



# 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!’”*

## The Beloved Community

“Behold, I make all things new.” (Revelation 21:5)

This fall I have been pondering the nature and purpose of this church in the face of major re-organization of the U.C.C. structure and the Massachusetts Conference, as well as discussions about making our own by-laws more in touch with how we function as a church. A word that has come to the forefront in this pondering is “adaptive.”

The world around us has changed radically. We have changed. But, to a degree we try to maintain the church the way it was at some point in the past that was formative to our faith. But we can't. We need to be adaptive as a church and as Christians. That is spiritual growth.

We have an unchanging God and an unchanging Gospel, but everything else is up for negotiation and adaptation. Worship, leadership structure, education, mission, programs, and ministries all need to change in response to a changing world, or a church slowly becomes irrelevant and dies.

Change is difficult. We love those aspects of church life that nurtured and supported us. We think of them as timeless. New world, new people, new life search for their own meaningful experiences of church life. So, we need to be open, growing, adaptive so our church remains strong and our faith and our sense of community remains strong.

It is not easy, but it is necessary.

Rev. Kenneth E. Knox

## *Outwitted*

He drew a circle that shut me out—  
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.  
But Love and I had the wit to win:  
We drew a circle that took him in!

Edwin Markham



The Community Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held Wednesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7:30 P.M. at

St. Joseph's Church,  
194 Oxford Street, N.  
Auburn, MA

Come and join us as we give thanks to God!



## Happy Birthday to:

Rich McPherson ~ 11/6

Nick Stockhaus ~ 11/7

Victoria Stockhaus ~ 11/14

& Suzanne Kress ~ 11/22

**The Equal Exchange Coffee Program** has returned, and will be sold during coffee hour on Sundays! Equal Exchange Coffee is a worker-owned fair trade organization. It is committed to small coffee farmers in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Purchasing coffee (for \$6/bag) from Equal Exchange provides these poor farmers with fair prices, cooperatives, credit and ecologically sustainable farming practices. This is our opportunity to support Fair Trade and is sponsored at the First Congregational Church by the Board of Christian Outreach.

### FROM THE CHURCH HISTORIANS

#### “Symbols”

(taken from the Abbie Wiley Historical Archives)

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 acquaint our congregation with the religious meaning and symbolism of our current chancel and its furnishings.

#### Part I - The Center Aisle

The unobstructed center aisle passing through the body of the church and through the chancel to the altar, reminds us that Christianity is a Way of Life, leading to God, not simply a belief. It passes through the chancel, the part of the church used by the ministers of the Word and of song, who serve to inspire and encourage the Christian in his pilgrimage to the throne of God's grace. These ministers are never the media through whom the worshipper must go to God, for each and every worshipper has free access to God himself.

In our approach to the altar there are three steps with dual significance. From the God -ward side they remind us of the Trinity: the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit. From the man -ward side they remind us that the way of the pilgrim to God is through the practice of Christian virtue, especially the trinity of Christian virtues as expressed by St. Paul: Faith, Hope and Love. By faith we come to God. In Him is our hope. But before we can come into communion with Him our hearts must be filled with love of Him who so loved us that He gave His only begotten Son for our redemption.

Church Historians - George DuHamel and Paula Lubin

#### Military address for Frederick Orcutt:

SPC Orcutt, Frederick  
972<sup>nd</sup> MP CO  
FOB Freedom  
APO AE 09348



Please do not send perishable items as all letters/packages take 7 -10 days to deliver. Also, please keep Fred in your prayers and remember to pray for all of those serving our country, and for their loved ones.

## Library Tidings

by Gloria Whitehead

The Stewardship Committee has suggested that we not only focus on the immediate needs within our church, but also to the needs of the community in which we live. There are so many worthy projects, people, and places that tug for our time, talents (in both senses of the word) and compassion that making choices becomes a challenge when due urgency hasn't laid first claim.

But, besides a little shut eye, how are you going to replenish your spirit to tend to these appeals? Did you ever consider the library as a silent missionary? We may not ace your taste with the reviews presented in the *Tidings*, but every mood or need is addressed FOR YOU in one or more of the books in the library.

### Additional New Books:

*90 Minutes in Heaven* by Don Piper with Cecil Murphy - a true story of death and life

Don Piper, an ordained minister, was on his way home from a conference when a semi crossed into his lane. His car was crushed. Medics said he died instantly, and he laid lifeless in the car, BUT Piper was feeling awed by music and beauty and "touching" heaven. Another minister was praying for him when, 90 minutes later, he miraculously came back to life with only the memory of his heavenly experience. During a long recovery from extreme injuries and the apparition, his faith became confused and tested. As the authors write of this inspiring revelation, they praise how the story changes the reader's perspective on life.

Sue Anderton has gifted three books of the best-selling series *Daughters of Lancaster*. When Charlotte Steffen woke up at 3:00 a.m. she couldn't go back to sleep before reading another chapter in #1 *The Storekeeper's Daughter*. The author, Wanda Brunsetter, became fascinated by the Pennsylvania Amish as she spent time visiting her husband's Mennonite family. She transformed this with her lure to write and, #2 *The Quilter's Daughter* and #3 *The Bishop's Daughter* are now in the adult library. Charlotte left a library work session saying that she'd have to hide the book in order to get some work done.

*The Preacher and the Presidents* - Billy Graham in the White House

Doris Kearns Goodwin calls this book riveting, masterful, and immensely readable. Nancy Gibbs and Michael Duffy have written over a hundred stories on social, political, and religious trends, just to name a few, plus they've been with *Time* for over 22 years. From 1952 - 2000, Billy Graham played some role in almost every Presidential election and came to know every President from Harry Truman to George W. Bush. David Gergen says the authors illuminate the close relationships in this first-rate read.

The following is a list of new books that are available in the adult library and will be reviewed at a later date:

*The Age of Turbulence - Adventures in a New World* by Alan Greenspan

*The Bluest State* by Jon Keller

*The Choice* by Nicholas Sparks

*Men in Black* by Mark R. Levin

*Infidel* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali

### November - the month set aside for Thanksgiving

The children's library has many books with beautiful prayers - simple, mealtime prayers - all sorts of prayers for all ages. *Here We Grow* borrowed some of these books from which they made selections to use at various times. Maybe you'd like to have your child or children learn a prayer to say before your family's Thanksgiving dinner. Let's think about the many things worldwide for which we should be grateful. **THINK THANKS.**

## Outreach Committee News

### New Orleans

The New Orleans Team (Randy Bohn, Bruce Fant, Rich McPherson, and Bill Storie) had their orientation meeting here at our church on October 13<sup>th</sup> -- and they are raring to go! It won't be long now. We will be commissioning them during the November 4<sup>th</sup> service and they'll leave on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Each team member will take one suitcase for clothes and two suitcases full of books! They'll be back on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

We are still accepting donations to further the mission of our team members in New Orleans. Please see Reverend Knox or an Outreach member if you are interested in continuing to support this cause. There's still much work to be done.

Speaking of books, we are continuing to ship books (and some teddy bears) down to New Orleans.

### CROP Walk

On Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, Sue Campbell and Ellie Lowell took part in the Church World Service CROP Walk. It was a gorgeous day (who'd have thought we'd be in t-shirts in late October?) and a very enjoyable walk for a good cause. It was nice to see lots of kids participating. Proceeds from the walk go to the AYFS food pantry and other local and global hunger prevention programs.

### Common Cathedral

On November 4<sup>th</sup>, Youth on a Mission will take part in the Common Cathedral, providing food to homeless people in Boston and worshipping with them on Boston Common. Outreach is pleased to contribute \$175 towards this mission. If you are interested in joining the group for Common Cathedral, contact Jennifer Bohn. (You will probably need to provide your own transportation.) It is sure to be an eye-opening and inspiring experience.

### Our Support for UCC

Outreach received a tally of First Congregational's support for the United Church of Christ and Mass. Conference for the first half of the year. Between our dues, basic support, and special offerings such as CWS Blankets and One Great Hour of Sharing, we have provided \$5,000 to help our church's wider mission. In doing this we are helping to, in their words, "Strengthen the ongoing revitalization of our churches, so that the Good News of God's love for all God's people will be made manifest in every village, city and town."

Thanks to everyone for their support!

The Outreach Committee

(Sue Campbell, Cindy Dube, Gayle Farley, Ellie Lowell, Alicia Schillinger, Ernie Smith)

*Please join us for  
Sunday Morning  
Worship Service  
& Sunday School  
beginning at 10:00 a.m.  
All are Welcome.*



Did you know you can help us save on printing and mailing costs by signing up to have the *Tidings* emailed to you? Just go to [Tidings@AuburnFirstUCC.org](mailto:Tidings@AuburnFirstUCC.org).

## *Here We Grow*



It is hard to believe that it's time to start preparing for *Here We Grow's* winter holiday programs. The first half of this school year has gone by so fast.

During the month of November, *Here We Grow* will be talking with the children about families, manners, and the gift of giving. On November 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> *Here We Grow* will come together to share a "feast" day with each other. On the menu this year is cornbread (made by the three-year-old children) a friendship fruit salad, cheese and crackers, turkey & ham, and brownies with cool whip (made by the four-year-old children). Again with the help of the *Here We Grow* parents, it should be a fun, rewarding day for all.

As in the past, the children and families will be participating in the tradition of "The Giving Basket." All foods collected will be given to Rev. Knox to distribute to families in need during the season of Thanksgiving. We are very fortunate to have had so many supportive families. We are truly blessed.

During the month of October, we ran our first fundraiser, Hebert Candies. I am proud to say I didn't eat any of the candy bars. *Here We Grow's* profit was just over \$1,800.00. This money is used for teaching materials and some special programs.

In order to get a second fundraiser in before the holidays, we decided to run it towards the end of October through the week of Veterans Day. The second fundraiser is Avon and Tastefully Simple. If you are in need of any of these products, I will leave a book in the office with Denise. Thank you for any support you can give us.

During the month of December *Here We Grow* will also be participating in the "Toys for Tots" campaign. We will be collecting unwrapped toys from December 3 -15. The Marines will be stopping by to pick up any donations soon after.

Ending the year of 2007, HWG will be entertaining families with holiday programs on December 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>. We are hoping to have a special visitor on those days —time will tell. More information on this fun day next month.

Until next month, enjoy the beautiful colors of fall and stay healthy.

Dawn Murphy

Director

*Here We Grow* Preschool



## FROM THE CHOIR ROOM

### Praise Music —What is it?

In the beginning of rock and roll music, the connotation of its very name was enough for the church to keep it outside the Sanctuary. However, no matter how lowly its beginnings, given time, the stigma surrounding any style of music will fade.

Contemporary praise music is intentionally written to be less cerebral and more emotive. It is “praise and worship” not doctrinal and theological, as many of our hymns are. The nature of contemporary worship is IMPROVISATIONAL. Certain emotive lines may be repeated many times allowing a concept to “sink in”.

A word on contemporary music: the choral anthems sung by the choir are also called contemporary; contemporary Christian (as opposed to contemporary praise). The word “contemporary” is used to cover a wide array of musical styles in order to accommodate that “line in the sand” of what is acceptable in the church service, a line that is constantly shifting.

Praise music is either piano-driven or more commonly, guitar-driven. There are several types of contemporary music under the praise umbrella:

#### Adult Contemporary

This came out of the Jesus movement. It’s largely acoustic guitar-driven, but can also be keyboard-driven. This genre is the broadest and, if presentation is properly nuanced, this style can appeal across the age spectrum. Instrumentation includes a rhythm section, drums and bass, as well as electric guitar and the lead instrument.

#### Edgy (Rock) Contemporary

It’s similar to Adult Contemporary, but without the keyboard. There’s more volume, distortion in the guitar mix, and “rock” drums —more of a “garage band” sound.

#### Urban

Urban originated in African-American churches. It’s Hammond organ B3-driven. It utilizes jazz harmonies and incorporates brass. Urban makes great use of a choir, as the choir often leads in worship. It has jazz and gospel roots.

#### Alternative

Alternative usually consists of piano, acoustic guitar, and percussion. The instruments are usually unplugged and it’s done in a more intimate setting.

#### Blended

Blended ranges from a typical rhythm section to orchestra and choir, and can include both. It’s actually a fusion of styles.

The Praise Team consists of:

- 1) The Worship Leader / Song Leader / Director (one person - many terms)
- 2) The Praise Band (different configurations as indicated above)
- 3) The Praise Choir

This can range from 2 to 3 people for an intimate setting, 4 to 6 for a band with a rhythm section, or as in urban worship, a full 30 voice choir.

The contemporary praise band is the melding of music and technology and as such, is subject to different pitfalls than traditional music.

Some firsthand observations:

- 1) Music that is too loud
- 2) A performance mentality
- 3) Technical glitches galore:
  - sound not balanced
  - text “smudged” by an inability to mix
  - volume inconsistency
- 4) Unprofessional behavior and too casual an approach to God

In spite of these challenges, it is our hope to utilize the option of praise music for what is in the best interest of the service and the church. For adding songs to a traditional service it is best to use a piano -driven group (as we are doing). At the moment we are using an alternative style. However, it is possible to use the adult contemporary style in a church of 150 to 350 members. Please bear in mind that we are somewhat limited by the sound system, which does not allow us to “mix” the vocal and instrumental for a more balanced sound. This also results in a less clean sound which can make it difficult to understand the text. This is NOT a problem that can be fixed with more/better diction. There is some distortion because of too much low frequency load. This is trial and error for us too, and we appreciate your patience!

In closing, I see music as a service ministry where one serves by preparing others to serve. I continually seek God’s guidance on what is HIS ministry and pray on every aspect of it. Because prayer is integral to every new direction we take, it is easy to see God’s hand at work.

Blessings,

Heather Moore  
Minister of Music





November is American Diabetes Month, Lung Cancer Awareness Month, Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, National Adoption Month, National Family Caregivers Month, National Healthy Skin Month, National Hospice Palliative Care Month, and Pulmonary Hypertension Month.

November 15th is the Great American Smoke out! There are many new ways to quit smoking!

November 26 - December 2, 2007 is National Influenza Vaccination Week. I have information from the CDC (Center for Disease Control). I will have it available on the Health Table in Fellowship Hall. I've heard that there is plenty of the flu vaccine available this year.

There have been articles in the newspaper, and information on the television about MRSA! They all say that HAND-WASHING is the best prevention. These two germs, MRSA and VRE, can be deadly! When you are in public and have to use a restroom wipe your hands with a paper towel, if possible, then shut off the water. Use the same towel to open the door, then toss the towel in the trash. This will prevent touching the faucet and the door handle.

The closet at the entrance to the educational wing has been empty one day and full to the top the next. I'm glad that the equipment has been borrowed, and more donated. Please continue to help yourself if you find what you need!

I hope everyone enjoys God's beautiful colors this fall! God Bless!

Debbie Pranaitis  
Parish Nurse





**JOYFUL NOYSE REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:**

11/11, 11/18	11:15 a.m. rehearsal	12/23	9:15 a.m. rehearsal
11/25	9:15 a.m. rehearsal		<i>Come, Light of the World</i>
	<i>We Are Singing for the Lord Is Our Light</i>		<i>Light a Little Candle</i>
12/2, 12/9, 12/16	11:15 a.m. rehearsal	12/24	5:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Service
			<i>Come, Light of the World</i>
			<i>Light a Little Candle</i>
			(Anthems may change.)

**Please Note:** There won't be a rehearsal on November 4th as the Praise Choir and Praise Band will be playing during coffee hour that day. Also, please remember that there is a separate table at Coffee Hour for Joyful Noyse ONLY. Choir children may go directly to this table for their snacks - enabling them to have time to eat and make the 11:15 a.m. rehearsal.

**A Message from the Nominating Committee**

It is that time of year again where we begin to wonder who will be willing to serve on our boards and committees for the next term.

It would be wonderful to think that we had a long line of volunteers. Realistically, we will probably be calling on you. However, if you have a particular interest and are willing to serve, please let us know - it would make our job sooo much easier. If you have never served on a committee in YOUR church before, why not give it a try. It is a good way to meet others and learn more about what is happening here.

Hoping to hear from you! Please speak to Marion Woodcock or myself.

Thanks,  
Carole Murray

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**Recent Baptisms**

On October 14<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the baptisms of  
Nathan Michael Rhodes and Ramaya Aureliane F. Talabert.

Nathan is 6 months old. His parents are Sandi and Christopher Rhodes.

Ramaya is the daughter of Josie Talabert, and she is 21 months old.



Congratulations to Richard and Maureen Luther on the recent birth of their daughter, **Elizabeth Walsh Luther**. "Ella" was born on September 27<sup>th</sup>, and at birth she was 7 lbs., 9 oz. and 21" long.  
Her proud grandparents are Bob & Carol Luther.





## YOUTH ON A MISSION & CONFIRMATION CLASS NEWS

### Youth On A Mission

Mark your calendars for the *Bonfire at the Bohns'* on Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6 to 10 p.m. YOM members are encouraged to bring a friend. We'll be cooking hot dogs and s'mores over an open flame. We'll also be serving up chili and hot cider. Remember, YOM is always open to new members. Anyone who is, or will be, fourteen by July 1, 2008 is welcome to join us.

### Common Cathedral

Common Cathedral is planned for Sunday, November 4th. Common Cathedral is a church for the homeless that is held outside on the Boston Common. The youth will be meeting here (at the church) at 8:30 a.m. to make sandwiches that we will serve to the homeless after the Church service. We are expected to arrive in Boston around noon. Orientation is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. followed by a time for chatting with the Common Cathedral congregation. Worship will begin at 1 p.m. and lunch will be served around 2 p.m.

### City Reach

The Confirmation Class is planning to return to Boston in January as part of City Reach. City Reach is an overnight program organized by Ecclesia Ministries (the same group that ministers at Common Cathedral). The youth will bring clothing they've collected and will distribute food to the homeless in Boston. The program includes a tour of Boston during the night with a homeless or formerly homeless person as our tour guide. The youth will spend the night in St. Paul's Cathedral along with approximately 75 other youth and adults from around the state. In the past it has proven to be quite an eye-opening experience.

Jennifer & Randy Bohn



As Thanksgiving approaches, and soon the holidays will be upon us, we are beginning to receive many announcements from area churches. Please be sure to check out the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall to keep up to date on what's new.



### Coffee Hour Hosts

11/4 ~ Prudential	12/9, 12/16 ~ Nominating & Scholarship
11/11, 11/18 ~ Financial Secretaries/Treasurers	12/23, 12/30 ~ Deacons
11/25, 12/2 ~ Music Committee	1/6 ~ Trustees

### **Alice M. (Young) Kacavich**

June 23, 1921 - October 9, 2007

Alice M. (Young) Kacavich, 86, of Auburn, died Tuesday, October 9th in Dodge Park Rest Home in Worcester after an illness.

Her husband, Michael J. Kacavich, died in 1988. She is survived by two children, Patricia J. Kelley of Boxborough and William M. Kacavich and his wife, Katherine of Natick. Alice also leaves a sister, Lenore Thebodo, six grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Alice was a member of our church and will be sadly missed.

Memorial donations can be made to the First Congregational Church in Auburn, 128 Central Street, Auburn, MA 01501, or to the Massachusetts Association of the Blind, 51 Harvard St., Worcester, MA 01609.



### **William C. Hosegood**

William C. Hosegood, 80, of Westmoreland, NH, formerly of Worcester and Auburn, died October 18, 2007 in Keene, NH. William and his wife, Arabella (Belle) and their three children, Kathryn (Shea), Richard, and Alfred were members of our church prior to moving to New Hampshire several years ago. Please remember Bill's loved ones in your prayers.

*"I am the resurrection and the Life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies." John 11:25*

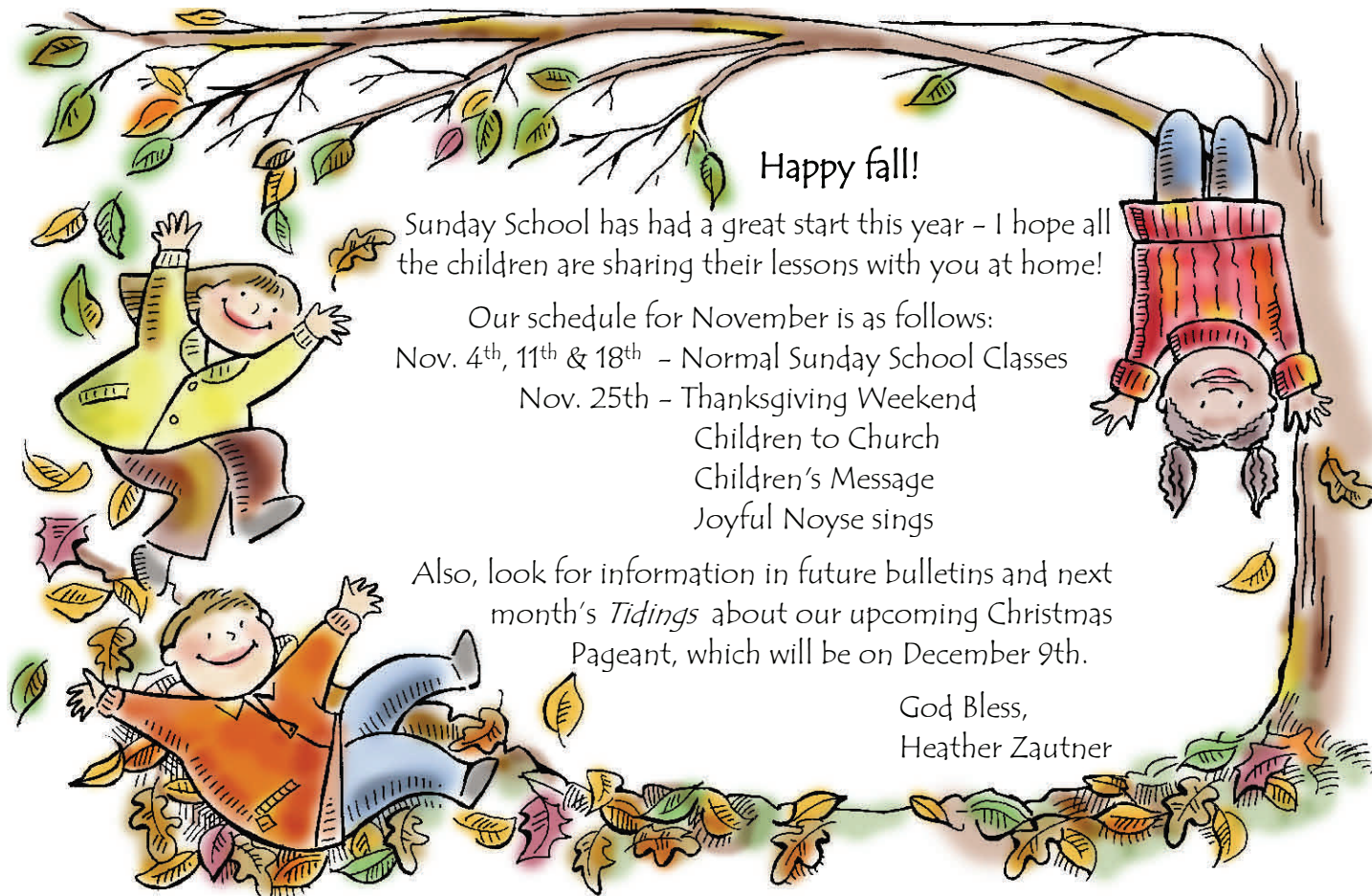
The Pension Protection Act of 2006 includes incentives for charitable gifts from owners of an Individual Retirement Account (IRA). Now, you can make a gift to First Congregational Church of Auburn using IRA assets without undesirable tax consequences. The new law enables certain IRA owners to enjoy helping one or more favorite non-profit organizations without tax complications.

You may contribute assets this way if:

- You are age 70½ or better
- The gift is \$100,000 or less
- You make the gift on or before December 31, 2007
- You transfer funds from an IRA or Rollover IRA
- You transfer the gift directly to a qualified non-profit organization, such as First Congregational Church

The distributions do count toward the Required Minimum Distribution. These distributions will not be subject to income tax, and the subsequent gift will not be tax deductible, making it a "tax neutral" transaction.

If this is something you would like to do, please contact Bob Luther of the Prudential Committee for more information.



Happy fall!

Sunday School has had a great start this year - I hope all the children are sharing their lessons with you at home!

Our schedule for November is as follows:

Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> - Normal Sunday School Classes

Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> - Thanksgiving Weekend

Children to Church

Children's Message

Joyful Noyse sings

Also, look for information in future bulletins and next month's *Tidings* about our upcoming Christmas Pageant, which will be on December 9th.

God Bless,  
Heather Zautner

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