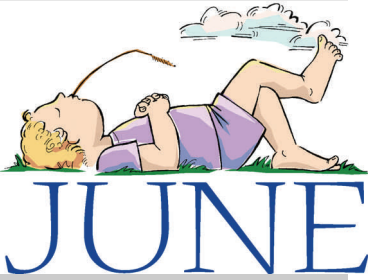


Herald of Good TIDINGS



2005

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“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!’”

The United Church of Christ through its “God is Still Speaking” campaign and its television

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

and internet advertising is emphasizing the welcome extended by all of the congregations of the United Church of Christ. The diaconate and I are seeking to become more sensitive about how we welcome guests, newcomers, friends and members to worship and other church activities. What makes people feel welcome, comfortable, and included?

We are again requesting bulletins from the churches you visit this summer so we can post them on our USA map. If you wish to share them with us, we would also like you to share how you felt during your worship experience at other churches. Were you comfortable? Were you welcomed but not made uneasy? What was the most meaningful part of the service?

If you can pick up newsletters, annual reports, identity brochures, please share those with us as well. If you notice reference to the “God is Still Speaking” program, tell us about it.

We are open to anything you are willing to share with us as you try new experiences. May God bless you during your time of travel and may you all have a wonderful Summer!

God Bless,
Rev. Dr. Kenneth E Knox
Pastor



If you have a key to the church that you do not use on a regular basis as part of your responsibilities at the church, please return it to the church office. Our Child Protection Policy requires a minimum of keys to the building be distributed. The more keys that are out, the less secure the building is. If you need to have a key, please be sure that you have filled out a key receipt form for the office.

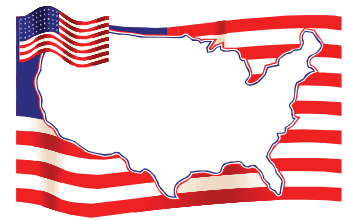


5/13/05

Dear Friends,
 We at Abby's House thank you for your generous contribution of \$300.⁰⁰ (#2210) which supports our continued work with homeless and battered women with or without children through our shelter, women's center, food pantry, thrift store and our supportive housing programs.

Your help is very much appreciated.

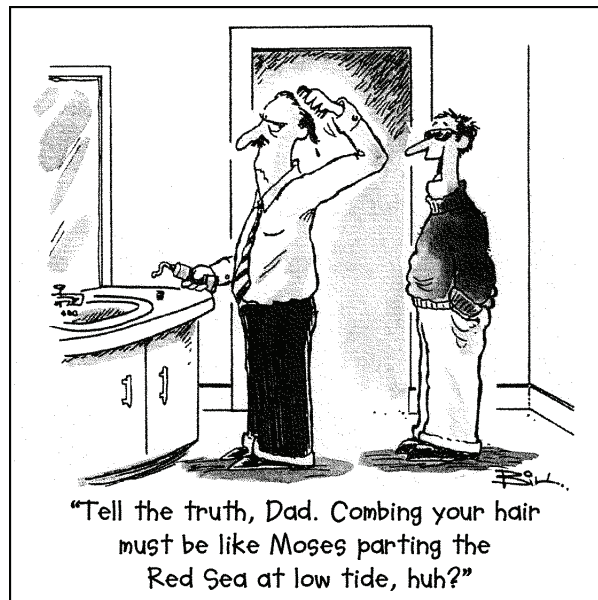
Sincerely yours,
 Annette Rafferty



**FIRST EVER
 FLAGTOWN USA ART
 CONTEST**

Show off your talent by showing your true colors. Paint anything you wish, 3-D or flat, in a RED, WHITE and BLUE, stars and stripes motif. Be creative with what you choose to paint: a lawn chair, wagon, wall decorations, etc. Entry fee is \$15.00. All entries will be displayed on the church lawn and voted on by those wishing to purchase a flag pin and ballot. Winners will be announced during the BBQ. We are hopeful that we will have a float in the July 4th parade and some or all of the entrees will be on the float. If you have any questions or want a copy of the entry rules, please contact Cindy Dube at 508-832-6646. Registration forms are in Fellowship Hall or call the office at 508-832-2845 and we will send you a copy. Registration forms are due June 8th. All proceeds go to the roof fund.

