hostess gifts and most will be suitable to use as a table centerpiece.

We enjoy making these and hope you will support this small fundraiser.

Judy Murphy & Cindy Dube

As I begin yet another period of recuperation from my latest surgery, I would like to send my sincerest thanks to all of the folks who have kept me in their thoughts, prayers, expressed email get well wishes and have offered a helping hand. Your thoughtfulness and generosity has meant so much to me. I feel truly blessed. Visitors are always welcome ...and... my supply of "K" cups is an open invitation to join me for coffee!

Pat Bukoski



On Nov. 11th we celebrated the baptism of Daniella Jean Bigelow. Daniella is the 3½ month old daughter of Michelle and Timothy Bigelow. Proud grandparents are Skip & Paula Bigelow and Kurt and Lucy Helgeson, great-grandfather, Windsor Bigelow, and great-grandmother, Elsa Johnson. We pray for God's continued presence, guidance and blessing in Daniella's life.



SAVE THE DATE:

We are planning to generate a new photo directory next year. We have dates reserved for photos which will be taken on site Friday and Saturday, May 3rd and 4th, 2013, and Tuesday and Wednesday, May 14th and 15th, 2013.

Look for additional information in the new year.

We are looking for a back-up person who is available to shovel snow during mornings this winter. If interested, please speak with a Trustee (Joan Battye, Cindy Dube, Todd Dube, Paul Gemme, Stan MacPhee, Bob Murray, Wayne Prouty, Dave Sampson or Judi Taft).

Outreach News

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Celtic sneaker collection for the Auburn Walk for Hunger. \$367 was collected in that pair of sneakers and a total of \$509.50 was turned in from our church! Your generous support also added approximately \$135 worth of groceries to the Auburn Youth and Family Services food pantry in answer to their empty pantry plea in November.

Judy Murphy handed out 21 bags for the Goddard School's "Coats for Kids" program in Worcester. Thanks to you, 21 children will have a new, cozy, winter coat to keep them warm and let them know someone cares! She would like them returned by Sunday, Dec. 2nd, so they can be distributed as soon as possible. Also, please note that we have received a request for 11 additional coats. Please see Judy Murphy if you're able to help.

The Outreach Committee will be closing the Heifer International Ark account in December. After fundraising for a number of years, we have \$2,500 to donate. Although it is not the \$5,000 we hoped to raise for an ark, it will help change the world two by two! Our donation will provide 2 sheep, 2 llamas, 2 goats, 2 pigs, 2 water buffaloes, 2 flocks of geese, 2 flocks of ducks, 2 trios of rabbits, and 2 hives of bees with money left over for clean water, education and most importantly, hope. So, you know that somewhere in the world, God's magnificent rainbow will be shining.

In hope, peace, love, and generosity,

The Outreach Committee: Pat Bukoski, Deb Pranaitis, Marilyn Plue and Sue Campbell



We made it through Thanksgiving and now it's on to Christmas. These 2 holidays can be very difficult times for some. It's a good time for others to reach out to those that are hurting, even if it means just sitting with someone. I do have some "Care Notes" on the table in Fellowship Hall. Please feel free to take them for yourself or for someone you know who might benefit from them.

December is Safe Toys and Gifts Month. December 1st is World AIDS Day and the 2nd-8th is National Hand Washing Awareness Week. It is proven that hand washing for 15-20 seconds does help keep germs from spreading. Sing "Happy Birthday," "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star," your "ABC's," to yourself while washing and the time will pass quickly. Between getting your flu shot and good hand washing, hopefully, you will have a healthy winter.

It was recently brought to my attention that perhaps my phone number should be in the bulletin. Denise is going to put it in for me and for those that don't get a bulletin, my cell is 508-612-4521. I work 11 pm - 7 am, 4 nights a week, so if I'm sleeping, leave a message and I will get back to you. Also, it was suggested to me that I put my business cards out on the table, so I have some out now. I apologize for not thinking of this. So, please, look for my business cards on the table.

I do hope and pray that everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year. God Bless —

Debbie Pranaitis
Parish Nurse



Funerals

Please keep the following families in your prayers during this time of loss.

Helen L. (Clark) Pierce, 96, died on November 4, 2012, at the Life Care Center of Auburn. Her husband of 66 years, Lawrence A. Pierce, died in 2001. She is survived by her 4 sons and their wives: Ronald and Marilyn, Lawrence and Judith, Richard and Kathleen and David and Debra. She also leaves 18 grandchildren, four step-grandchildren, 37 great-grandchildren and two great-great - grandchildren. She also leaves her sister, Shirley LaCrosse, in Florida. She was predeceased by her brothers, Selwyn and Burton, and a grandson, Todd Pierce. Mrs. Pierce was born in Oxford. She was the daughter of Frederick B. and Harriet (Richardson) Clark. She grew up in Sutton on her family's dairy farm, Clark's Dairy. She graduated from Sutton High School where she was the class valedictorian. She married in 1935 and moved to Millbury where she lived many years before moving to Shrewsbury and then Auburn in 1998. She worked for the Millbury School Department and then as a manager for Putnam Card and Gift Shop in Shrewsbury. She was a member of the First Congregational Church of Auburn, and a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution for 43 years. Her funeral service was held Saturday, Nov. 10th, at the Millbury Federated Church, Millbury, with burial in Howard Cemetery in Sutton. Mulhane Home for Funerals in Millbury handled arrangements.

Marjorie Helen (MacKay) Lovell, 92, formerly of Auburn, MA, passed away on November 12, 2012, in the South Portland Nursing Home in South Portland, ME. Marjorie was born in Worcester, MA, on July 11, 1920 to Currie and Mildred (O'Connor) MacKay of Nova Scotia, Canada and Worcester, MA. Marge leaves 3 daughters, Ann Desrosiers (Russell), Sandra Moses (Dean), Cynthia Freeman (Brian); 7 grandchildren, 6 great - grandchildren, and 1 great-great-grandchild. Marge was pre-deceased by her parents, her brother, Carl MacKay, and her loving husband, Dick (Richard Lovell). After graduating from high school, Marge received her degree from Boston College and worked for Taylor-Abstract Company for 30 years. Marge also served as treasurer for First Congregational Church in Auburn. A graveside service was held on Saturday November 17, 2012 in Hillside Cemetery Auburn. Britton-Wallace Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Sandra (Smith) Simmons, 78, formerly a 51 year resident of Auburn, died Saturday November 17, 2012 in Holy Trinity Nursing Home after an illness. Her husband Walter "Ed" Simmons died in 1999. She is survived by her daughter, Brenda J. Boone, and her husband, Robert, her 5 grandchildren, her 2 son-in-laws and several nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her daughter, Debra S. Patev, and her sister Nancy J. Bigelow. Sandra was born in Framingham, the daughter of the late Harold M. and Jean (Sanford) Smith. She worked as a secretary at the Auburn Middle School for many years prior to retiring. She was a member of the First Congregational Church of Auburn. Funeral service was held privately.

William F. Legasey, Jr., 90, died Thursday, November 22, 2012 in Millbury Healthcare Center after a brief illness. His wife Evelyne R. (Bouvier) Legasey predeceased him on April 4, 2012. He was the son of William F. Legasey Sr. and Florence L. (Lundquist) Legasey of Auburn. William is survived by his daughter, Sandra Lee Legasey-Feldman and her husband Glenn, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. William's son, Mark Legasey, predeceased him in 1995. William also leaves his sister, Marion Burke. William was born and raised in Auburn and graduated from Auburn High School in 1940. He enlisted in the Navy in 1942 and served his country in WWII and was honorably discharged in 1946. He and Evelyne were married for 64 years. They were members of the First Congregational Church of Auburn, where they were married. William worked for Wyman Gordon in Worcester for nearly 40 years until he retired. A funeral service was held Friday, November 30, 2012 at Britton-Wallace Funeral Home with burial in Worcester County Memorial Park, Paxton.

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

John 11:25

From the Director of Religious Education

I can't believe it is already the end of the year! I am sure this year has brought you a variety of emotions and experiences. I pray that the majority of these were happy ones. As we reflect on this past year, let us remember that no matter what is going on in our lives, and no matter how crazy things get, we always have a place to go and rest. Our Father is available to each and everyone of us every hour of every day. We just need to open our hearts and let his love flow in. Please take some time during this sacred time and thank God for inviting us to the ultimate birth, the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

This is a busy time of year for all and we are no exception. Below, please check out what is going on and please join us for any and all you would like.

December 8th is our Annual Potluck and Carol Sing beginning at 5 p.m. We will also put together the Christmas baskets/stockings for the shut-ins during this event.

December 14th is "Parents Night Out" from 6-8:30 p.m. The youth of the church, along with me and Board of Ed members, will entertain and feed your children so you can have a short break to do with what you will. After the event YOM/Confirmands will have a \$5.00 "Yankee Swap" and party.

On December 16th the Sunday School class will present our **Christmas pageant — "Christmas Is . . ."** during the Sunday worship service.

December 23rd, just in time for Christmas parties, is our annual **Cookie Walk**. Please consider donating some cookies and then purchasing some others to assist the confirmands in raising funds for City Reach.

I am also looking for Advent candle lighters. See the Sunday School bulletin board in fellowship hall for the sign-up sheet.

My last plea is for teachers in the new year. I will go over everything with you, and remember, it is only a 3 week commitment. Please consider helping out the young people of our church.

May the true meaning of this most blessed season fill your heart to overflowing. Merry Christmas to you all, and Happy Birthday, Jesus!

With His Guidance We Serve,

Jean McPherson
Director of Religious Education





As they've done in years past, the Deacons will be delivering Christmas Baskets/Stockings to shut-ins. We're planning to prepare/assemble baskets on Dec. 8th as part of the Christmas carol sing-along & potluck get together. Remember, the potluck begins at 5:00 p.m.

Please look in Fellowship Hall for a list of items that are needed and a donation sign-up sheet, or call the church office if you would like to donate.

Please plan to join us on **Tuesday, December 18th, at 5:30 p.m.** for the movie, *The Nativity*. This will be featured in conjunction with a potluck supper.

So, mark your calendars, and we hope to see you there!



Once again the Boy Scouts will be selling Christmas wreaths and cemetery baskets/logs on the Church lawn on Sunday, Dec. 2nd and Dec. 9th. They would very much appreciate your support. Delivery is available. Please call George Fournier at 774-239-2240.

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



BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Non-Profit Org.
Permit No. 6
Auburn, Mass

December 2012

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT