

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!'"



2005

Next Church Supper
TURKEY DINNER
November 19
at 5:00 PM

Misc. Donations

It has come to our attention that people have been dropping off various items anonymously that they want to donate to the church such as TV's, furniture, etc. While we appreciate people thinking of the church in their charity, we do not have the area to store these items and often need to discard them. If you are considering donating items to the church please call ahead to see if we have the capacity to collect these items. Please do not drop off anything without first notifying the church office at 508-832-2845.

Thank you,
Board of Trustees

During the weekend of October 15th, 16th and 17th, there was a flurry of activity at the church. A tree on the front lawn had been cut down by the power company, and a crew of volunteers gathered Saturday morning to split it up into usable fire wood. This turned into a two day task and was finished on Sunday afternoon. Many members and scouts from troop 101 were involved.

Saturday evening was a church supper with another large crew of volunteers preparing, serving and cleaning up. Earlier that day it was discovered that the boiler room had flooded and another crew was quickly assembled to pump it out. In the meantime all the regular activities of the weekend occurred.

Sunday afternoon the confirmation class and several adults went to Boston to attend the Common Cathedral, a special church for the homeless, after which they helped feed the homeless.

On Monday a toilet over flowed and more volunteers got to work cleaning it up. There were several overlaps of volunteers in the various groups.

All this suggests a vitality and a caring at First Congregational that we sometimes despair of seeing. We should not have had to have as many crises to reveal it. However, it was there and it was exciting to experience the help that was so readily shared. A hearty thanks, not only for all of your labor for the church but for being there and being willing. You made a big difference. Hallelujah!

God Bless,
Rev. Dr. Kenneth E Knox

- Dolphin

A research group on sea mammals captured a rather odd porpoise on one of its trips. Its peculiarity was that it had feet. After they had photographed and measured the poor thing, they prepared to set it free.

"Wait a minute," said one of the researchers, "Wouldn't it be a kindness if our ship's doctor here were to amputate the feet so that it would be like other porpoises?"

"Not on your life," exclaimed the doctor, "That would be defeeting the porpoise."





“Here We Grow!” Preschool

Here comes November, here comes the COLD weather. The children and staff are settled in and preparing for the holidays which are approaching way too fast. During the month of October, the parents and children hosted a bake sale to raise money for the hurricane relief. The children also added money earned at home from chores done. We presented Rev. Knox with a check for \$700.00 to add to the money that First Congregational Church is giving to Emergency USA.

WOW, Captain Jeff Mitchell, of the Auburn Fire Department, visited “Here We Grow!” to help the children understand and learn safety issues to be used at home and at school. Parent Curriculum night was held on October 12 with about 60 parents attending. They had the opportunity to learn about “Here We Grow’s!” curriculum and experience a “mine day” in their child’s classroom. Everyone had a fun time.

Once again we had beautiful weather at Tougas Family Farm. The children, parents & teachers enjoyed a hay ride, apple and pumpkin picking and the bakery. Tougas has the best apples around. On going throughout the month is “Here We Grow’s!” first fundraiser - Hebert candy bars. At this time they are almost gone.

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) made their long awaited visit on October 12th & 13th. “Here We Grow!” has been preparing for this for 3 years. Patty was our validator and even though she cannot say if we will be accredited, she gave each classroom a thumbs up. We will hear from NAEYC between 60-90 days. Keep your fingers crossed.

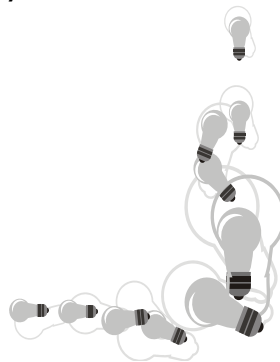
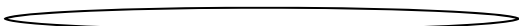
Ending out the month of October will be “Here We Grow’s!” Halloween parties. The 2 day program will have a party in the classrooms and then Trick or Treat throughout the hallways. The 3 day program will have a party in the classroom and vestry and Trick or Treat to the Town Hall. So if you are in the area on the 27th and 28th—join us for “The Parade of Costumes”.

With November approaching, “Here We Grow!” is preparing for:

- 1) Hosting a training for area schools
- 2) Gingerbread house reservations held the whole month
- 3) Thanksgiving Feast Days on the 21st and 22nd
- 4) CPR for “Here We Grow!” staff and church secretary

In ending, with time passing by so quickly, take time to enjoy the beautiful season of Fall.

Dawn Murphy
Director Here We Grow! Preschool



Thank You—To Randy Bohn and Craig Premo for replacing the bulbs and cleaning the light fixtures in the Sanctuary and in Fellowship Hall. They also washed the ceiling fan blades and removed the balloon strings so that the fans could be used.



