

June  
2015

# Herald of Good TIDINGS

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

June 2015

So, are you complaining about the heat yet? I know you promised in the middle of February to never complain about the heat and sun again. Did you keep that promise? I know I didn't. We had a couple hot days in May and without my AC in the room my place got very hot; my indoor thermometer read over 90°F. For a moment I thought a little snow or better, rain, would be nice right now. So are you with me?

One of my favorite scenes in *Private Ryan* is the complaining scene. Tom Hanks, as the captain in command, is talking to the corporal who is always complaining and getting on everyone's nerves. So the corporal asks, "What about you, captain, don't you ever gripe at all?"

Tom Hanks says, "I don't gripe to you, corporal. I am a captain. There is a chain of command. Gripes go up, not down. I don't gripe to you or around you. I gripe to my superior officers."

The corporal convinces Tom Hanks' character to do a little role play and the captain proceeds to lay down a world class gripe. Gripping was such a huge part of my time in the army. Privates griped about everything. *Everything*. If our cooks were all Wolfgang Puck, the privates would still have complained about the food.

The sergeants complained about the incompetence of the lieutenants and captains, and the ignorance and laziness of the privates. Officers, likewise, complained of conniving sergeants and incompetent majors and colonels.

Gripping was the one thing we all could do wherever we were, whatever we were doing. It was our security blanket and God-given right. God-given. God-given!

God is ultimately at the top of all chains of command. So he hears all the gripes, all the complaints, all the petitions. How many gripes do you think God hears a day in prayer? How many thank-yous does he hear a day in prayer?

Is it important that we mix some thank-yous in with our complaints? I believe so. I think we see too clearly what we lack and do not number or see our blessings as easily.

So remember, gripes go up the chain of command. May we pray to the father of the universe, may he hear our prayer and answer it. May we also remember to "Count our blessings, count them one by one. Count our blessings see what God has done."

Pastor Brian

Join us for  
**Choir Appreciation**  
on Sunday, June 7th,  
at 10 a.m.



## **SERMON TITLES FOR JUNE**

- 6/7 "Choosing a Leader"
- 6/14 "Not By Our Hands"
- 6/21 "I Beseech You to Open Your Hearts"
- 6/28 "Fast Healing"

### FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Wow! It is already June and the 5 young people who sat with their parents last June to learn about confirmation have been confirmed and are now members of our church family. Please keep each of these (now totaling 6) young adults in your prayers as they start another chapter in their life with this church.

On the same note, Children's Sunday will be June 14. You are all invited to the annual Church picnic on the lawn. Final preparations have not been decided but we usually have a cookout with hamburgers and or hot dogs that are provided by the BOCE. We will have a sign up for salads and desserts in fellowship hall so you can all contribute to the "feast." More details will follow but **please save the date. ALL are invited.**

As we look toward next year, I am still in need of teachers to assist with Sunday School. I am so thankful for the people that have come out of their comfort zone and ventured down to help out. I especially want to thank Laurie Babcock who has been my right hand gal for most of the year. That being said, I would like to have more people join our group. I was very fortunate to have the confirmands help out this year, but that option will not be available next year. I will be having a meeting for potential volunteers in the near future and would love to see new faces in that meeting. Our Sunday School is growing and in order for it to continue to grow and be productive, we will need help. Please prayerfully consider your participation in this very important aspect of the church.

If anyone is interested in leading Youth On a Mission (YOM), please contact me. This group is for teens in grades 6-12. The activities include lock-ins at church, fundraisers and our annual trip to a bible conference in the winter/spring. The schedule is dependent on you and the teens' ideas. For those of you who may not wish to help with the younger kids, this is a great opportunity to still impact the youth of the church in a fun and positive way.

Please look for upcoming news in regards to the picnic in the bulletin.

Jean McPherson, Director of Religious Education

**PLEASE NOTE: There will be no July or August Tidings. Look for our next issue in September and have a great summer!**

#### Coffee Hour Hosts

- 6/7 Prudential Committee
- 6/14 Music Committee
- 6/21 Board of Trustees
- 6/28 Board of Christian Ed.
- 7/5 Financial Secretaries/Treasurers
- 7/12 Board of Deacons
- 7/19 Board of Christian Outreach
- 7/26 Personnel Committee
- 8/2 Prudential Committee
- 8/9 Board of Trustees
- 8/16 Board of Christian Ed.
- 8/23 Board of Deacons
- 8/30 Prudential Committee
- 9/6 Music Committee

