

FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

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!’”

MAY

2006

May 20, 2006
Church Supper
(Ham)
5:00 PM

Happy moments, praise
God.
Difficult moments, seek
God.
Quiet moments, worship
God.
Painful moments, trust
God.
Every moment, thank
God.



Coffee Hour Hosts

May 8 ~ Personnel Relations

May 14 & 21 ~ Prudential

May 28 & June 4 ~ Library

We have just celebrated the most central and joyous of the Christian year, Easter. It is a good time to reflect on the joys of our faith. In spite of all the turmoil of our society and of our individual and community lives, ours is a faith of hope and peace, of strength and wholeness. We have God's promises in covenant to be our God, and His love has been tested and proven in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Even in the extremes of illness, pain and estrangement experienced in our everyday lives, the steady reassuring strength of our faith comforts us.

It is a further joy of the season to see so many of our members back worshipping among us. Our presence is always a gift we give each other in the community of faith. We hope to see you again often. And to any of our visitors, if you are looking for a church home, we invite you to consider First Congregational Church. Speak with any Deacon or the Pastor about the process of becoming a member.

Carry the joy of Easter faith with you, and share it with all around you.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Kenneth E Knox
Pastor



*like showers on
new grass,
like abundant rain
on tender plants.*

Deuteronomy 32:2



Mother's Day
May 14th



To the family and friends of Lorraine Gleick Nordgren who passed away on April 5, 2006.

And to the family and friends of Jean S. (Sanford) Smith who passed away on April 11, 2006. She leaves her daughter Sandy Simmons.

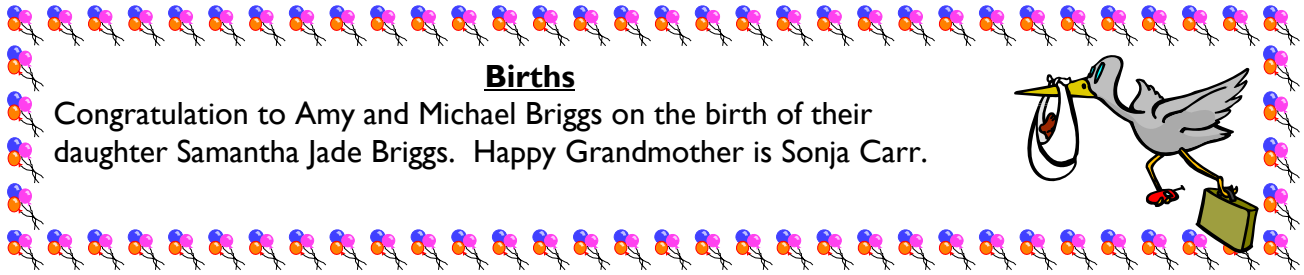
And to the family and friends of Mary Betty Picard who passed away on March 27, 2006. Mary used to sing in our choir. Please keep the family in your prayers.

And to Karen Wheeler whose uncle, Francis Beckwith passed away on Saturday April 22, 2006.

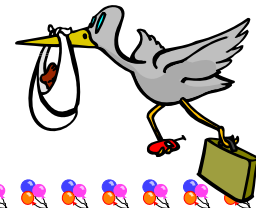
Baptism in April

We celebrated the baptism of **Kyle John Sylwanovicz**, son of Christian and Michelle Sylwanovocz and grandson to Janet Langevin. May you continue to support him in his spiritual journeys throughout his life.

Births



Congratulation to Amy and Michael Briggs on the birth of their daughter Samantha Jade Briggs. Happy Grandmother is Sonja Carr.



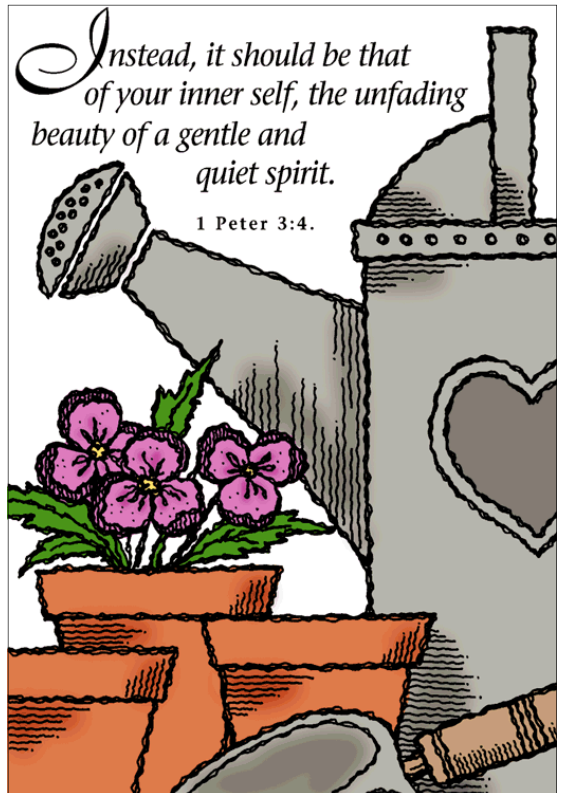
Healthy Living Group

We are having a kick off meeting on Saturday April 29th at 8:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. If you want to have support, fellowship and get tips that work to live a more healthy and fit life, please join us. You may bring a healthy breakfast and beverage to this meeting. This group is appropriate for ALL abilities and getting on the scale is optional but encouraged.

**Memorial Day
May 29, 2006**



Note:
The office will be closed in observance of this day



Library Tidings for May 2006

By Gloria Whitehead

It's time for a diversion from what's mainly chosen to make up the news from home and abroad. The days are longer, the sun is stronger and your energy has expired from winning your personal home improvement contest. The constant upward creep of gas prices has you frugally planning your trips on the road sooo...name what's an all 'round good bargain these days! As a matter of fact, one that can take you traveling, one that can tell you how to improve your personality and, in turn, the world. And reduce you to tears or laughter AND more for free? Of course—it's a book. So here are two recent additions to your library.

Illegal Tender-various commentaries classify this book by David Tripp as a classic thriller, illuminating a first rate adventure story. The infamous 1933 double eagle is the most valuable ounce of gold in the world. It wasn't until 1944 that it was discovered that a few had escaped FDR's government recall of all the gold and the meltdown in 1937. There's more. The last known one was sold after years of litigation in 2002. The book is filled with dazzling history.

Dark Tide-by Stephen Pulea, The Great Molasses Flood of 1919. Can you imagine a 15' high wave of molasses that at its onset traveled at 35 mph. It took lives and homes. The book contains an authentic piece of Boston's history.

Don't miss these two informative and entertaining books in the adult library.

The Children's Library has oodles of books on spring and everything that's a part of it—for all ages.

~The Library Committee



Graduating this Spring

Kyla E. Lemke, daughter of Jen and Randy Bohn and granddaughter of Mike & Cindy Dube and Judy Murphy, will be graduating from Auburn High on May 26th. She will be attending Worcester State College in the fall for nursing.

Emily Hanks, daughter of Connie and Ron Hanks and granddaughter to Gloria Whitehead and Vi Hanks, will be graduating from Worcester Academy on June 3rd. She has been accepted to several colleges, and has yet to make a decision.

Reminder

The Trustees would like to remind everyone that there is no eating or drinking allowed in the Sanctuary at any time. Also there is no food or drink (water is ok) allowed in the conference room opposite Rev. Knox's office. Thank you for your help.



Stewardship

Our theme for 2006 is Stewardship: It's Heart Work.



I once heard a story about a young boy seen walking on a long stretch of beach covered with starfish. The tide had washed the little creatures in and deposited them on the beach. When the tide went out, the starfish were left stranded and dying.

An old man observed the boy as he stooped down picked up the starfish one by one, and gently tossed them back into the sea. "Young man," he said. "Look at all these starfish! There are thousands of them all up and down the beach! Do you really think you're going to make a difference?" The boy stooped down, picked up another starfish, and tossed it into the ocean. "I made a difference to that one," he answered simply.

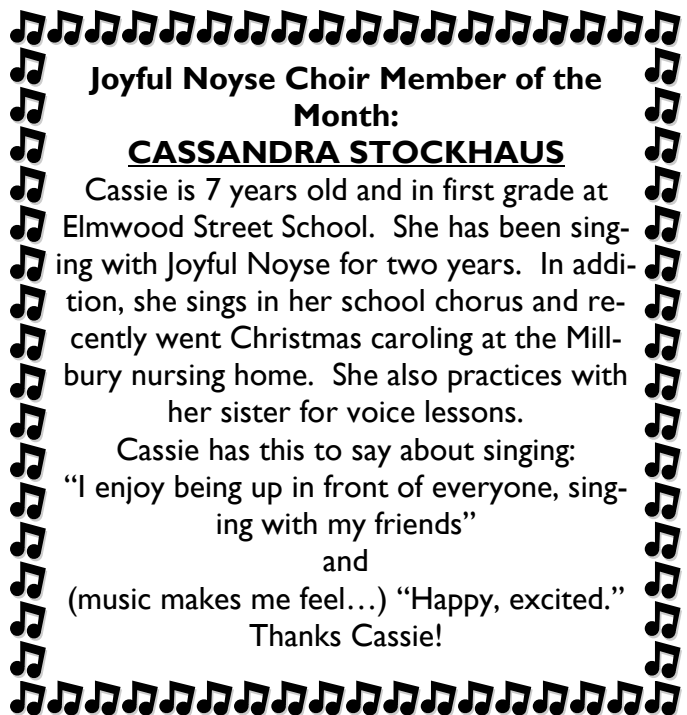
So, often when we think of all the work that needs to be done in God's kingdom, we think, "how can I make a difference?" The answer is, you *can* make a difference. Think about it. Somewhere your gift to God's work helps feed a hungry family, heals a broken heart, and turns a faded dream into a loving promise.

Stewardship, its heart work.

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 & Donna Dube





Joyful Noyse Choir Member of the Month:
CASSANDRA STOCKHAUS
 Cassie is 7 years old and in first grade at Elmwood Street School. She has been singing with Joyful Noyse for two years. In addition, she sings in her school chorus and recently went Christmas caroling at the Millbury nursing home. She also practices with her sister for voice lessons.
 Cassie has this to say about singing:
 "I enjoy being up in front of everyone, singing with my friends"
 and
 (music makes me feel...) "Happy, excited."
 Thanks Cassie!

Exciting Online Auction to Benefit Children of the World

In June of 2006, collectors, bargain hunters, and churchgoers, among others, will have an opportunity to bid online on a broad range of exciting items while helping to improve living conditions for children in need around the world. The **Children of the World Online Benefit Auction** (www.cws.cmarket.com) will help Church World Service (CWS) support global programs that benefit the health and welfare of children and their families.

Church World Service is the relief, development and refugee assistance ministry of 35 Protestant, Orthodox and Anglican denominations in the United States. Working in partnership with indigenous organizations in more than 80 countries, CWS works worldwide to meet human needs and foster self-reliance.

The **Children of the World Online Benefit Auction** (www.cws.cmarket.com) will help CWS to continue to assist refugee families as they seek safety, food and medicine; dig wells so that children can have clean water; work with AIDS orphans in Africa; and respond to disaster survivors with food, water, shelter, medicines, and trauma counseling.

Auction items will range from vacation getaways to celebrity items to antiques and collectibles. CWS is still in need of quality items to add to their auction catalog. If you have anything you would like to donate, from rare collectibles to prized personal possessions to business services, now is the time to donate online at www.cws.cmarket.com.

Be sure to tell your friends, family, church and community about the auction, and mark your calendar - Online bidding begins June 1, 2006 at 8:00 A.M. at www.cws.cmarket.com!

Cross

The mysterious iron cross that was found on the rear roof of the church, is now on display at the Auburn Historical Museum, 41 South Street. The museum has it on loan from now through September for public viewing. It will then be returned to the church permanently. We do not have anymore information as to who made it or when it was put up on the roof.

Sonja Carr
Historian

Board of Christian Ed

Architect Frank Lloyd Wright told how a lecture he received at the age of nine helped set his philosophy of life. An uncle, a stolid, no-nonsense type, had taken him for a long walk across a snow-covered field. At the far side, his uncle told him to look back at their two sets of tracks. "See, my boy," he said, "how your footprints go aimlessly back and forth from those trees, to the cattle, back to the fence, and then over there where you were throwing sticks? But notice how my path comes straight across, directly to my goal. You should never forget this lesson!"

"And I never did," Wright said, grinning. "I determined right then not to miss most things in life, as my uncle had."

How do you go through life? Do you just go on a straight path that leads directly to your goal? While that is not necessarily a bad thing, it is not always the best route. I am guilty of taking that route too often. God has given us a wealth of fabulous gifts and opportunities to explore and experience each day. It is my goal, and my prayer for you, especially this Spring and Summer to take the winding, "scenic route". Take time to look for opportunities to praise God and thank him for the wonderful "distractions" he has laid out for us along the way.

Things to remember:

The Sunday School children will continue to have **Opening Exercises** at 10:00 a.m. in the Vestry each week except the 4th Sunday of each month.

The 4th Sunday, the children will go directly to the sanctuary for the first part of the service, which will include a Children's Message and the Joyful Noyse.

We have started a **new youth group for kids in grades 6-8**. We will be meeting twice a month, once for a planning session that will include a creative devotional time and the other time for a fun activity. Please join us for fun and fellowship. The next planning meeting is on April 23, from 11:30-1:00. We are trying to plan a day of roller skating and lazer tag for May. Please let us know when is a good time for you.



Children's Sunday is the second Sunday in June (June 11th). The Children will be leading the entire service. Please plan to attend and join us after church for an all church Old Fashioned Picnic.

**Big
Thank
You!**

The Trustees want to thank Craig Premo for all the hard work he put into stripping and waxing the tiled floors of the church over the last two weeks. The re-finished floors look great! We are very lucky to have someone who puts so much care and time into the upkeep of the building. Thanks Craig!



I have information about high blood pressure on the health table. Help yourself to any information that you want. I always have my blood pressure cuff and stethoscope at church, so if you ever want your pressure checked, just ask.

June 4th is National Cancer Survivors Day. We have several cancer survivors mainly because of frequent check-ups and early detection. Congratulations to the survivors and I hope that it reminds the rest of us to keep up with our doctor appointments.

Susan Vail just finished her clinical part of a course at Anna Maria. She said she felt very comfortable while she was here. Everyone made her feel welcome. She would like to come maybe once a month.

~Deb Pranaitis, Parish Nurse

"We Walk Because They Walk" (the CROP WALK motto)

On Sunday, March 26, the Outreach Committee hosted a CROP WALK Leaders' Workshop to plan next October's Walk. The CROP WALK raises money for Church World Service (CWS), and First Congregational always has a team of walkers and organizers.



Barbara Jernigan and the CROP WALK team represented us in the leaders' discussion. There were 36 in attendance, plus the Outreach Committee hosts.

CROP WALKs nationwide this year raised \$12,348,322! This enables Church World Service to help people all over the world in so many ways.

CROP WALK organizers came from eastern and central Mass. (and as far away as Martha's Vineyard) to brainstorm about publicizing and enhancing their Walks.

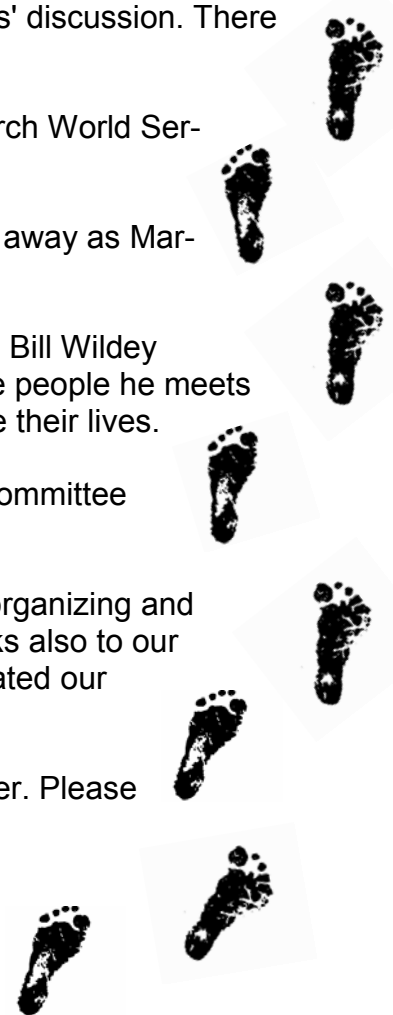
Highlights of the meeting were a wonderful slide show and anecdotes from Bill Wildey (Church World Service) about visiting the countries CWS has touched. The people he meets are grateful, proud, and eager to show how CWS has helped them improve their lives.

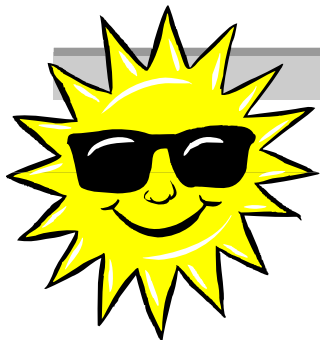
Afterwards the attendees enjoyed a light meal provided by the Outreach Committee (with mountains of homemade cake and cookies from Sue and Tammy).

Many thanks to Tammy and to Craig Premo for doing an awesome job of organizing and setup. Because of all their hard work, everything went smoothly. And thanks also to our Outreach helpers and friends. The CROP WALK organizers really appreciated our hospitality!

First Congregational will again be taking part in the CROP WALK in October. Please join us! For more information, visit www.cropwalk.org.

Sincerely,
Ellie Lowell, for the Outreach Committee





Summer Solstice Celebration Saturday June 17th

Save the date and join us for a day long, and into the night, celebration of the Longest Day of the year.

The morning will begin at 8:00 a.m. There will be yard sale plant sale, books sale, videos & games. Breakfast will be offered by "Chef" Bill Storie. Hotdogs, chips and goodies will be available from midmorning on.

Our Kid Fest begins at 9 a.m. Flippo the clown will be here from 10:30 to 12:30 with a 1/2 hour magic and juggling show at 11:00 (\$1 for admission to the show). He will be making balloon animals before and after the magic show.

Instead of decorate a cake, we will have decorate a birdhouse!!! Only 50 are available so get here early. Cost will be \$5. We will have the dunk tank and the HUGE slide as well as games, crafts, prizes and more!

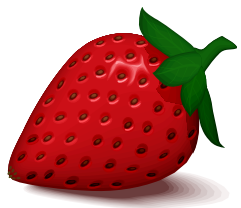
(tickets required for games and crafts) Kids, have your picture taken in our rocket!!!



Tickets will be .50 a piece
or
12 for \$5

As the afternoon progresses you may start to notice the aroma of a chicken barbecue in the breeze. They will serve from 4-7 P.M. and from 5-6 P.M. there will be a band concert. Tickets for the barbecue will be available June 1. Tickets will be \$9.00 per person and \$5.00 for children 12 and under. Invite your friends to join you for supper!

And that's not all!!! To wind down this day long event, we invite you to bring your lawn chairs or a blanket and sit with us by the fire around 7 P.M. There will be a sing along and S'mores fixins available for purchase. Mike Dube will also be reading a story around the fire.



**New this year will
be our
strawberry Shortcake
Booth featuring
native strawberries,
biscuits
and whip cream.**



Looking for a place for those items you no longer use? How about donating them to the church for a yard sale in June. We are looking for items that are cleaned and in good working order. Please bring them to the church and place them on the stage in Fellowship Hall. Books and puzzles should be left downstairs in the first classroom with the elevator in it. If you can hold on to larger items until June, that would be great, but don't throw them away, we can try to work something out. Any questions, please call:

Debbie Mahlert 508-832-3348 or Linda Mahlert 508-764-2570 or
Breyne Brothers 508-832-7376

*Please no TV's, monitors or clothes
Please no donations on the stage after May 26th
as there are events planned that require the stage*

UCC Congregations Share a cup of Justice

The UCC Coffee Project began in the spring of 2004. The UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries partnered with Equal Exchange, a fair trade organization that offers fairly traded gourmet coffee direct from small-scale farmer co-ops in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Now over 500 UCC congregations are buying coffee, tea, cocoa and chocolate allowing a better price to the coffee grower. In addition, for every case of coffee, tea, cocoa, or chocolate purchased by participating congregations, Equal Exchange makes a contribution to UCC Justice and Witness Ministries to provide additional support to coffee growing communities, investing in farm improvements, training and their standard of living.

The Outreach committee has recently purchased Equal Exchange coffee and will be serving it at coffee hour. There will be an information table set up in Fellowship Hall if you are interested in ordering a case. If you are looking for a smaller quantity, Shaw's in Auburn also sells Equal Exchange 1 lb. Bags of 4 different kinds of coffee. The Outreach committee also has \$2 chocolate bars for sale. Outreach is just trying to spread the word about Fair Trade throughout our community. The U.S. represents 20% of the world's total coffee market!

COMMUNITY CAMPFIRE



We will be having our first, in a series of four, community campfires Saturday night May 20th from 7pm to 10pm on the front lawn of the church. There will be stories around the campfire, sing-a-long, s'mores and maybe even some flashlight tag! **ALL ages** are welcome. This is a great family event and it's FREE! Bring your own lawn chair or blanket, a stick for roasting marshmallows and a friend! Future dates for the campfires will be June 17th as part of the Summer Solstice, July 22nd and August 19th. There are no rain dates. See Jen Bohn or Bryn Brothers for details.

Youth on a Mission

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our Easter candy sale and cookie walk. We were able to raise over \$500! Unfortunately the way gas prices are going that will probably JUST cover the cost of gas for our 12 passenger van. We have decided that if at all possible we will not be taking the second vehicle that we had planned on. It is approximately 630 miles each way to Huntersville, WV and we will have a 30-45 min commute each way to our job site while we're down there. The good news is that we will have eight (possibly 9) enthusiastic and motivated young people going down to help those who for whatever reason can not help themselves. This is a wonderful experience for both the youth and the leaders, something I wholeheartedly look forward to each year. Randy and I are thankful to all of you who offer your words of encouragement and gratitude but I truly believe that working with Youth on a Mission and the confirmation class is what God has called me to do with my time and "talents".

Please watch the weekly bulletin for upcoming activities and meetings. We look forward to seeing EVERYONE at the Youth on a Mission dunk tank during the Summer Solstice on Saturday June 17th.

Jennifer & Randy Bohn



EASTER FLOWER UPDATE

Thanks to all of you who ordered flowers for the Easter service. The church was a beautiful tribute to many friends and family members of the church. As a result of the lowered prices offered by Rob Kustigian, due to a warmer winter and an overestimate of oil costs, we are able to put \$78.00 toward the church capital fund. Thank you, Rob!



**Bowling
FINAL RESULTS
2005 - 2006 Season**

Place	Team #	Won	Lost	Place	Team #	Won	Lost				
1	6	148	100	4	4	118	130				
2	2	135	113	5	3	112	136				
3	1	132	116	6	5	96	152				
Men's Records				Women's Records							
High	1st	Nick Stockhaus	366	High	1st	Lori Stockhaus	319				
Triple	2nd	Eric Pranaitis	364	Triple	2nd	Tammy Clark	304				
	3rd	Joe Pranaitis	363		3rd	Sue Kolodziejczak	287				
High	1st	Nick Stockhaus	153	High	1st	Lori Stockhaus	127				
Single	2nd	Steve Gallant	147	Single	2nd	Phyllis Gallant	121				
	3rd	Joe Pranaitis	141		3rd	Tammy Clark	117				
High Average	Joe Pranaitis		109.0	High Average	Lori Stockhaus		96.2				
	High Single	High Triple	Total Pins	Games	AVG.	High Single	High Triple	Total Pins	Games	AVG.	
Team # 1						Team # 4					
Mark Kolodziejczak	102	253	5728	81	70.7	Lee Palkovich	95	245	4450	63	70.6
Harry Wojciak	114	311	7694	87	88.4	Phyllis Gallant	121	280	7297	84	86.9
Tim Lueth	131	329	7004	72	97.3	Bob Koopman	128	293	5598	66	84.8
Nick Stockhaus	153	366	7585	72	105.3	Eric Pranaitis	132	364	6181	63	98.1
Team # 2						Team # 5					
TJ McCracken	93	252	2982	39	76.5	Carrisa Lueth	89	235	4634	69	67.2
Ben Britton	105	271	6732	87	77.4	Linda Hardy	103	272	7192	87	82.7
Lori Stockhaus	127	319	6928	72	96.2	Adam Pranaitis	137	327	6370	69	92.3
Joe Pranaitis	141	363	8826	81	109.0	Will Johnson	116	316	8257	90	91.7
Team # 3						Team # 6					
Bob Palkovich	108	265	5621	72	78.1	Tammy Clark	117	304	7950	93	85.5
Dot Koopman	113	286	5227	60	87.1	Sue Kolodziejczak	111	287	5787	69	83.9
Carl Sandberg	103	276	7200	87	82.8	Don Aker	127	306	7865	90	87.4
Steve Gallant	147	349	7988	81	98.6	Eric Judice	118	310	4003	42	95.3

There are a 2 slots open for fulltime bowlers for this coming fall. Please speak with Lori or Nick Stockhaus, or Joe Pranaitis if you are interested in Bowling Next Year!

Here We Grow

Hello again. I am writing this during the month of April since *Here We Grow* will be on vacation for two weeks. It seems as though I just gave Tammy an article for April Tidings.

The children are being prepared for the end-of-the year field trips to Noodle Noggin' 'N Bean in Northborough. One of our families has graciously paid for the buses that will transport the staff and children. Thank You to Lundgren Honda for this generous donation.

Rounding out the month of May, the four year-old classes will visit Mary D. Stone School. They will have a tour of the school and visit the kindergarten rooms. Our goal is to help them be at ease with the upcoming transition into kindergarten.

The children of *Here We Grow* two-day programs will have their end-of-the year program on June 9th. A short program of songs and the receiving of diplomas will take place in the morning. The children will then venture out to the playground for Spree Day. Mid-afternoon all four year olds and three year olds will be treated to a show put on by Pumpernickel Puppets in Fellowship Hall. At the end of the show, the threes will go home, while the fours will head to the playground for their Spree Day fun.

On June 12th, 13th, and 14th, *Here We Grow* will be celebrating its 17th graduation program. It is a wonderful way to end the year for our four year old children and their teachers. Graduation is held in Fellowship Hall with a reception in the vestry.

Some of the staff will return for the last two weeks in June for the summer program *Here We Grow* offers. This year's themes are "Wild Wild West" and "Splish Splash". At this time both weeks are full.

Here We Grow will officially close on June 30th, taking a well deserved summer break. The staff will return sometime in August to clean and set up the classrooms for another busy school year.

Until next time, have a safe and restful summer.

Dawn Murphy

Here We Grow Director

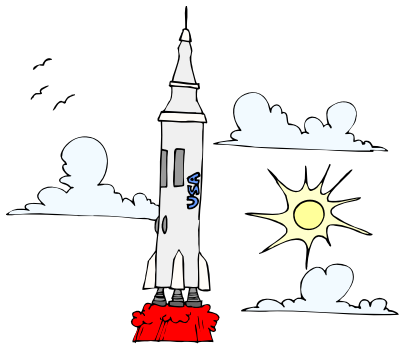


On Saturday June 10, 2006 the First Congregational Church in Auburn is having it 5th Annual Golf Tournament at Pine Ridge Country Club in Oxford. 7 a.m. registration, 7:30 a.m. tee off. If you would like to play or sponsor a hole, the slips are in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to attend just the meal, it is \$30 per person.



June Camping Weekend

We are trying to determine the interest in a church group camping trip the weekend of June 23-25. We are looking into several different locations but need to find out what size group we might have. If you would like to spend a weekend relaxing and having fun with members and friends from First Congregational Church, please contact Lori Stockhaus at 508-865-6439 and let her know you may be interested.



"Rockets That Fire You Up" Goddard Rocket Art Event

Chicago had their cows, Miami had flamingos, now Auburn will have their rockets. As part of our Summer Solstice Celebration, we are sponsoring an art event to celebrate the work of Dr Robert Goddard here in Auburn. Any individual from middle school age and up is invited to participate. Families are also encouraged to work together to create their version of a "rocket that fires you up". A coloring page for younger children will also be available. All rockets entered will be on display at the Celebration and Kid Fest on Saturday June 17th

on the church lawn. At that time, all in attendance will be able to vote for their favorite rocket. Some of the rockets will be featured on a float in the July 4th parade after which all rockets will be returned to the artist. Rockets will be made of 8 inch Sonor tubing with attached feet making it approximately 28" tall. Participants will need to fashion their own "cone" that relates to the theme they have chosen for their rocket. Rockets may be decorated any way you wish. You may choose to have it reflect a hobby or interest of yours, something that "fires you up". It can be finished in any medium that you choose. Some thoughts and suggestions have come forward already such as photos of your favorite places decoupage, tiled, painted, adorned with recycled materials or any combination of things. Put on your thinking caps, use your imagination and have fun!!! On your registration form you will be asked to tell us what inspired your design.

A sample rocket will be at the church office beginning April 26th if you care to stop by to see it during office hours and also at the library in the display case beginning May 15th. Coloring pages will be available at the library and the church at that time.

There is a \$20.00 registration fee which also covers the cost of the rocket. Rockets waiting to be decorated can be reserved by calling the church office 508-832-2845, between 9am and 2pm Monday thru Friday or by calling Cindy Dube at 508-832-6646. You may also call Cindy with any questions regarding this event.

No LIVE rockets, please!!!

*TIDINGS is a monthly
publication of*

**First Congregational
Church
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Auburn MA 01501**

Phone: (508)832-2845

Web: auburnfirststucc.org



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

May 2006

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	31			