



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!’”

UCC 50th Anniversary Celebration and 26th General Synod

We are all invited to the 50th anniversary of the United Church of Christ (at the Hartford Civic Center) in Hartford, Connecticut which will be from Friday, June 22nd through Tuesday, June 26th. This is also the 26th General Synod (Sin-nud), the bi-annual meeting of the United Church of Christ.

This will be the best opportunity for United Church of Christ members from this area to see our national church in action. Of particular interest will be worship on Friday evening and Sunday afternoon and all day Saturday (Synod in the City).

If you are at all interested, save these dates. More information will be forthcoming about schedules, transportation, etc. Please stay posted.

God Bless,
Rev. Dr. Kenneth E. Knox
Pastor



Happy Anniversary

to Donald & Carolyn Slongwhite, married on February 27th.



Congratulations Don & Carolyn!

We'd love to acknowledge your special day. Just fill out a Birthday/ Anniversary form (located on a table in Fellowship Hall) and leave completed/signed forms in the church office.



From the Scholarship Committee

Applications are now available in Fellowship Hall, and in the church office for anyone interested in applying for a scholarship.

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE
APRIL 15TH.



FOOD
PANTRY

Many thanks to all who have given so generously to our food pantry—our shelves are full! Our inventory includes peanut butter, juice, canned veggies, canned fruit, pasta, tomato sauce, soups, cereals, baby food, and much more.

Please get the word out so we can be a blessing to families in town that may need a helping hand.

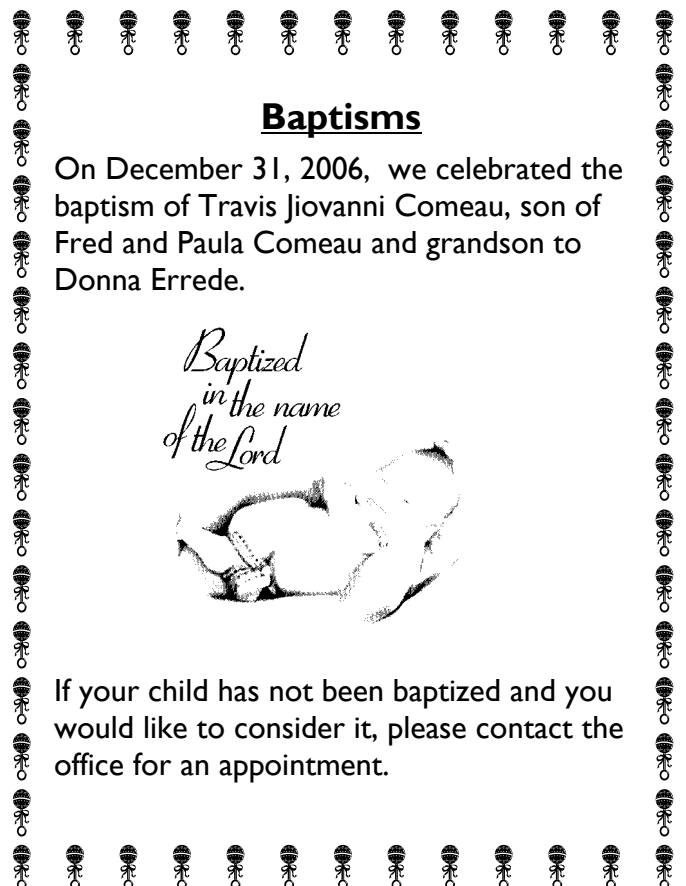
Thank you.

Baptisms

On December 31, 2006, we celebrated the baptism of Travis Jiovanni Comeau, son of Fred and Paula Comeau and grandson to Donna Errede.



If your child has not been baptized and you would like to consider it, please contact the office for an appointment.





The Annual Meeting of First Congregational Church was held on January 20th, 2007. At this meeting, it was with great pleasure that we, the Stewardship Committee, were able to announce that we had received a total of \$135,761 from 148 pledge receipts for our 2007 Pledge drive. Although this was from fewer pledges, this was an increase of \$3,312 or 2.5% over last year's pledge drive. The average pledge has increased from \$877.15 to \$917.30.

All of us on the Stewardship Committee consider this year's pledge drive a great success. As you know, one of our responsibilities as a Member of this Church is to give systematically through the annual Stewardship Campaign for support of the Church and its benevolence. Our annual pledges provide for the operation of the Church and Church Life as well as for the future of our Church, its Members and Children, and its many Ministries both within and outside Auburn. Without the support of each and every one of you, whether it be through your Time, your Talents, or, most importantly, your Treasures, our Church would not be successful in all that we need to do. We owe our success to each and every member of this Church.

Thank you all for your commitment of First Congregational Church in Auburn.

Stay tuned for a new Stewardship theme to unfold over the next few months! As has been the case in the last couple of years, the Stewardship Publication will continue to arrive with your Tidings. Stay tuned for some new and exciting messages from your Stewardship Committee.

John Rockwood and Michael & Michele Schillinger have completed their terms on the Stewardship Committee and wish Al, Todd, Donna and the incoming 2007 members, Mike Dube, Steve Landry and Judi Taft, much success in 2007!

In His Love,

The Stewardship Committee

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



SAVE THE DATE

The Worcester Area Mission Society (WAMS), UCC, invites you to attend *A Reception Celebrating the Blooming of Hope* in New Orleans. This special event for WAMS' member churches will be held on Saturday, April 21 from 7-10 PM at Tower Hill Botanic Garden, 11 French Drive in Boylston, MA. The cost for the event is \$25 per person. Invitations and additional information will be forthcoming. WAMS is the mission arm of the Central Association of the Massachusetts Conference with extensive and growing programs in housing, youth development, and hurricane recovery.

For more information please call WAMS at: (508) 832-3937.



Rev. Robert S. Bachelder
Minister for Mission and Service
Worcester Area Mission Society
128 Central Street
Auburn, MA 01501
Email: minister@wamsucc.org
Fax (508) 721-2539




February is National Heart Month with February 2nd being National Wear Red Day. February 16th is National Women's Heart Day. This is also National Children's Dental Health Month with February 2nd being "Give Kids a Smile Day," sponsored by the American Dental Association. February 4th - 20th is National Burn Awareness Week sponsored by the Shriners (donate your flip tops to the Shriners to help with the free medical care they provide). February 14th is Valentine's Day and it is also National Donor Day.

We have finally gotten the colder winter weather needed to help kill all the germs that have been causing the illnesses with nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Still, hand-washing is the best defense against these illnesses.

I'm glad to see the closet with the medical supplies has had a big turnover! It's nice to have the equipment to lend out when needed! If you need something and it's there, great, take it and use it as long as necessary. I don't keep track of the equipment.

I will be sponsoring a babysitting class during the February school vacation. It will be Tuesday and Wednesday, February 20-21, 2007 from 10 am 'til 2:30 pm with a half hour lunch break. (Another session is "in the works" for April school vacation.) To register, call Pam Daigneault at UMass-Memorial Family Education Department (508) 334-6485. Topics include fire and poison safety, infant and toddler care, CPR, interviewing skills, and much more.

Sincerely,
Debbie Pranaitis, RN
Parish Nurse



Coffee Hour Hosts

	2/4 ~ Board of Education
	2/11 ~ Library
	2/18 ~ Library
	2/25 ~ Stewardship



**This
Month's Church
Supper Features:**

Roast Beef Dinner

When? Saturday, Feb. 17th at
5:00 PM

Adults: \$8

Children: \$4

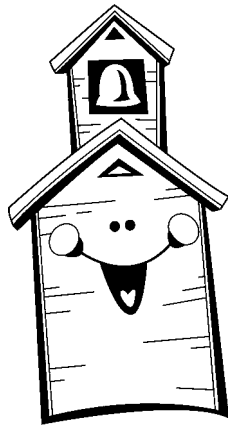


The 26th General Synod

The 26th General Synod of the United Church of Christ will be in Hartford, Connecticut, Friday, June 22, 2007 through Tuesday, June 26, 2007.

Church members are encouraged to participate and see the U.C.C. in action in a different way than we usually experience it. Because of security concerns everyone who attends must register in advance. It is the 50th anniversary celebration of the U.C.C. Watch for more information.

Here We Grow Preschool



Happy winter, Happy Valentine's Day. As I write this article for February Tidings I realize how lucky we are to have had such a warm winter so far. I know deep down that it will not last, but we will take what we can as long as it does last.

During the month of February *Here We Grow* will be celebrating Valentine's Day with parties on the 13th & 14th. The children enjoy the time set aside for them to be "mail carriers" and share special cards with their classmates. The parents also supply each room with some yummy snacks for the party days.

Here We Grow will be selling Yankee Candles for their third and final fundraiser for the school year '06-'07. If anyone would like to place an order and help support one of the First Congregational Church's outreach programs, stop in the school's office to look at a catalog. All orders will be greatly appreciated.

On February 6th, 9:30-11:30 a.m., *Here We Grow* will be hosting its annual Open House. This is the time that prospective parents for the upcoming school year can stop in and check us out. Throughout the current school year we do set up individual tours, but for people who cannot make one of those, we also offer the 2-hour open house. As of this writing, all morning 4-year old spots are filled. A few afternoon spots are left in the 3-day classes. Between the morning and afternoon sessions we have about 20 spots left in the 2-day programs. If you know of anyone looking for a preschool, please send them our way.

The school will be closed for winter vacation from 2/19-2/23. Here's hoping everyone has a great week home with their children.

In ending I would like to share notes given to the teachers and me in a Christmas card from one of *Here We Grow's* parents.

Dear Mrs. Murphy,

I am so happy with *Here We Grow* Preschool. The schedules of activities listed outside the classrooms are excellent; it's so great to be able to know what's going on in their class. It's very nice to have teacher contact at drop-off and pick-up, the last school Jake went to didn't have these things, and I never knew what was going on or what he did. I think you are doing such a great job. Your efforts, time and devotion to the kids make such a difference, I'm grateful my children have the opportunity to be a part of such a great preschool. Thank you for all you do.

Dear Mrs.*****

I just wanted to say thanks, I'm very glad that Jake has you as a teacher. Thanks for believing and encouraging him to work hard and dream big. All your efforts, time and devotion make such a difference to so many kids. I know he enjoys coming to school and he thinks very highly of you. Your caring and kindness are very much appreciated. Thanks again.

The reason for sharing these notes is that I felt it would give the First Congregational Church members one more reason to be proud that they sponsor such a successful and well known program.

Until next month, be happy and healthy.

Dawn Murphy
Director, *Here We Grow* Preschool



LIBRARY TIDINGS

By Gloria Whitehead

A wonderful Christmas present came to the Children's Library a few weeks ago. Actually, there were 21 of them, and each brought a playful way to teach youngsters a whole bunch of values. If you are a parent, you've certainly heard or seen them. For those of you who've not been introduced to *Veggie Tales*, they are DVD videos that most kids love. Example: *A Snoodles Tale* is a lesson in selfworth, *Josh and the Big Wall* is a lesson in obedience, and *Sheerluck Holmes and the Golden Rule* is a lesson in friendship. There are also a couple that are related to holidays or music or an activity. All of this is a gift from Nick, Lori, Tori, and Cassie Stockhaus and all 21 are ready to be borrowed—of course, only 1 or 2 at a time and for 2 weeks. All Sunday School children will receive a listing of the selection to bring home and there will be extra lists in the Children's Library. Grandparents might like to consider these and other books in this library. Our loving thanks to the Stockhaus family.



In last Sunday's sermon, Pastor Ken mentioned Peter Marshall, who was an outstanding minister and Chaplain to the United States Senate. Among his writings are *The Heart of Peter Marshall's Faith*—two inspirational messages by him and *John Doe, Disciple*—sermons for the young in spirit. Both are in the Adult Library in category 10. Also available is *Meeting God at Every Turn* (category 4) by Catherine Marshall, his wife, and famous author in her own right.

Our thanks are also given to Carol Mangiacotti who has gifted Mitch Albom's most recent book, *For One More Day* in memory of her son. It's already in circulation. And then there's that wonderful Pat Bukoski who will often share her comments after reading books from our library and, in turn, we can pass them along to you.

Currently on display on the table are *The Zion Chronicles* by Bodie Thoene. The 5 volumes, in a box, may be borrowed as a unit and returned in reasonable time. If one is missing, however, assume that someone is borrowing them individually. Pat noted that they are filled with wonderful historical research dealing with the 1948 conflict between the Jews and Palestinians until the present. One's curiosity is spurred on as the historical points of view are interwoven. Thanks to you, too, Pat.

Happy reading and may God guide us.



**Everett "Bud"
Knowlton**



**Oct. 17, 1917 to
Jan. 3, 2007**

Everett "Bud" Knowlton, formerly of Worcester, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, January 3rd, 2007. Bud is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Evelyn (Holden) and his daughter, Diane, both of Auburn.

Bud is also survived by his two sisters, Dorothy Wilson, and Marion MacMillan, both of Auburn, as well as several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother Earl Knowlton, and his sister Mildred Bjork.

Bud was a member of our church and will be greatly missed. Please remember his family and friends in your prayers.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Ash Wednesday is February 21, 2007. If there are persons interested in a 5 week Lenten Bible Study please sign up in Fellowship Hall.

Possible days

Mon. mornings: 9-10:30

Tues. or Wed. Evenings:
7:00-8:30



Possible Topics

Prophets

Bible Personalities

Events in Jesus' Life

There will need to be six people who can find a common time and topic so there are enough participants to provide sufficient discussion. Participants should plan to commit to all five sessions to build a sense of covenanted community.

Recruit your friends!! Join us!

FROM THE CHOIR ROOM:

Featured anthems this month:

Be Still by David Evans and *Who Is Jesus?* By Jeffrey Honoré. Both are new anthems for us put out by Hope Publishing Company.

Be Still, to be sung February 18th, has a lyrical, uplifting quality to it. We sing this in 4 parts, beginning in D major and moving to E^b major. Moving up a key allows the music to repeat without becoming tedious and gives the impression of a brighter, fuller sound. The primary message: "Be still, for the Spirit of the Lord, the Holy One is here." The accompaniment is full and lush, and is written for the piano as all our anthems are.

Who Is Jesus?, to be sung February 25th, is a Lenten anthem. As to be expected with Lenten music, it is set in a minor key. The mood of this anthem is reflective; the piano part is sparse, giving the piece a dark color. All voices start in unison, dividing to two and finally three parts in correlation with each refrain of *Who Is Jesus?*

THANK YOU!! - from Heather

I'd like to express my appreciation to everyone who helped fix up my new office space last year. It has made a tremendous difference toward organizing our music program.

- Thank you to Ron Hanks for suggesting the deacons' closet, and to the deacons for giving up half their space.
- Thank you to Dave Sampson and Wayne Prouty for moving the desk from one end of the church to the other!
- Thank you to Jo-Ann DeRosa for donating her shelving.
- Thank you to all the choir for moving stacks of chairs up to the attic.
- Thank you to Craig Premo for hanging the divider and everything on the walls.

OF NOTE:

The choir will be presenting *The Passion Story* on April 1st. This will be a selection of 6 - 8 anthems (mostly new) that take us through the walk to Calvary, the Garden of Gethsemane, the crucifixion, Jesus' death and His resurrection.

MUSIC MEMORIAL

For those of you looking for a special way to memorialize or celebrate your loved ones, we'd like to offer the opportunity of donating a choir anthem which would then be dedicated to your loved one. Here's how it works:

Heather orders 6 - 8 new anthems every August and January. Those wishing to honor their loved ones with music would purchase one anthem. One anthem would be \$35 (for 20 copies - one for each choir member). The monetary donation will go directly to the music fund. Your tribute will be printed in the bulletin **EVERY TIME** the choir sings this anthem. Tributes will also be printed on labels and placed on each individual copy of music. You can also REQUEST your anthem to

be sung at special times of the year. (Just be sure to give Heather ample notice!)

If interested, all you need to do is select an anthem (to aid in selection, a partial list of new and old favorites follows), fill out a Music Memorial form located on the table in Fellowship Hall, and then turn your completed form in to Denise at the church office.

If you're interested, but would like to discuss it first, please leave a note in my box with your name and phone number.

This opportunity will be ongoing from year to year.

Blessings,

Heather Moore
Minister of Music

New Anthems (to be sung through June)

- Come and Kneel at the Cross
- How Great Is Our God
- Be Still
- Who Is Jesus?
- We Will Walk in the Light!

Style

- gentle
- praise
- lyrical
- reflective (Lent)
- gospel swing

Suggested Favorites (the choir sings these often)

- We Are One With You, O Lord
- Lord, I Lift Your Name on High
- We Will Be a Shelter for Each Other
- Here I Am, Lord
- You Are My All in All
- Seek Ye First
- Thank You Lord
- Lord of Mercy, Lord of Grace
- Looking for the Light
- Breath of Heaven
- Child of God

- expressive
- up tempo
- climactic
- free (well known)
- gentle
- Pachabel's Canon
- jazzy
- flowing, hopeful
- upbeat (Christmas)
- powerful (Christmas)
- gentle (baptism, Mother's Day)

Joyful Noyse Rehearsal Schedule

2/4, 2/11 & 2/18	11:15 AM rehearsal
2/25	9:15 AM rehearsal <i>Lord I Lift Your Name on High</i>
3/4, 3/11 & 3/18	11:15 AM rehearsal
3/25	9:15 AM rehearsal <i>May You Have Peace</i>
4/1	11:15 AM rehearsal
4/8	Easter (no early rehearsal) <i>Keeping My Eye On You Lord</i>
4/15, 4/22, 4/29	11:15 AM rehearsal
5/6, 5/13	11:15 AM rehearsal
5/20	9:15 AM rehearsal (pieces to be announced)

Corinne Porter, a student at Western New England College (located in Springfield, MA) recently visited the Abbey Wiley Room. Corrine is preparing a research paper on Jonathan and Joseph Stone. (Jonathan was one of the original members of the church and Joseph was his son.) Corrine began her research at Old Sturbridge Village where she decided upon Jonathan and Joseph as the subjects of her paper, which then led her to us. She gained additional information at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester and the Auburn Public Library.

We are happy to see our Abbey Wiley Room and historical archives being used in this way.



Rev. Brenneman's first - and only - healing service began with quite a challenge.

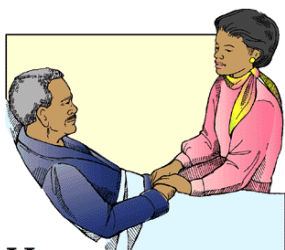
Feb. 1 - Feb. 28—Here We Grow Preschool will be doing their Yankee Candle Fundraiser. If you would like to place an order, you may do so with the church secretary during office hours (9 a.m. - 2 p.m.).

Sun., Feb. 4th, is Boy Scout Sunday.

Tuesday, Feb. 6th, is the Here We Grow Preschool Open House—9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Mon., Feb. 19th, is President's Day, and the church office will be closed.

Wed., Feb. 21st is Ash Wednesday. Service begins at 7 PM.



Hospice Care
Volunteers

Become a Hospice Volunteer!

UMass Memorial Hospice Volunteers share their gifts of compassion, love and support with terminally ill patients and their families. Volunteers are a vital part of the hospice team as they help patients to maintain their dignity and enhance the quality of their remaining days.

Volunteer Training includes 3 sessions which will meet:

March 3, 2007 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

March 10, 2007 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

March 15, 2007 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Location: UMass Memorial Hospice, 650 Lincoln St., Worcester, MA

For more information or an application please call: Kathy Drew (508) 754-0052 ext. 3057 or email drewk@ummhc.org



The New Orleans team of missionaries would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for supporting us. The trip was extremely rewarding—a life-changing experience for all of us. We met wonderful people among the residents of New Orleans as well as the other church missionaries who traveled to Louisiana and worked along side us.

Pictures will remain on display in Fellowship Hall for your viewing. (Come and see what the Lord has done.)

Again, our heartfelt appreciation for your prayers, book donations and financial support!

Jennifer Bohn, Al Boucher, Cindy Dube, Shirley Hill, and Jean McPherson

Greetings from Outreach!

We are excited to begin 2007
 on such a high note, with the wonderful presentation from our
 New Orleans Mission Team on Sunday, January 28. A big **Thank You** to
 Al, Cindy, Jean, Jen, and Shirley for working so hard and representing our
 church so well!!

Our committee for 2007 consists of: Alicia Schillinger, Gayle Farley, Ernie
 Smith, Cindy Dube and Ellie Lowell. Welcome Cindy! Ellie is general
 Chairperson, and team members will be leading specific projects during the
 year.

If you have ideas for fundraising or Outreach projects, either within the
 church or the larger community, we'd love to hear them.

With your input and support, 2007 will be another exciting
 and productive year for us.

The Outreach Committee

*TIDINGS is a monthly
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 Church
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