#### Summer Birthdays include:

- Alyse Bukoski - June 16th
- Lisa Rockwood - July 21st
- Sue Anderton - July 30th
- Pat Bukoski - Aug. 5th
- Alice Carlson - Aug. 23rd

**Happy Birthday to all!**



#### YOU'RE INVITED:

To a **Retirement Party**  
for **Dawn Murphy**,  
Director of **Here We Grow** Preschool

After 25 years, Dawn has decided to retire from **Here We Grow**. Please join us as we bid farewell to her on

**Wednesday, June 17th.**

**Drop by F.H. between 6 - 8 p.m.**

### Central Association Meeting

The Central Association met on Sunday, May 3, at the First Congregational Church in Sutton. The business meeting was only 30 minutes during which we elected a slate of officers and committee members.

The budget was also approved including an increase from \$18,000 to \$20,000. Most of that increase was to cover psychological testing for people in the process toward ordination. The Association had 13 people in the discernment process toward ordination. Five people were approved for ordination in the past year.

After the brief meeting there was a time for workshops. I went to the Worcester Area Mission Society (WAMS) workshop. WAMS is working on two big projects. One is youth involvement and the other is homeless families. These projects are separate because few organizations working with homeless families have places for youth involvement as background checks are now required to work with children. WAMS does host a CityReach type activity called "Reach Out Worcester" which is an overnight homeless experience and mission project.

During the WAMS discussion "Hope for Housing" cards were discussed. Big Y, Shaw's, Stop & Shop, and CVS stores participate in the card program. We buy the cards at face value while the stores sell cards at a 5% discount. That 5% discount is how "Hope for Housing" cards makes money to help the homeless. We participated for awhile in this program, but there were not many stores in Auburn that accepted the cards, so we sold few cards. The program is trying to expand the number of stores that take the cards. Currently the "Hope for Housing" cards are keeping 80 families housed.

After the workshop was worship and a meal. Thus ended the Association Meeting.

Pastor Brian



### FROM OUR PARISH NURSE

June is Cataract Awareness Month, Men's Health Month, National Safety Month, National Scleroderma Awareness Month, and June 1st - July 4th is Fireworks Safety Month.

June 7-13 is National Rip Current Awareness Week

June 7 is National Cancer Survivor's Day

June 15-21 is Men's Health Week

June 21-27 is National Lightning Safety Awareness Week

Please check the table in Fellowship Hall for further information. I try to change it to go with the month's awareness notices.

I am going to change the widows and widowers' meetings to the first Wednesday of the month. Anyone is welcome. We meet in the green room in the educational wing. Coffee and . . . is provided.

I also have information from a doctor: there is a new pneumonia booster shot available to people 65 and older. The doctor told me that if you have not had a pneumonia shot, you can just get the booster. If you have had the pneumonia shot, you also should get the booster. So, either way, get the booster. This is new in the past 3 months. Ask your primary care doctor about it.

Be careful in the sun! Sunscreen and sunglasses should be used!

God Bless!  
Debbie Pranaitis, Parish Nurse



**Rebecka L. Babcock**, daughter of Laurie Babcock, will be graduating from Millbury High School on June 5th. Becca plans to continue working at Subway in the Auburn Mall until she turns 18 in August when she'll be eligible to apply to truck driving school to pursue her CDL license.

**Christopher J.P. Clifford**, son of Lynda Clifford, graduated from Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School on May 29th and has been accepted to the Community College of Rhode Island. Chris' grandparents are Marguerite Clifford-Moseley and the late Paul Clifford.

**David W. Engstrom** graduated with honors from Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School on May 29th. David, an Apprentice in Plumbing, received a school scholarship and will continue his plumbing education and experience while working with Gustafson Plumbers in Worcester, MA. He has been working with them on co-op through his senior year and will be hired on full time as of June 1, 2015. He is also strongly considering joining the service in some capacity, possibly the National Guard. David's mother is Lynn Largesse, his step-father is Daniel Largesse, his grandparents are Beverly Geddes, and the late Robert Geddes.

**Michael E. Fant** graduated from Westfield State University on Saturday, May 16, 2015 earning two degrees, one in Environmental Science and the other in Regional Planning. Michael's parents are Bruce and Kelly Fant. His grandparents are Ray and Linda Fox.

**Christopher W. Hanks**, the son of Melodie Hanks and the late Jeffrey Hanks, is the recipient of a First Congregational Church scholarship derived from the Warren Scholarship Fund. Chris graduated from Shepherd Hill Regional High School on May 31st and is attending the University of New Haven in September where he'll major in Forensic Science and Chemistry. He will also be a performing member of the university's marching band. Chris is the nephew of Connie and Ron Hanks and the grandson of Violet Hanks, Lois Warren and the late Ralph Warren.

**Joseph M. Lemke**, son of Jennifer Bohn and stepson of Randy Bohn, graduated from UMass Dartmouth on May 16th with a Bachelors Degree in Economics and a minor in Accounting. He will be attending Suffolk University Law School in September. His grandparents are Judy Murphy and Michael and Cynthia Dube.

**Victoria A. Stockhaus**, daughter of Lori-Ann and Nick Stockhaus, is graduating from Millbury High School on June 5th. She is the recipient of a First Congregational Church scholarship derived from the Callan James Guilford Memorial Scholarship Fund and the Witcher Scholarship Fund and will be attending Framingham State University in September where she'll major in Art Education in the Honors Program. Tori is the granddaughter of Bob Burns and Charlotte Stockhaus and the late Flo and Don Aker and Dick Stockhaus.

### CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES TO ALL OUR GRADUATES!

On May 17th we celebrated the baptisms of 5-month-old infants, Cameron Alden Peck and Jaxson Paul Swiderski.

Cameron's parents are Ian and Kimberly Peck and grandparents are Marty and Pam Tentor. Jaxson's parents are Hayley Johnston and Adam Swiderski. His grandmother is Carol Johnston and great-grandmother is Bessie Morgan.

We pray the Lord's continued blessing upon Cameron and Jaxson and their loved ones.



### **Here We Grow** Preschool June Tidings



**Here We Grow** will be graduating on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>. Spree Day will be on June 1<sup>st</sup>. If you have a little one and would like to join us for Pumpnickel Puppets Show, stop in. He starts at 10:45. *(Editor's note: unfortunately, I was unable to print the "Tidings" in time for readers to receive this invite. I apologize. — Denise)*

It is a very busy time of the year for everyone associated with **Here We Grow**. With graduation fast approaching, we go forward with many mixed emotions. We will be saying good-bye to some families we have known for a few years. But with that, it is also a time when we will be bringing in a group of new families. At this time, we all would like to say thanks for the support and memories that we have all been part of these last few years.

On May 4<sup>th</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup>, the 3-day and 5-day program classes visited the YMCA of Westborough for their end-of-year field trip. The weather was great; the children, parents and staff had a great time. It was nice to see the children running and having fun, and the teachers too.

On May 14<sup>th</sup> the 2-day program classes visited Giguere's. The children had a lot of fun doing an obstacle course and having use of all the gymnastic equipment. We also had use of a large area for snack and our ending story. Once again, everyone had a great time.

On May 27<sup>th</sup> our graduating 4's had the opportunity to visit Mary D. Stone School. We do this so the children will have a chance to see what a typical kindergarten room may look like.

At the closing of this school year, our enrollment for the 2015-16 school year has just a few openings in some of our 2-day and 3-day classes. If you know of anyone looking for a 3 or 4-year-old spot, please send them our way.

Our three weeks of summer program are just about full. We have a few openings in week 1 (6/15-6/19) - "It's a Jungle Out There," week 2 (6/22-6/26) - "Once Upon a Time," and week 3 (6/29-7/3) - "A Pirates Life for Me." The teachers working our summer program are Helen Ethier, Cristi Corey, Gina Basili, Kathleen Lanava, and Dawn Murphy.

In closing, I'd like to wish all church members and their families a safe and fun-filled summer.

Dawn Murphy

**Here We Grow** Director

The **Fall Fair Extravaganza** is planned for **Oct. 10th & 11th**. We are excited and anticipate another successful fair! (Last year we raised over \$6,000 and this year we're setting a goal of 10,000!) Once again we're reaching out to the congregation for your ideas! As you may recall, last year we had various themes or themed tables such as crafts, jellies/jams (food items), Christmas/Halloween sections, etc. To ensure its success, we need all hands on deck. This is a great opportunity to get to know the rest of your church family! Please contact Cindy Ryan at 508-832-3416 and let her know you're interested in being a part of this church fundraiser.

Also, JOIN US here at the church on alternating Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. for craft nights to prepare sale items for the fair. No special skills are needed.

**The next meeting will be on June 10th.**



## **SAVE THE DATE**

**THE PUMPKINS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE DELIVERED ON OCTOBER 3rd!**



**YARD SALE HELP NEEDED - Below are tasks listed in order of urgency.**

- 2pm Sat. 6/13 Take down tables and chairs and return them to building. Help with clean-up. Approximately 90 minute time commitment.
- 6pm Fri. 6/12 Carry tables, chairs and yard sale donations out to lawn. Approximately 60 minute time commitment.
- 3pm Thurs. 6/11 Prepare strawberries. Approximately 2 hour time commitment.
- At home tasks: Biscuit bakers needed, drop off on Friday the 12th or early Saturday. Please call to let me know you will be baking or sign up on sheet in Fellowship Hall.  
Plants needed: please pot and label for our plant sale.  
Donate items to our church yard sale table.
- 8am-2pm Come to the yard sale, shop, eat and show your support.  
Sat 6/13



As you can see, none of these important tasks will demand too much of your time - a pretty easy way to help in raising funds for OUR church. You may call me at 508-832-6646 and let me know how you can help, or just sign-up on the sheets in Fellowship Hall.

***And finally, spaces are still available if you wish to participate that way!***

Thank you in advance and God Bless,  
Cindy Dube

**AGAIN THIS YEAR — A CHURCH FAMILY TABLE**

We will be accepting up to 6 items from each family that are clean and in good working order. All monies collected from the sale of these items will go into the church's fundraising account. Items need to be delivered to the church the week of the yard sale from June 8th 'til 6 pm June 12th.

**2015 RELAY FOR LIFE**

Celebrate ~ Remember ~ Fight Back  
**Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>, Lemansky Park, Auburn**

On September 11th and 12th at Lemansky Park teams of people will walk the track in the annual Central South County Relay for Life. Highlights of this event include the survivor and caretaker walk and the luminaria ceremony.

We invite you to join us. It is not too late to join the D.U.C.K.S. team (Dedicated United Christian Kindred Spirits). For more information contact Shirley Hill at 508-832-6335.



The Relay for Life is a fundraising event for the American Cancer Society and is dedicated to helping the world celebrate more birthdays.

We received the following note in response to our special May community supper.

With Appreciation —  
Thanks so much for being so kind.

*From all of us at —  
Kateri Senior Housing*

*Thank you for the delicious meal. The meal was great!*

*Mary, Ruth, Kathy, Joan, Irene,  
Peg, Marlene, and Cathy*

### A WORD FROM YOUR STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

As you know, last year we as a church were faced with a large deficit. We would very much like to avoid that this year. As we enter the summer season, our revenue traditionally drops off dramatically. Are you up to date with your giving so far this year? If not, this would be a most helpful time to catch up. Checks may be mailed to the church, attention Financial Secretary, if you wish. If your situation has changed and you need to adjust your pledge (up or down) please contact our Financial Secretary, Sue MacPhee, by calling 508-832-9347 or e-mailing her at [FinancialSecretary@auburnfirstucc.org](mailto:FinancialSecretary@auburnfirstucc.org).

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. Have a safe and enjoyable summer and "Count Yourself Blessed."

Cindy Dube  
Stewardship Chair



We'd like to acknowledge our newest church members who were received into membership on Confirmation Sunday, May 31st:

*Amanda Lee Carlson*

*Christopher John Paul Clifford*

*Zachary Robert Lazerick*

*Haydn Isaiah McPherson*

*Jennifer Rose Premo*

*Eric John Rockwood*

We'd also like to acknowledge the following new members who were recognized during our May 17th worship service:

*Heather & Lyle Caouette*

*Pamela & John Lazerick*

Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, June 14th**, and plan to join us as we celebrate our children on

### Children's Sunday.



Following our service that day we will be having our annual picnic. We will be looking for donations of desserts and salads, so please look for a sign-up sheet on the Sunday school bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

### DRIVEWAY PLEDGES

Please make sure your driveway pledge is current so that we can retire this debt as soon as possible.

*Is Your  
Pledge?  
Up to Date?*

If you haven't yet pledged, it's not too late to make a donation to the driveway fund. Make checks payable to the church noting "driveway fund" in the memo section.

**Thank you!**

**COMMUNITY YARD SALE---PLANT SALE---COOKOUT**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 13th, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.**



Spring cleaning? Don't throw that good "stuff" away. Recycle it by selling it to someone who needs it! Do you have an accumulation of things that are just too good to throw away, but you no longer need? Don't have enough to hold your own yard sale? Join us on the church lawn for our

**COMMUNITY YARD SALE!**

**RAIN OR SHINE**

Spaces are \$15 for church members, \$20 for non-members. Use of a table is \$5 per table. Please contact Cindy Dube at 508-832-6646 or Denise in the church office at 508-832-2845 to secure your spot.

*TIDINGS is a monthly publication of*

**First Congregational Church,  
United Church of Christ  
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*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**

**June 2015**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

**OR CURRENT RESIDENT**