On Friday
 June 3rd, the
 Cub Scouts
 will be having
 their
 Crossover
 Ceremony in
 Fellowship
 Hall.



ROOF UPDATE

We are still in the process of obtaining bids for replacing the entire roof over the sanctuary. Since the current roof has two layers of shingles, the job will involve stripping the old shingles off first. While we haven't received final bids for the entire roof, based on other churches in the area, we believe the cost for our church will fall in the range of \$50,000 to \$60,000. We hope to have more details in the near future. Meanwhile, please keep in mind the Summer Solstice celebration planned for June 18th. All proceeds from this wonderful event will go towards the roof fund.

Board of Trustees



See the volcano towering over the jungle. Hear the rumble in the distance. Feel the ground shaking under your feet. You can almost taste the excitement that's building as you head into big adventures at Lava Lava Island, where Jesus' love flows!

Join us in the jungles of Lava Lava Island! You'll enjoy special crafts and exciting games, experience thrilling Bible stories, sample tasty snacks, and hear unforgettable music. Plus, you'll meet lots of new friends!

Location: First Congregational Church 128 Central St, Auburn

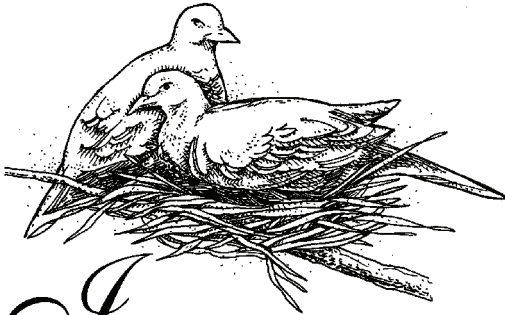
The adventure will last: August 15-19, 2005

Island fun begins at: 9:00 am Island fun ends at: 12 noon

For more information, call: Barbara Jernigan at 508-764-1967

Please call 508-832-2845 or stop by the Church office for a registration form. Pre-registration is appreciated as it helps us plan more effectively. Registration forms can also be found in Fellowship Hall.

Age 4 through Grade 6
A Donation of \$5.00
per family would be appreciated to help cover the costs



*I will lie down and
sleep in peace,
for you alone,
O Lord, make
me dwell in safety.*

Psalm 4:8



Congratulations Graduates!

Pre-school Graduates
Kindergarten Graduates
Sunday School Graduates
High School Graduates
College Graduates

During the month of June, we will be collecting offerings to support the Tools & Blankets Program thru Church World Service. The offerings will be collected on Father's Day, but offerings will be accepted anytime during the month.



Mission Trip



Wouldn't it be nice if whenever we messed up our life we could simply press 'Ctrl Alt Delete' and start all over?

Why do I have to swear on the Bible in court when the Ten Commandments cannot be displayed in a federal building?

Youth on a Mission has found itself in a rather unusual position with regards to our mission trip this summer to Wheeling, West Virginia. Due to some unforeseen circumstances we have two openings, for which we have already sent deposits.

These two slots would be open to any high school youth, male or female, who has completed confirmation class and is a member of First Congregational Church of Auburn. The interested individual would be responsible for the program fee of \$275. YM would cover costs for transportation etc. This is a **FANTASTIC**, *once in a lifetime* opportunity, for any young person who's thought about participating in YM but hasn't yet made the commitment or who has participated in the past and wants to come back. We leave **very** early on Saturday July 16th and will return on Sunday July 24th. Please see Jennifer Bohn for details or call her at 508-832-0428.

Youth Camping - The Bohn's will be taking any youth that has completed 6th grade and up on the family camping weekend in June. The dates are June 24th to 26th they have already reserved one spot and have a pop up camper that sleeps 6. We will rent another site and put up a tent if there is enough interest. The cost for the weekend is \$10 and must be paid up front to reserve your spot. They need to know ASAP if there is any interest in order to reserve space and plan for food and activities. **Youth are welcome to bring a friend.** They do not have to attend First Congregational Church. There is also talk of going to Six Flags New England with the Sutton group. We will let you know when we have a specific date.

Interfaith Hospitality Network

Interfaith Hospitality Network is an organization that unites the religious community in an effort to serve and nurture homeless families regardless of income and family structure. Thirty-one congregations, many with assistance from additional congregations - ours being St. Thomas - provide meals, shelter, and hospitality. Families receive individualized advocacy for housing employment, and financial issues at the IHN day center. The need for IHN is enormous. Rents in Massachusetts are the most expensive in the country and over 20,000 children live in emergency shelter here each year. The formation of IHN was in 1997 and our church has participated every year.

A typical day in the Network at our church:

6 AM - The day begins with a light breakfast.

7 AM - The van picks up all guests and drops them at the day center for showers. Our overnight hosts lock up the church and leave for their day.

5 PM - The van leaves from the day center and arrives at our church for a dinner prepared by our volunteers for that evening. The families will help before, during and for clean-up. They will make a lunch for the next day if they would like.

6:30 - 8:30 PM - Playtime, homework or other activities or quiet visiting time. Children are put to bed. All lights are out and TV off by 11 PM.

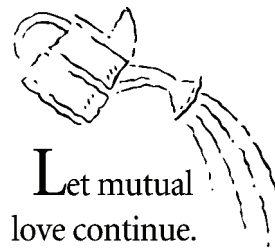
Those from our church who are staying overnight retire to their room and wake to be sure all families are up and will be ready for the van at 7 AM the next morning.

Taking part in our week of Interfaith is a very rewarding experience for all those invited.

We look forward to making a difference and working together. Please sign up for a dinner or overnight stay. You can call Shirley Hill 508-832-6335, May Stone 508-832-2313 or Diane Moore 508-832-8078 for more information or to sign up.

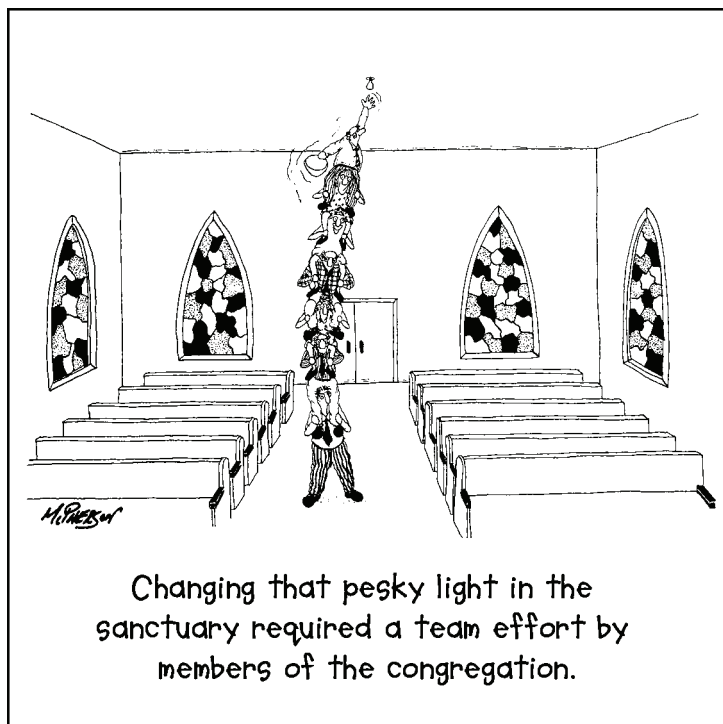
Thank You

Diane Moore



Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

Hebrews 13:1-2





Stewardship...A Way of Life

The main article in the June publication of *Stewardship* considers the relationship of a husband and wife and how they overcame the malaise their marriage had settled into. Some years later the man was asked to say a few words during the Church's stewardship campaign and as he pondered what he was going to say...he reflected back on the troubling time of his marriage. "Giving regularly to God through the Church", he said, "is a lot like giving flowers regularly to your wife. You may not feel inspired each time you give, but one day you will discover that your relationship with God is a lot more satisfying than you ever thought possible."

Please read this poignant article as well as the many others *Stewardship* has to offer and reflect on how satisfying your relationship to God is.

Our Committee hopes that each of you finds *Stewardship* a valuable addition to the monthly Tidings mailing. We welcome any comments and/or thoughts you might have regarding this publication or about Stewardship in general. Please feel free to speak with any one of us or send your comments via email to Stewardship@AuburnFirstUCC.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

In His Love,

The Stewardship Committee

John Rockwood (Chair), Michael & Michele Schillinger, Al Boucher, Todd and Donna Dube, Kenneth Holstrom

Pledging in the Summer Months

Summertime has finally arrived, which means many of us will probably be taking time off from Church and work for summer vacations. Accordingly, each year at this time we experience a drop in pledges due to vacationing members. Please remember our bills do not go on vacation, so it is important to keep our pledges up to date.

Perhaps this may a good time to consider switching to a credit card pledge. Pledging by credit card puts your pledge on cruise control and enables the church to meet its financial commitments throughout the summer months. If you are interested in this option, please speak to the Financial Secretary or someone on the Stewardship Committee.

Thank you for your continued support and have a safe and happy summer!



*Because there is one loaf, we,
who are many, are one body,
for we all partake of the one loaf.*

1 Corinthians 10:17

Summer Solstice Celebration Saturday June 18th



9 am - 2 pm

Bake Sale
Book Sale
Plant Sale
Coffee, Donuts

10 am - 2 pm



Games
Tattoos
Crafts 12 tickets for \$5.00
Giant Slide
Balloons 1 Ticket per activity



Decorate a Cake for Dad \$3.00 or 6 tickets

Snow Cones, Popcorn, Hot Dogs, Drinks 50¢ to \$1.00

10:30 Flippo the Clown arrives
11:00 Flippo's Juggling and Magic Show \$1.00
11:30 - 12:30 Flippo makes Ballon Art

10am - 2pm

Dunk Tank
Dunk Jennifer Bohn!
Dad dunk your kids!

3 balls \$1

9am - 5pm

Flagtown USA Art Contest and Voting (50¢ to vote)
Winners Announced at 6 pm

4pm - 7pm

Chicken Barbeque

\$9.00 Adults
\$5.00 Children
12 and Under

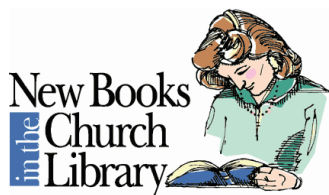


5pm - 6pm

Concert by the Alethea Grotto Band (Free)

7pm - ?

Camp Fire
Songs and Stories
S'more Fixins 50¢



Library Tidings

'Tis summer in another month and the children's library will be open on Sundays throughout the whole season. If no librarian is present and you're a newcomer, the borrowing "rules" are posted on the cork board above the sign out case and are easy to follow. As in the past, if anyone wishes to take a group of books for the summer just check them out with a librarian.

Christmas is so busy that we're planning to feature a few of those books in both libraries for leisurely summer reading.

Our thanks to *Here We Grow!* When they completed covering the pipes in the ceiling downstairs they included those in the Children's Library. Also, thanks to those teachers and parents who are promoting reading and borrowing books from the Children's Library.

There are some great new books in the Adult Library. *Island of the First Light* is our second book written by Norman Gatreau. The first, *Sea Room* is quite new and has been well received. Again, *Island of the First Light* is centered in Maine and it views a bit of Passamaquoddy history. It deals with human nature and the sense of family that we seek when faced with adversity.

Garlic and Sapphires by Ruth Reichl is on the current best seller list and is great for insights and laughs. The author, as the food critic for the New York Times, dons a variety of disguises to outwit the restaurants that have her picture in their kitchens and offer cash bonuses to staff that identify her. How else can this connoisseur of fine dining make the truth known?

Wedding of the Waters by Peter L. Bernstein is a riveting story of the building of the Erie Canal. Thomas Jefferson thought the project to be "little short of madness" and others thought it as ridiculous as going to the moon.

Some parishioners have their own copies of *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren and now it's available to you in the Adult Library. The author is the founder of Saddleback Church to which Pastor Ken has made reference in several sermons. It is also the book from which the woman, who was being held hostage, read to her captor and thereby made national news when he surrendered to authorities. The book theme - "What on earth am I here for?"

May God watch over you as you share His season of relaxation and restoration and recognize His blessings.

The Library Committee

Our minister announced that admission to a church social event would be six dollars per person. "However, if you're over 65," he said, "the price will be only \$5.50."

From the back of the congregation, a woman's voice rang out, "Do you really think I'd give you that information for only 50 cents?"

4th Annual Golf Tournament

Saturday, June 11 at Pine Ridge Country Club in Oxford. 7 A.M. Registration and 7:30 A.M. Tee-off

Event features:

Raffle, Hole in One contest. Longest Drive contest, Closest to the Pin contest , prizes to top 3 teams.

\$85/player!
Includes round of golf & cart,
Hors d'Oeuvres &
Italian Buffet Lunch!

Non-golfers are welcome to join us for dinner! (\$30/person)

We are looking for sponsors for each hole and green. Your sponsorship will get acknowledged with a sign on that hole or green. This is a great way to advertise! Please let us know what you would like the sign to say. Sponsorship is \$100.

Make checks payable to:
First Congregational Church
Memo: Golf

Camping Weekend - This Year's Family Camping Weekend is scheduled for June 24th – 26th. We are moving the Camping Weekend to Oak Haven Family Campground (www.oakhavencampground.com) located in Wales just 30 minutes west of Auburn. If you decide you would like to join us, please call Lori at 508-865-6439 and she will try to get you with the group or as close to the group as possible.

Please join us as we celebrate our Sunday School children and teachers with an

Old Fashioned Church Picnic

Date: Sunday, June 12, 2005

Time: Right after Church (around 11 A.M.)

Place: Front Lawn of First Congregational Church

GAMES & ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES!

Needed: two grills, a couple of men willing to help bring out tables for food, and some chairs for those who do not wish to sit on blankets. Do you have a lawn chair? By all means bring it. In the event of rain the picnic will take place in Fellowship Hall.

We will provide hamburgers, hotdogs & beverages. If you are planning to attend the picnic, we would appreciate it if you could fill out this form to help with the planning. The form can be brought to church and placed in the offering plate. This will give us an idea of how many potluck dishes, salads and desserts we will have.



Church Picnic - please respond by June 5th

Name _____

No. Attending _____

I will bring _____

I can provide a grill _____ and cook _____

We would like to
welcome three new
church members:

Cindybeth Palmgren
Richard Clifford
Katie Clifford

*There will be **no** Tidings for July/August. All article submissions must be in by Friday August 12th as we will mail the Tidings out by August 20th. This mailing will cover the end of August and all of September. Thank You!*



Our sympathies to Thomas Brown and his family on the passing of his mother on May 23. As some of you know, Thomas' mother was here for the baptism of his son Seamus on March 13 but was taken to the hospital immediately following church with a heart attack. Please keep the family in your prayers as they mourn her loss.

**RN volunteers needed for
Auburn Senior Center
Blood Pressure Clinic.
The 1st and 3rd Fridays
8:45 - 10:45 AM. If you can
help call Claire Jameson at
Auburn District Nurses
508-791-0081.**



June is Fireworks Safety Month and Vision Research Month. June 5th is National Cancer Survivors Day. We have several cancer survivors amongst us. Early detection and treatment helps! June 5-11 is National Headache Awareness Week, June 13-19 is National Men's Health Week, and June 27- July 5th is Eye Safety Awareness Week.

July didn't list any particular health issues to be aware of. We still must be aware of all the issues with the summer especially the sun, mosquitoes, bike safety, water safety, and travel safety.

August is Children's Eye Health and Safety Month and National Immunization Awareness Month. Because of people coming to this country from foreign lands, some diseases that had been eradicated from the U.S.A., are appearing again. T.B. is back and there have been cases of Whooping Cough reported.

I'm glad that some people have been borrowing some of the equipment in the closet at the end of the hall on the first floor by the elevator. I'm sorry that they have needed it, but I'm glad to have the equipment to loan. I have some adult size briefs that someone can take if you know of someone that needs them. I put them in the closet and I know where they came from. You don't have to ask, just please, take them if you know someone that needs them.

I am going to a few seminars this summer and I want to offer a program before our Sept. supper. I don't have anything definite yet, but I will have something in the next Tidings. Have a safe and Healthy summer.

Debbie Pranaitis
Parish Nurse

Minister of Christian Education

With the end of the school year comes the end of the Sunday School year. It has been a great year with good strong numbers of students in every class. I am very thankful for all of the faithful time and effort that our wonderful teachers have invested in this special ministry. We will be celebrating our terrific year on Sunday, June 12th. The children will be leading the worship service. Following the service there will be an old fashioned church picnic on the front lawn of the church. We hope to see everyone there.

As we are coming to the summer when we do not have Sunday School, I thought it would be a good time to remind you that our children need our prayers, especially when we are not in session. The following is a list of ways to pray for the children:

That they will know Christ as Savior early in life (Psalm 63:1, Matthew 19:14, John 3:16-18, Ephesians 1:18-20, II Timothy 3:15)

That they will love, trust, and find rest in God alone (Deuteronomy 6:5, Psalm 46:1, Psalm 62:5-8, Jeremiah 29:11)

That they will be wholeheartedly sold out to serving Jesus Christ (Joshua 24:15, Matthew 6:33, Ephesians 3:16-19, Philippians 2:5, 12-16, II Thessalonians 1:11-12)

That when they leave home it would be with an eternal perspective and Christ-like values and characteristics (Isaiah 40:8, Matthew 28:19, John 13:34-35, Romans 12:1-2, I Corinthians 16:13-14, Philippians 4:8, 12-13, I Peter 1:13-16)

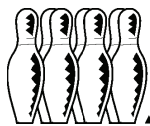
That they would be caught when guilty (Psalm 119:71, Deuteronomy 8:5)

That they would be protected from the evil one in each area of their lives: Spiritual, Emotional, Physical (Mark 14:38, John 17:15, Romans 16:19, II Corinthians 10:5, Philippians 4:6-7)

That they will learn to submit to God and actively resist Satan in all circumstances. (Matthew 26:41, John 8:31, James 4:7, 5:16, I Peter 5:8-9)

That they will have a responsible attitude in all their interpersonal relationships (Daniel 6:3, John 15:12, Ephesians 4:32, Philippians 2:3, I Peter 2:16-17)

That they will respect those in authority over them (Romans 13:1, Colossians 3:20, Ephesians 6:1-4)



Church Bowling League

It was another fun filled year for the bowling league. Everyone had a great time and we are already thinking ahead for next season which begins in the fall. We are looking for 4 full timers and any spare players that we can get. Please speak with Lori Stockhaus if you are interested or call her at 508-865-6439.

That they will desire the right kinds of friends and be protected from the wrong friends (Proverbs 1:10, I Corinthians 15:33-34)

That they will be kept from the wrong mate and saved for the right one (II Corinthians 6:14-17)

That they, as well as those they marry, will be kept pure until marriage (I Corinthians 6:18-20)

That their children and grandchildren will know Christ as Savior and serve Him with their whole heart, soul, mind and strength (Matthew 22:37-38)

Prayerfully yours,
Barb Jernigan

The Bulletin Board

- June 1 Prudential Meeting, 7 PM
- June 6 Trustees Meeting, 7 PM (moved from June 13)
Deacons Meeting, 7 PM (moved from June 13)
HWG Board Meeting, 7 PM
Outreach Meeting, 7 PM
- June 8 Board of Christian Ed Meeting, 6:30 PM
Baptism Workshop, 7 PM
- June 11 Golf Tournament (Page 9)
- June 12 Children's Sunday w/ picnic on the lawn after church (Page 9)
- June 10&13-15 **HERE WE GROW!** Graduations
- June 18 Summer Solstice Celebration (Page 7)
- June 19 Father's Day
- June 24-26 Camping weekend (Page 9)
- July 4 Church Closed
- July 31 - Aug 6 Interfaith Hospitality (Page 5)
- August 15-19 **Vacation Bible School** (Page 3)
- August 25 Building Use Scheduling Meeting 7 PM Old Kitchen
- August 29 Church Council Meeting 7 PM (**No Meetings in June or July**)

This list **does not** include weekly reoccurring meetings. All meetings are listed on the calendar insert. Please notify the church secretary immediately if something is *not* listed on the calendar. 508-832-2845.

TIDINGS is a monthly publication of

First Congregational Church
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Auburn MA 01501

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Fax: (508)721-2539
Web: auburnfirststucc.org



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