

2008

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!’”

As the new year arrives, First Congregational Church will be making some very important decisions which will impact church life for many years to come. At the annual meeting revised by-laws will be presented for adoption, and leadership for the coming year will be chosen. Soon after that the church will vote whether to proceed with the remodeling and redecoration of the sanctuary. Later in the spring, the deacons and the council will be making decisions about the transition period ahead.

It is important that many church members participate in these decisions by being informed about the options and the process. It is important that the whole church hold the church and the leadership in their prayers seeking for them wisdom, patience, and a seeking of God’s will, and a sense of what will be good for the church as a whole.

It would be unfair and un-Christian to fail to support the church leadership, and then have strong opinions about the decisions they make. (Judge not, that ye be not judged. Matthew 7:1)

2008 is here - Get involved!!!

Rev. Dr. Kenneth E. Knox

Remembering Our Troops



We are continuing to collect items to ship to SPC Fred Orcutt. Fred is an M.P. in Iraq. He (and his comrades) would greatly appreciate your food donations. Suggestions include dried soup and veggies (no cans), microwaveable items in plastic containers, candy, cookies (not homemade as it takes a few weeks to get to him) easy mac ‘n cheese, pudding cups that don’t need refrigeration, etc. Perhaps you could think of other items. There is a list of military personnel (who would be blessed by your generosity) posted on the bulletin boards in Fellowship Hall and outside the church office. If you’d like to help, please see Diane Moore or Avis Britton for more information, and thank you for supporting our troops.



To:

Lillian McPherson ~ 1/19/96

Cassandra Stockhaus ~ 1/23/99

Office Help Needed

Judy Bjork has been, and continues to be, a tremendous help with preparing the weekly bulletins and the monthly newsletter. However, recently Judy was “under the weather” so, I am looking for back-up volunteers who I can call upon occasionally if Judy is unable to lend a hand. If you’re interested in helping out please call me at the church office, (508) 832-2845.

Thank you,
Denise Jobin
Church Secretary



Constitution & By-laws

The ad hoc committee appointed by the Church Council in the spring of 2006 to study and review the Constitution and By-laws has prepared recommendations for discussion and adoption at the Annual Meeting, January 19, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. Dual copies of the 1997 revision and the current proposal are available at the church in Fellowship Hall. (Only one copy per household please.) For those who need “home delivery,” a call to the office at (508) 832 -2845 will take care of that.

Any questions? Please feel free to talk with any member of the committee.

Nancy MacLeod, chair, Barbara Allaire, Sue Campbell, Rich McPherson, Louise Powers, Wayne Prouty, Cindy Ryan, David Sampson, Ernest Smith, Dr. Knox, ex -officio



On Sunday, December 9th, we celebrated the baptisms of
Cameron Kade Scobie and **Benjamin Lucas Scobie**.

Cameron is 3 years old and his brother, Benjamin, is 5 months old.
Their parents are George and Beverly Scobie.

May the Lord bless and keep you.





Dear Friend in Christ,

Thank you for responding to our 2008 Stewardship Drive.

As you know, our annual pledges provide for the operation of our 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. By pledging with our heart and by meeting our obligations and responsibilities as Members of the Church, we build a strong and caring Church able to meet the needs of its various ministries.

Again, thank you for your support and commitment to the First Congregational Church in Auburn for 2008.

Sincerely,
The Stewardship Committee

Donna Dube (Chair), Todd Dube, Mike Dube, Al Boucher, Steve and Sandra Landry



Happy New Year! Now that we are past the busy holiday season, it's time to start the new year. This is a good time to work on health issues. Take care of yourselves first! If you don't take care of yourself, you won't be much good to help others!

January is Cervical Health Awareness Month, National Glaucoma Awareness Month, Thyroid Awareness Month, National Birth Defects Prevention Month, and National Radon Action Month.

Please book your appointments now while it is fresh in your mind. If you need another appointment, book it before you leave your doctor's office, even if it isn't for one year! I frequently go to a couple of oncology clinics and I'm seeing people doing much better with early detection!