FAIRS

Holiday Bake and Craft Fair

Millbury Baptist Church
Main St, Millbury

Saturday, November 5th, 9-2pm

Light Luncheon Available



Country Fair

Bethel Lutheran Church

Saturday, November 5, 9-2pm

90 Bryn Mawr Ave., Auburn, MA

508-832-3427



Holiday Craft Fair

Oak Hill Bible Church

Saturday November 12th, 9-3pm

40 Sacarrappa Road, Oxford, MA

508-987-0287 for directions or registration forms to rent a table to display your own crafts (cost \$25)

Harvest Fair

St. Thomas Church, 35 School St., Auburn

Friday Nov. 18, 4-7pm & Saturday Nov. 19, 9-2pm

Friday 11/18 5-7pm Stuffed Chicken Breast Dinner \$8.50 & \$5

508-832-2598



Holiday Gifts on the Common

By New England Artisans

Community House

28 Main St.

(Routes 85 and 30)

Southborough, MA

Saturday, November 19, 10:00-3:30pm

Chris Messier (from *Here We Grow!* and her family)

Hand Crafted Items by 12 Artisans





Stewardship...A Way of Life

As the November *Stewardship* tells us on its front cover.... "ENJOY YOUR GIVING". Giving to God a weekly amount from the top of your income makes giving easier and adds the satisfaction of knowing, as you spend the rest of your income, that you have given God the "first fruits" rather than the "leftovers." Have you committed to giving God your "first fruits"?

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank all of you who were able to participate in our service on Consecration Sunday as well as those who were able to stay for brunch afterwards. No one should have gone away hungry...there was plenty of food and fellowship to go around for all.

A Happy Thanksgiving to you from all of us! May your Thanksgiving truly be one of giving thanks for all you have!!

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, Kenneth Holstrom

Church Historians

It has come to our attention that both our church historians: George Duhamel and his daughter, Paula Lubin, have resigned their positions as church historians.

Between them, they have given many years of faithful service to the church. Through their efforts the Abbey Wiley Historical Room was established which is filled with a rich supply of artifacts concerning our church and its founding. Anyone who loves the church and its history can spend many worthwhile hours pursuing the material matter in that room. Whenever we had a question concerning the history of the church they would gladly spare the time with their wealth of information or willingly look it up.

So we wish George and Paula Godspeed and thanks for a job well done.

In His Name,
Mary Lou Brown &
Ronald & Judy Devoe



"If they didn't have any parents, who did they blame all their hang-ups on?"

From The Minister of Christian Education

What would Fall be like if you couldn't smell? You'd miss that tangy intake breath as you shuffle through piles of red, orange and yellow leaves. You'd be standing near a bonfire on a cold starry night and not get that crackling fragrance transporting you back to childhood. You'd go to a football game and pass by hot dogs without having your mouth water. You'd walk through piney woods and not think of Christmas. You'd stoop next to a big golden mum and not recall a dance you went to some long ago autumn. You'd step into an after-rain evening and not think to pray. You'd sip some hot chocolate or apple cider and miss any connection to hayrides of the past. You'd walk into a cozy room aglow with candles and never search for the word vanilla or cinnamon. You'd help a child scoop out the gooey innards of a pumpkin and not taste a piece of warm pie melting on your tongue. But you can smell Fall fragrances! Don't forget to thank God for the sense of smell and for all of the wonderful memories and blessings he has given you every day.

Blessings,
Barb Jernigan

Children's Message 10/23/05

Christians are like pumpkins!



A Christian is like a pumpkin because God picks you from the patch, brings you in and washes all the dirt off you. He then cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc., and then he carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see.

2 Corinthians 5:17 *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone and the new has come."*

Prayer:

Dear God,
As I carve my pumpkin, open my mind so I can learn about you. Take all my sin and forgive the wrong that I do. Open my eyes so I will see your love. I'm sorry for the times I've turned up my nose at what you've given me. Open my ears so I can hear your word. Open my mouth so I can tell others you are near. Let your light shine in all I say and do. Amen

Dear Friends,

It has been a long uphill battle since my two surgeries, but with all your prayers, cards, phone calls and well wishes passed on through my family, I am feeling stronger each day. I wish to thank you all for your kindness and support.

*Warmest Regards,
Don Aker*



November is American Diabetes Month, National Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Month, National Hospice Month, Pancreatic and Lung Cancer Awareness Month, National Adoption Month, and National Family Care-givers Month. The third Thursday of November, Nov. 17, is the Great American Smoke-out!

It is flu shot time. Also, a reminder that HANDWASHING is the best way to prevent the spread of germs.

November 19th at 3:00 p.m., I am hosting a Medication Management Program. The Auburn District Nursing Association has a grant to offer this free service to seniors and their caregivers. The goals of the Medication Management Program: (1) promote better understanding of your prescription medications, (2) explain prescription medications' actions, side effects, interactions with foods, alcohol, and other medications, such as over-the-counter preparations, herbals, and vitamins, and (3) provide tips and equipment, such as medication boxes and calendars, to manage your multiple medications safely. The program is about one hour long and is before our next church supper.

I have booked a Certified Babysitting course with Pam Daigneault to be held at the church December 27 and 28. It will run 10:00 a.m.- 2:30p.m. with a 1/2 hour lunch break. You can call Pam at U-Mass Memorial- Memorial Campus at 508-334-5474 to register and find out all the details. The limit is 20, so don't wait.

There is a list in Fellowship Hall to sign if you are CPR certified. Please sign this or speak to me, Rev. Knox, or call the church office. This is a good thing to have posted with our First Aid kits in case of an emergency. There are First Aid kits in the closet with the choir robes, in the kitchen, and the church office. I also have the DME (Durable Medical Equipment) wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches, etc. that were donated to be loaned to others in need. There are also some adult briefs that can be taken. Please, help yourself to this equipment, or check with me or the church office if you need anything. God Bless! Happy Thanksgiving!

Simon Evening of Giving

**Tidings articles
are due on
November 20th**

**If you or a loved
one will be in the
hospital and would
like visitation,
please let the
church know as
soon as you can.
Thank You!**

There will be a special evening of shopping at the Auburn Mall on Sunday, November 20th from 6:30 to 9:30PM. Admission to the Mall is by ticket only and tickets are sold only by participating non-profit organizations as a fundraising event. Tickets are now on sale in the church office or at Coffee Hours. Tickets are \$10.00 each. \$3.00 of this goes to the Simon Youth Foundation, the remaining \$7.00 will go into the Roof Fund.

Throughout the evening special sales will take place, there will most likely be some form of entertainment, and there will be door prize drawings in which you automatically are entered in by purchasing a ticket and need not be present to win.

Why not plan a 'Girls Night Out' and purchase a ticket soon? The holidays will be here before we know it!

-Cindy Dube

October 26, 2005

WOW!! To my church family and other friends; as I write this I cannot say, "greeting and many thanks from sunny Florida for the beautiful clock I received at Sunday morning worship", as I am still here. I will not be leaving until early Saturday morning. The clock will have a special place in my new apartment so I will always have "time" to think of you.

Also many thanks for the afternoon surprise, I will let you know what special item(s) I purchase with your very generous gift. Again, it was so nice to see the family relatives, my church family, fellow Grangers, people I worked with over the years and many others.

Tears come to my eyes again as I read the personal notes. As Ruth said to Naomi, "whither thou goest, I will go". So I am going to live closer to my daughter Linda, but I will be back to visit in December and hopefully other times as well.

Stay well and keep the Faith and I will strive to do the same. God bless all of you for your love and caring.

-Florence

NOTE: Her new mailing address will be published in next month's Tiding's.

Library Tidings

By Gloria Whitehead

We have so many new books that we're exposing several this month.

Church: Why Bother by renowned author *Philip Yancey* gives his reasoning of the goodness of the organized church and why he returned to same. "The church fails in its mission and makes serious blunders because it is comprised of human beings who will always fall short of glory of God. Anyone who enters the church expecting perfection does not understand the nature of that risk or the nature of humanity. Just as every romantic learns that marriage is the beginning, not the end, of the struggle to make love cook, every Christian must learn that the church is only the beginning."

The following two books carry messages of a real Thanksgiving: All God's Children Got Robes by *Margaret Jeusea*. The author dedicates her book to three doctors: "These three men in their unique robes of white moved in unison according to God's ticking of the clock of time. They moved on the tide of their God given wisdom, knowledge and medical and surgical expertise and turned the ordinary into extraordinary days of fortune".

In spite of her being diagnosed with cancer and her husband's death shortly after, in her darkest hours Margaret knew that someone was "caring for her". This is a well written, heartwarming story of blessed assurance.

Do you need some more?

Chicken Soup for the Unsinkable Soul by *Jack Canfield* and *Mark V. Hansen*. Within are 101 outstanding stories about overcoming emotional hardship losing a loved one, physical challenges, financial obstacles, illness or disease and life challenges. This book exemplified "When the going gets tough, the tough get going."

And then, before you can believe it. Thanksgiving is here! My First Thanksgiving, The First Thanksgiving, The Very First Thanksgiving, