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# *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,*

---

## FROM THE PASTOR

As I write this, it is 20 days to my surgery. As you read this, it is a couple weeks after the surgery. My family, especially my wife, had to do a lot of nursing, because for the surgery I am not allowed to spend a night in the hospital. Someone is going to cut my abdomen open but I won't get a room for the night.

I remember when I was in the middle school grades at Errol Consolidated, my mom went into the hospital for 2 weeks. I remember it clearly, for two weeks we had to travel to Littleton to visit her, and my brother had to smuggle me in, because in those days children were not allowed in hospitals. I also remember asking, “What happens if a kid needs surgery?”

My brother told me, “Oh, they are more than willing to cut you open. It is visiting that isn't allowed. So if anyone sees you I am going to let them cut you open so I don't get in trouble.”

My brother was a wonderful person at making me forget my worries, by adding even worse worries on top of my mind. I was worried about a sick mom no longer. Now I was worried about having unnecessary appendix surgery.

Anyway, I am not sure what my mom had wrong with her. It was some kind of abdominal surgery. But I am sure that if they did it now, they would just ask my brother or me to drive her slowly around the hospital while the surgeons operated on her in the car, because insurance no longer considers an operating room necessary for that kind of surgery. I kid (somewhat).

I believe every human should take a babysitting course to learn how to care for babies. I have changed many more diapers and prepared more bottles than I have solved quadratic equations and conjugated irregular French verbs.

I am now adding to my proposed life education: nursing courses. I know families that have to manage colostomies and PICC lines, give patients pills according to complex med regimes and give multiple shots. Things that when I was a child were done exclusively by doctors and nurses.

We do this, I am sure, because the insurance people want to cut costs. It can put a great strain on people, who themselves may be sick, to care for a sick relative. But in some ways I think the Scrooges at the health insurers have by accident done a good thing. Family is important. Family is needed. There is little that is scarier than being released from a hospital to live alone knowing you need more nursing care.

Family is important when we need them and we can too often let bonds of family unravel. So let us be thankful for family, especially the unpaid nursing staff.

“Thanks Jenney! Now can you bring me another pillow?”

Pastor Brian

October Birthdays include:

Eric Rockwood - October 21st  
Carolyn Slongwhite - October 21st  
George DuHamel - October 27th

Happy Birthday!



On October 8th Rich and Jean McPherson will be celebrating their wedding anniversary - Congratulations!

Happy Anniversary to George and Laura DuHamel who will celebrate their special day on October 31st.

### JIMMY FUND WALK 2011

Ok, everyone, I did it again. Another 26.2 miles! I want to thank everyone who donated to this worthy cause. I also want to thank everyone who called and texted. It made the time go by so much faster. **There's still time to donate.** I can accept donations through November. You can donate online by going to: [www.jimmyfundwalk.org](http://www.jimmyfundwalk.org) and clicking on give, then support a walker and entering my name. If you prefer, you can mail a check (payable to the Jimmy Fund) to:  
36 Linda Avenue, Millbury, MA 01527.

Thanks again to all of you who donated. I raised over \$1,000 to help support the cancer cause.

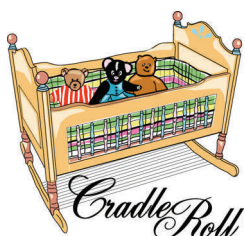
Lori Stockhaus

### October Fuel Fund

This is a friendly reminder that in October there is a special offering envelope for the Fuel Fund. This is one of four Fuel Fund special offering envelopes that can be found in your offering envelope packets. All money donated through this offering envelope stays in the Church and goes directly towards the heating expenses of the building. With the rising costs of fuel this year, our fuel budget is almost exhausted, and we anticipate that we will exceed the fuel budget by \$2,000 – \$3,000 by year's end. Please consider making a donation to the Fuel Fund this fall to help offset these high expenses.

Thank You,  
Board of Trustees

### CRADLE ROLL & SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE



10/2 Deb Pellegrino  
10/9 Linda Hardy  
10/16 Carole Murray  
10/23 Volunteer Needed  
10/30 Shirley Hill



10/2 Connie Whitehead Hanks  
10/9 Jenney Grover  
10/16 Rich McPherson  
10/23 Judy Murphy  
10/30 Jen Bohn

### Go "Green" with the Electronic Tidings

The Church currently produces approximately 170,000 copies per year on the office copy machine. In an effort to reduce printing and mailing costs, we are asking that anyone who receives a printed *Tidings* consider receiving the *Tidings* electronically. Anyone that has an Internet connection can view the *Tidings* online at our website, [www.AuburnFirstUCC.org](http://www.AuburnFirstUCC.org) by clicking on the **Newsletter** button on the left hand side of the home page. Not only can you view the current *Tidings* on our website, but you can also view past editions going back to 2005.

Another advantage to viewing the electronic *Tidings* is that you get to see all the beautiful color that Denise puts into the newsletter each month. If you would like to go green and start receiving the electronic *Tidings*, please send an email to [Tidings@AuburnFirstUCC.org](mailto:Tidings@AuburnFirstUCC.org) with the word "Subscribe" in the subject line. Each month you will receive an email notifying you when the *Tidings* has been placed on the website (in most cases days before you would receive the mailed version). If for any reason you do not enjoy the electronic version of the *Tidings*, you can go back to the printed version at any time by contacting the Church office. — Thank You!

**KEEPING AUBURN WARM**, a local non profit assisting members of the elderly and disabled community as well as families in need, is holding its Annual Appeal Dinner at the North American Martyr's Church Hall on Saturday, November 5th. Spaghetti & Meatballs /Chicken Alfredo Dinner is being prepared and generously provided by the Piccadilly Pub of Auburn. Please join us for dinner at 5:30 p.m. Adults \$10.00 - Children (under 12) \$5.00. Through your support **Keeping Auburn Warm** will be able to continue providing fuel assistance, insulation and minor household repairs in preparation for the winter months. Tickets may be purchased from Pat Bukoski during Coffee Hour following service on Sunday, October 9th.

Please plan to join us on  
**Saturday, October 15th at 5 p.m.**  
for our  
**Roast Beef Community Supper**  
Adults ~ \$10  
Children ~ \$5  
Servers: Deacons & volunteers needed

- 10/2 "Is God Enough?"
- 10/9 "The Wrath of God"
- 10/16 "God's Spoiled Child"
- 10/23 "Paul Asks for Money"
- 10/30 "Cry Peace and War"



- Children's Sermons**
- "Priorities"
  - "Easy to Be Angry"
  - "Where Do You Spend Your Money?"
  - "Reformers"

#### **Coffee Hour Hosts:**

- |                |                    |         |                     |
|----------------|--------------------|---------|---------------------|
| 10/2 ~         | Historian/Memorial | 10/9 ~  | Trustees            |
| 10/16, 10/23 ~ | Stewardship        | 10/30 ~ | Personnel Committee |

## FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Welcome to fall! Rally day was a big success. We have 22 children enrolled in Sunday school. We have many new families which is nice to see. Be sure to seek out new faces and welcome them.

The children are starting out in service every week, and we will proceed down to class as soon as the children's message is finished. Parents, please remember to come downstairs to get your children when service is over. If the door is closed, class is still going on.

Please be patient and don't open or peek in the door.

Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> is pumpkin carving day. The sign-up sheet is on the Sunday school bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. I will be picking up 25 pumpkins, if we need more there is a chance I can acquire more, but sign up early to be sure we have enough. For EVERY pumpkin you carve you receive a free ticket to the Great Pumpkin Fest on Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> at the EcoTarium. Entrance fee for the public is \$15.00. If you are unable to join us for the group carving I can give you pumpkins to carve at home, but you need to return them to me by the 19<sup>th</sup>. I am picking the pumpkins up on Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> so anytime after then you could pick up your pumpkin(s) from my house. You will still receive the free ticket if I receive the pumpkin back by the 19<sup>th</sup>.

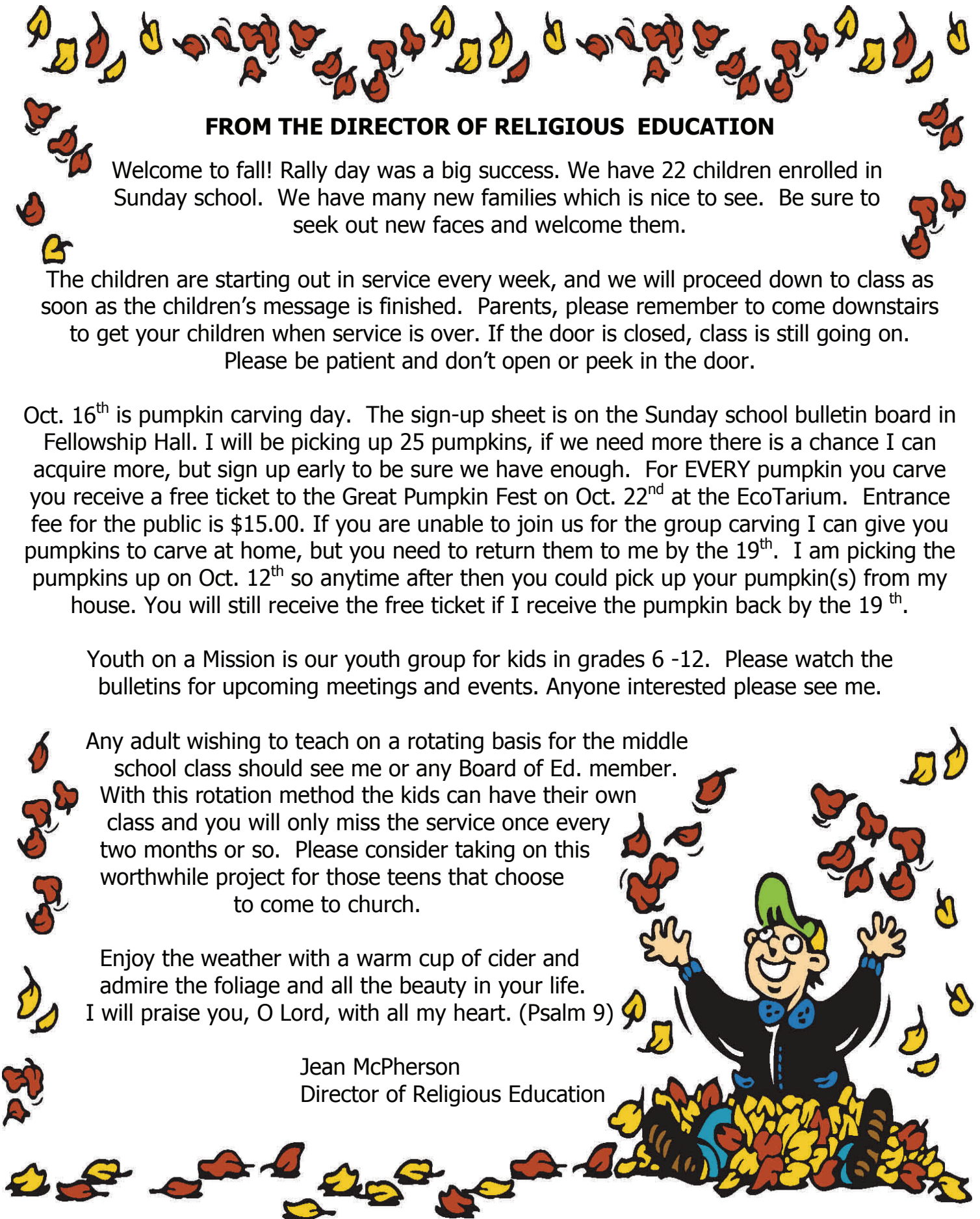
Youth on a Mission is our youth group for kids in grades 6 -12. Please watch the bulletins for upcoming meetings and events. Anyone interested please see me.

Any adult wishing to teach on a rotating basis for the middle school class should see me or any Board of Ed. member.

With this rotation method the kids can have their own class and you will only miss the service once every two months or so. Please consider taking on this worthwhile project for those teens that choose to come to church.

Enjoy the weather with a warm cup of cider and admire the foliage and all the beauty in your life. I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart. (Psalm 9)

Jean McPherson  
Director of Religious Education



### Here We Grow Preschool



With the second month of **Here We Grow's** 23<sup>rd</sup> school year beginning, we are all getting settled into a comfortable routine. As I write this we only have a handful of criers; even the parents have stopped at this point. We look forward to the day when all children come to school happy with no more tears. I will let you know next month if it happens or if it was just wishful thinking on my part. **Here We Grow** began the school year with 54 three-year-olds and 76 four and five-year-olds. At this time we have just two openings in the 3's class and 4 in the 4's classes. If you know of someone who would like to send their child to preschool, have them call the school at 508-832-8184.

Our new staff members are settling in nicely. I am pleased to say we have a nice smooth flow going. It's nice to see the "old" staff helping and learning from the "new" staff. That's what it's all about; SUPPORTING EACH OTHER for the good of the school.

During the month of September the children became familiar with their teachers, new friends and new surroundings. They had a tour of the entire building (excluding the attic and cellar). This reinforces just how large a church this is.

Each child had homework the second week of school. Continuing on with one of our traditions, the children created a picture page of their families and added it to their classroom family album. It is one of the ways we become familiar with the many different types of families attending HWG. It is also a great way for the children to open up to someone, just by talking about their families.

We had great parent turnouts for the three Parent Orientations which were held on the first days of school. Many questions were asked and answered with the hope that any and all fears were put to rest. For the second year in a row we offered a "Meet the Teachers" time before the actual first day of class. We had a great turnout.

I would like to thank Wayne Prouty, David Sampson & Stan MacPhee for all the help in preparing HWG for another school year. We wouldn't have been ready without their continued support. So THANKS, guys.

Upcoming events for the month of October: No more criers? Apple Orchard field trips, visits from the police and fire departments, and Halloween parade and parties.

Until next month, stay healthy —  
Dawn Murphy  
**Here We Grow** Preschool Director

On Aug. 21st we celebrated the baptism of Brooke Ashlynn Tomaszewicz. Brooke is the 10 month old daughter of Courtney and Keith Tomaszewicz. On Sept. 18th Sophia June Young was baptized. Sophia is the 5½ month old daughter of Rainell Young, Jr. and Amanda Bubon. Proud grandparents are Brent and Alberta Orcutt and great-grandparents, Fred and June Orcutt.

We thank God for these precious little ones and ask His continued blessing upon Brooke and Sophia and their families.



### Library Tidings by Gloria Whitehead

Ran out of time this month, but the library hasn't run out of books. In fact, today, the options of ways to read including speed are almost incomprehensible, and yet, among other worthy reasons there's a comfort to sitting in a chair with a good book in hand.

Also, should power fail, it's still do-able.

Pat Bukoski's precious and beautiful gift, with the outstanding pictures throughout the world, is still on display. It's huge; so take advantage of this opportunity as it will soon be removed from the table.

Next in review will be a gift from Shirley & Forrest Jacobs. It's Joel Osteen's book, *Your Best Life Now — 7 Steps to Living at Your Full Potential*.

As you read in the September *Tidings*, we have opened the Church Children's Library to Here We Grow. We will need several more volunteers, barring the unforeseen, to help for just 40 minutes (12:10 p.m.—12:50 p.m.) on January 4th, February 1st and May 2nd—all in 2012. Whether one, two or all three of these days spent helping little folks select a book to borrow would interest you, it would be greatly appreciated by the Church Library Committee: Jenny Grover, Jean McPherson, Debbie Pranaitis, Charlotte Steffen and Gloria Whitehead.



### WITH CHANGE COMES HOPE

Sometimes change is exciting, sometimes scary, and sometimes profitable. We at First Congregational, have faced lots of changes over the past few years. For the most part, we have become a stronger and more together group of Christians. Stewardship is another way we show our trust in our church and our God. May we all prayerfully consider the importance our church plays in our lives and put our faith in our God to help direct each of us as we consider just how much "change" we are able to pledge in the year 2012.

The "Change Box" you received at church, is a daily reminder to you how important Stewardship is in the life of our church and community.

Please try to be in church on Consecration Sunday, October 23rd, at 10:00 a.m., as we show just how important being a good steward is. A brunch will follow the worship service in Fellowship hall.

In doing God's work, we bless you all,

Your Stewardship Committee  
Donna Dube, Linda Hardy, Shirley Hill and Ellie Lowell



*From your Nominating Committee ~*

The Nominating Committee would like to thank everyone who has stepped up to the plate sharing their time and talents for our Church's various committees. This is not a commitment to be taken lightly and we appreciate your servitude toward the Lord and First Congregational Church. With that said, there are committees requiring more volunteer talent in order to meet with the recommendations set forth in our Church's by-laws.

The most critical of those is the Board of Deacons. We all know the role and level of involvement the Deacons play in the life of the church, not only during the course of a normal week and on Sundays, but even more so as our Christian holidays approach. Going into 2012 we have 3 current members of the Board of Deacons who will be staying on through 2013. In order to meet the needs of our worship services, we will be actively recruiting for additional members to this board. Are you ready for the rewards and spiritual growth you will experience being a part of this team? If so, please see Pat or Michele!

Below is a listing of the Boards/Committees of our church. The returning members and open slots on each board or committee for the upcoming term is as follows:

Board/Committee Name (By-law # of members)	Returning Members	Open Slots
Board of Deacons (12)	3	9
Board of Education (9)	2	7
Board of Outreach (6)	3	3
Board of Trustees (9)	6	3
Memorial (3)	1	2
Music (6)	2	4
Nominating (6)	0	6
Scholarship (3)	1	2
Stewardship (6)	4	2

As you can see by the above illustration, all of our boards or committees have a great need of additional members/support. Some more so than others.

The Lord gave each one of us many talents in order that we can serve Him...and we all understand the busyness of our secular lives, but we also need to pray long and hard about how we can grow in our spiritual lives by volunteering on one of the above boards or committees to help support the future growth of our church.

Are you ready to share your time and talents? If so, please see either Pat or Michele to find out more about how you can help serve on one of the above boards or committees. We are waiting and excited to talk with you!

On a different note – we would like to thank Ron Klaucke for volunteering to take over the role of Historian for our Church. He fills a VERY LARGE vacancy left by George DuHamel who has retired from this role. Ron will be serving in a limited capacity in the short term as his work schedule and volunteer work takes up a major portion of his time right now, and we look forward to the future when he can devote some dedicated time to being our new Historian. We want to thank both George, for his many years of servitude, and Ron, for what he will do in this role in the coming months. A BIG THANK YOU to both of you from all of us.

In His Love,

Your Nominating Committee:

Michele Schillinger (Chair) and Pat Bukoski

### Something New!

The Board of Ed has introduced a new program this fall. In conjunction with the Spirit Suppers, we added a book/movie club - "Dinner and Discussion." The first "Dinner & Discussion" was held on Tuesday, September 27th.

Every 5 weeks or approximately once a month, we will meet for a potluck supper in the vestry (old kitchen) area at 6 p.m. The book club discussion will begin at approximately 6:30-6:45. You do NOT have to read the book, if you just want to come for food and fellowship, please do! The two months we will have a movie up for discussion we will start the potluck a little earlier at 5:30. The movie will run during dinner, and discussion will follow at its conclusion.

EVERYONE is invited to join us for any or all parts of the evenings. Come for dinner, come for just the discussion. If you're not a reader join us for the movies. All are invited to participate in whatever way is comfortable for you.

The next three titles are listed below. A complete list of books, movies and dates is available on the table in both fellowship hall and the adult library in the rear of the sanctuary. Please speak with Jen Bohn if you have any questions.

- |                    |   |  |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Tuesday, Nov. 1    | - | <i>Heaven is for Real</i> by Todd Burpo & Lynn Vincent     |
| Tuesday, Dec. 6    | - | <i>Facing Your Giants</i> (movie) * <u>5:30 start time</u> |
| Tuesday, Jan. 10th | - | <i>The Year of Living Biblically</i> by A.J. Jacobs        |

Youth On a Mission will once again be selling DELICIOUS Ever So Humble pies. We will be offering samples and taking orders during coffee hour on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and October 9<sup>th</sup>. These pies are PERFECT for the holidays! No muss, no fuss and they taste better than homemade! In addition to all of your favorites (apple, blueberry, jumble berry, squmpkin, chocolate cream and apple crisp) they are introducing a new chicken pot pie!



These pies are terrific for the busy holiday season when you need an easy, hot and tasty meal. See any YOM member or Jen Bohn to place your order.

Please note: \*Money is due with the orders; we are unable to accept COD's

### HAITI

Randy and Jen Bohn are planning a return trip to Haiti **October 3rd - 12th.**  
(Please remember to keep them in your prayers.)

This is a medical mission trip that will provide free medical care to the people of Haiti. In Haiti medical care is on a pay FIRST then get the necessary care basis. The majority of the Haitian population live in such poverty that this simply is NOT an option for most.

Monetary donations can be accepted right up until their departure on October 3rd. (Please make checks payable to First Congregational Church noting Haiti or Jen/Randy in the memo section.) Thank you so much for your ongoing support of this outreach ministry.





**MEMORABLE BIRTHDAY.** "I celebrated my 11th birthday, in 1951, with a formal dinner before our weekly ballroom dancing lesson in a church basement in Auburn, Massachusetts," recalls Sally Manning Culp of Inman, South Carolina. "My mother cooked all my favorite foods and made me my first long dress. Pictured, from left, are Gail Snyder, Doreen Waskiwize, Roy Provost, Derreth Jensen, me, John Thunberg and John Pelto. It was an occasion I will always remember."

Dorothy Heath was browsing through a recent copy of *Reminisce* magazine (a nostalgia magazine dedicated to sharing memories from the 40's, 50's and 60's) when she came across this picture. It didn't take Dorothy long to realize that the church mentioned in the margin above is none other than First Congregational Church in Auburn, Massachusetts! Perhaps you recognize a familiar face.

### From Your Outreach Committee

It is not too soon to start thinking about becoming a member of an inspiring, energetic and mission oriented committee! The Outreach Committee will be looking for 2 new members in January! If interested, please speak with Michele Schillinger or Pat Bukoski.

The Outreach Committee will be participating in the Auburn Walk for Hunger on Sunday, October 23rd. The walk begins and ends at the Auburn Youth and Family Services. Registration is at 12:45 P.M. and the walk begins at 1:00 P.M. All the money raised will go to Auburn Youth and Family Services' food pantry and 10% of funds raised will go to Kateri's Kitchen (North American Martyr's food pantry). Please watch for our special Celtic sneakers offering on October 16th during worship.



In Love, Hope, Peace, Understanding and Generosity,  
 Outreach Members: Pat Bukoski, Sue Campbell,  
 Judy Murphy, Deb Pranaitis & Sue MacPhee



October is Home Eye Safety Month, National Disability Employment Awareness Month, National Down Syndrome Awareness Month, and National Physical Therapy Month. It is also Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Awareness Month and National Medical Librarians Month. October is also the time to remember Stop America's Violence Everywhere (SAVE).

Soon it will be time to turn on the heat. Get your humidifiers cleaned and ready, get your chimneys cleaned, get your furnaces cleaned, and get ready for a safe and healthy fall, then winter.

We had a successful flu clinic after church in Fellowship Hall. If you want a flu shot you can get one at CVS any day, just go to the pharmacy in the back. There are also other locations, but Jim Higgins, the Pharmacist, gives them at CVS in Auburn if you are interested.

The end of the month is Halloween and everyone needs to be aware of safety! Parents and children need to make sure the costumes are safe - fire safe and the child needs to be able to see and Be Seen! Make sure the children can walk safely with the costumes on. And only trick or treat in safe areas where you know the people. It's a fun night -- please keep it a safe night. Happy Fall! Hope it's warm and beautiful!

God Bless!  
Debbie Pranaitis  
Parish Nurse

**JOYFUL NOYSE REHEARSAL SCHEDULE**



10/2 11:15 a.m.



10/9 11:15 a.m.



10/16 11:15 a.m.

10/23 9:15 a.m. *We're building a Circle of Love*

10/30 11:15 a.m.



**NEW MEMBER CLASSES**

Pastor Brian is looking to hold new member classes beginning October 30th after worship service with a second class the following Sunday, November 6th. At the conclusion of these two classes we'll decide whether additional classes are warranted. If you're interested in finding out more about becoming a member of First Congregational Church in Auburn please speak with one of the Deacons to sign-up.



December 10, 1976 – April 27, 2011

Ist Annual Major David “Klepto”  
Brodeur 5K Run/Walk  
to benefit the  
**MAJOR DAVID BRODEUR  
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**  
**Sunday October 16, 2011**

Registration begins at noon ~ Run/Walk begins at 1 p.m.

North American Martyrs, 8 Wyoma Drive, Auburn, MA

Registration Fee is \$25 (12 & under free) Register online at [www.bit.ly/Brodeur5k2011](http://www.bit.ly/Brodeur5k2011)

If you have any questions about the event, sponsorship or volunteering  
please email the: [BrodeurFoundation@gmail.com](mailto:BrodeurFoundation@gmail.com)

“The mission of The Major David Brodeur Memorial Foundation is to honor the life of Major David Brodeur by working collaboratively with Auburn High School students to provide grants in the areas of academics, athletics, and extra -curricular activities.”

Air Force Major David L. Brodeur, formerly of Auburn, MA, died April 27, 2011 at Kabul Airport, in Kabul, Afghanistan. Major Brodeur had been assigned, while in Afghanistan, as an advisor to the Afghan Command and Control Center under the NATO Air Training Command.

Major Brodeur was educated in the Auburn public schools graduating with honors from Auburn High in 1994. While in high school he played soccer and was an accomplished track and field athlete. He served as Treasurer and President of the Student Council and was a member of the National Honor Society. He represented Auburn High at the Annual Student Government Day Program sponsored by the Massachusetts State Legislature and received a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for his service to Auburn High and the Town of Auburn.

Major Brodeur graduated in 1999 from the U.S. Military Academy with a degree in Political Science. He earned an MBA from Touro University. He graduated from pilot training at Columbus AFB in April 2001 and F -16 Fighter training from Luke AFB. He was an experienced F -16 pilot with deployments to Iraq where he flew combat missions during the initial days and months of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His commendations and awards include: the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal and Combat Action Medal.

Despite David’s passion for flying, and pride for his country, his greatest love in life was his family. He was a devoted husband to his wife of 11 years, and proud father of Elizabeth and David. He was a loving son and brother who placed the needs of others and service to God and country before self. His all too short life was a life well lived.



**THE PUMPKINS WILL BE HERE  
ON OCT. 1ST AT 9:00 A.M.**

So, the next time you ride by the Church there may already be a sea of orange covering the front lawn.

We are so excited about the number of people who have signed up so far. There still is an opportunity for you to help. Check the sign up sheet in fellowship hall or give us a call.

Thank you all for sharing our excitement for the Pumpkin Patch.

Diane Moore (508-832-8078) Shirley Hill (508-832-6335)

**The Patch will be open Oct. 1st thru Oct. 31st.**

*TIDINGS is a monthly publication of*  
**First Congregational Church,  
 United Church of Christ**  
**128 Central St., Auburn MA 01501**  
 Phone: (508) 832-2845  
 Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
  
*God's church in Auburn Center  
 doing Christ's work in the world.*  
 Web: [auburnfirstucc.org](http://auburnfirstucc.org)



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

October 2011						
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30	31					

Or **CURRENT RESIDENT**