Next month is Heart Awareness Month. I have someone willing to teach CPR to any adults that are interested. I will have a paper in Fellowship Hall to sign. I don't know the date or the cost yet, but if you're interested, sign the sheet and I will get you the info.

God Bless,

Debbie Pranaitis
Parish Nurse

Important Notice for all Officers & Committee Members:

The annual meeting will be held here on **Saturday, January 19th at 2 p.m.**

The Installation of Officers and Committees will be during the **January 20th 10 a.m. service**, and the **All Committee Meeting** will be on **Thursday, January 24th at 7 p.m.**

Please note that the above dates differ from our usual schedule and times.

From the Outreach Committee

We rounded out 2007 with a final contribution to WAMS. With so many good causes needing our support, it's great that there are some wonderful local organizations to balance out our giving.

We have found some exciting materials from the Heifer Project that we are looking forward to sharing with everyone in 2008.

Thank you everyone for your support!

The Outreach Committee
Sue Campbell, Cindy Dube, Gayle Farley,
Ellie Lowell, Alicia Schillinger, Ernie Smith

Happy New Year from *Here We Grow* Preschool



Welcome to 2008! I guarantee I will continue to write 2007, I just got used to that year. I am totally convinced that the older one gets, time either flies by or I just move slower. Any tips on being less stressed throughout the holidays would be gratefully appreciated. During the month of December, *Here We Grow* once again ran a successful Toy for Tots campaign. As in the past, the children and families were very thoughtful and giving at this busy time of the year. What a great concept for the children to learn, the act of giving to others. This is one small way *Here We Grow* continues being an outreach program of First Congregational Church of Auburn.

Our holiday programs were held on December 19th & 20th with a visit from Santa. We did miss our "regular" Santa since he was laid up with a leg injury, but we pleaded and finally found 3 replacements for the party days. The children did a wonderful job on stage. Once again the 4-year-olds sang and signed "Happy Birthday to Baby Jesus." After the program on December 20th, the staff enjoyed a great luncheon at the "Pic", and swapped gifts with each other.

I am glad and proud to say our second annual report to NAEYC was mailed at the beginning of December. I will report any updates after I hear from them.

We are already busy preparing for the upcoming school year of 2008-2009. *Here We Grow* will be hosting an "Open House" on January 31, 2009 at 9:15-11:15 for any interested families looking for a great preschool for their child.

With the holiday break over and done, I feel we can all settle down for the winter ahead of us and enjoy the rest of the 2008 school year. Until February, stay warm.

Sincerely,

Dawn Murphy, *Here We Grow* Preschool Director

Please mark your calendars:

there will be YOM meetings after church on January 13th and 27th. The confirmation class will be participating in City Reach on January 25th & 26th. **We're accepting donations of warm clothes, new socks, t-shirts and underwear to bring with us. Please leave any donations in the green room.** Remember, City

Reach is a ministry to Boston's homeless, so your donations will be greatly appreciated.

Coffee Hour Hosts

12/30	~ Deacons
1/6	~ Trustees
1/13	~ Deacons
1/20	~ Outreach



Winter Warmups
FRIENDS, FOOD, FELLOWSHIP



FROM THE CHURCH HISTORIANS

“Symbols”

Ever since Christianity began with the Life, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord, Christian worshippers have embodied in the worship fitting symbols of these great events related to our Lord. In past renovations of our church, we have followed the practice of the earliest Christians in adopting some of these symbols, not as a form, nor for adoration, but as aids to the worship of God and his Son, Jesus Christ. It is our attempt to better acquaint our congregation with the religious meaning and symbolism of our current chancel and its furnishings.

Part III - The Altar

The central place in the church is the altar which reminds us that God is in His holy temple. Upon it are placed the cross and lighted candles. Here are focused the eyes and attention of the worshippers as they lift their hearts to God. The chief function of the church service is to worship God, not to present a sermon. The altar has a dual significance. It symbolizes the tomb in which the temporal body of our Lord lay after He had made His eternal sacrifice for us on Calvary's Cross. It is also a communion table around which Christians gather in Holy Communion with one another and with Christ the invisible host. From the table they receive the elements of the Holy Sacrament, the bread and the wine, symbols of our Lord's body and blood given in sacrifice for our redemption. There the worshipper renews his vows of dedication to the crucified Christ.

The altar is covered with a cloth of fair linen commemorating the fact that our Lord's body was wrapped in fair linen before being laid away.

The front of the altar is beautifully hand carved in gold leaf to depict the following Christian symbols: four crosses, two monograms XR, which are the first two letters of the Greek word Christos. These are entwined with lilies, symbolizing the purity of the human life of Jesus.

Upon the altar stands the Cross. It is, of course, the chief symbol of the Christian faith, setting forth the central fact of our faith, the crucified Christ. On either side of the cross stand the lighted candles. These symbolize the living, eternal Christ, the light of the world. The wax represents the body of Christ, and the flame, the Spirit; through His temporal human body was the divine and eternal Spirit released to give light unto all men in every time and place. When the candles are lighted, the one on the right is the first lighted, then the one on the left, signifying the light first came from the Church and was borne to the world. The left is extinguished first signifying that though the light goes out in the world it shall abide in the Church.

Jackie and I deeply appreciate the many kind remembrances you have extended to us in recent weeks. There were the many Christmas cards and gifts and many kind notes in them expressing your appreciation. We thank you for the Christmas gift from the church which was shared with us on Christmas Eve.

On December 14th, my brother died unexpectedly. Your many sympathy cards, and the condolences offered to us were a real comfort and support. We appreciated, and my whole family appreciated, those from Auburn who attended the funeral.

December has been a real rollercoaster of emotions for us, and we have been most thankful to be surrounded by our church family. May God bless each of you as He has blessed us through you.

*Thank you,
Ken and Jackie Knox*



Joyful Noyse Rehearsal Schedule

Dec. 30	9:15 a.m.	March 2, 9 & 16	11:15 a.m.
	<i>Come, Light of the World</i>	March 23	<i>May You Have Peace</i> (Easter Sunday)
Jan. 6, 13 & 20	11:15 a.m.	April 6, 23 & 20	11:15 a.m.
Jan. 27	9:15 a.m.	April 27	9:15 a.m.
	<i>Praise Is God's Power in Me</i>		<i>Daniel and the Lion</i>
Feb. 3, 10 & 17	11:15 a.m.		
Feb. 24	9:15 a.m.		
	<i>Jonah</i>		



David Annunziata, Sr. Jan. 17, 1938 - December 5, 2007



We would like to extend our sympathies to the Wheeler Family on the recent loss of Karen's father, David Annunziata, Sr. Mr. Annunziata died on Wednesday, December 5th and leaves his wife of 49 years, Carol M. (Mawdsley) Annunziata; a son, David Annunziata, Jr. of Florida; a daughter, Karen M. Wheeler and her husband, Bruce of Auburn; his mother, Frances (Sannella) Annunziata of Millbury; a brother, Stephen Annunziata of Worcester and twin grandchildren, Jeremy R. and Rachel M. Wheeler of Auburn. He is also survived by several nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by a brother, Paul Annunziata of Maryland. Mr. Annunziata was born in Worcester, son of the late Frank Annunziata and has lived in Auburn for 39 years. Memorial contributions in his memory can be made to the American Cancer Society, 30 Speen Street, Framingham, MA 01701.

William R. Knox - December 13, 1934 - December 14, 2007

Our thoughts and prayers also go out to Rev. Knox, Jackie and their loved ones on the recent passing of Ken's brother, William R. Knox. Bill was a longtime resident of Enfield, CT. He is survived by his wife, Shirley and their daughters, Gloria Smith and her husband, Dennis of Granby, MA and Carol Thompson and her husband Edwin of Hampden, MA. Besides Rev. Knox, he also leaves a sister, Elizabeth Stoddard and her husband, Rev. Glen Stoddard and five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, December 19th at the Enfield American Baptist Church in Enfield, Connecticut. Memorial Donations may be made to the Enfield American Baptist Church, 129 Post Office Road, Enfield, CT 06082.

*If tears were memories and memories were a lane,
I'd go right up to heaven and bring you back again.*

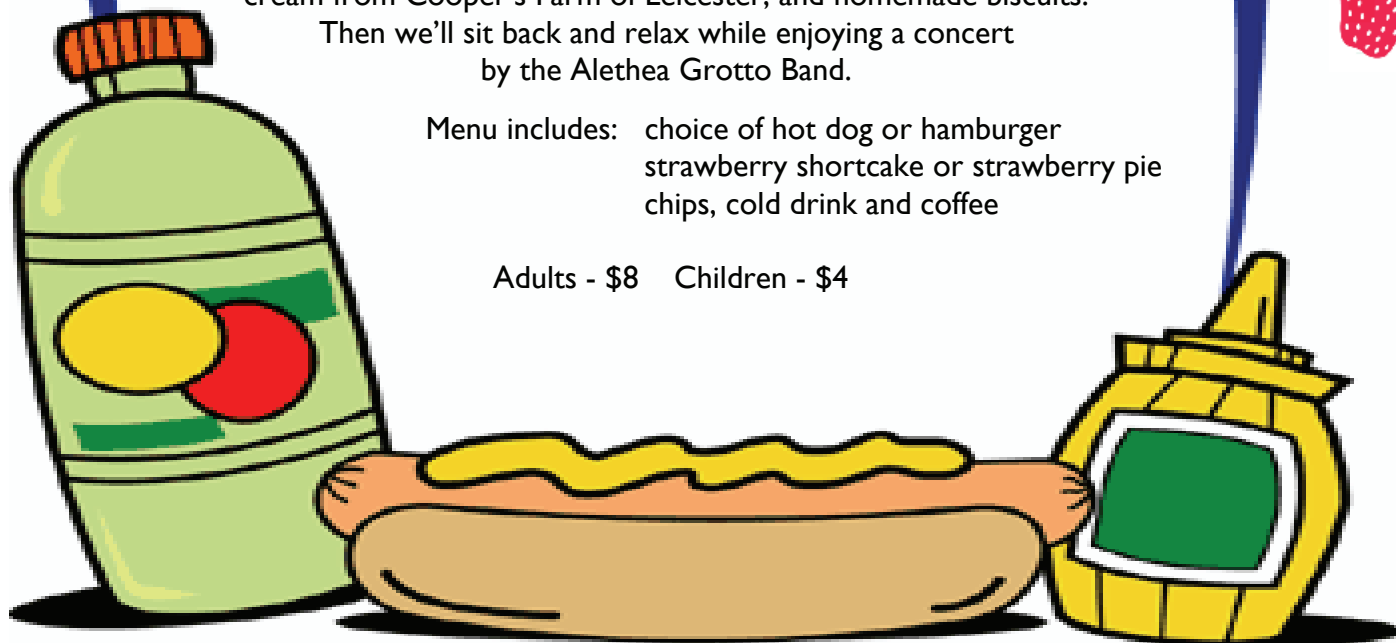
JUNE IN JANUARY

Join us on Saturday, January 19th at 5 p.m. while we recall the warmth of the summer and enjoy a summertime picnic complete with strawberry shortcake made from native berries picked at Sutton's Silvermine Farm, fresh whipped cream from Cooper's Farm of Leicester, and homemade biscuits.

Then we'll sit back and relax while enjoying a concert by the Alethea Grotto Band.

Menu includes: choice of hot dog or hamburger
strawberry shortcake or strawberry pie
chips, cold drink and coffee

Adults - \$8 Children - \$4



*TIDINGS is a monthly
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**First Congregational
Church**
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Auburn MA 01501

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

January 2008

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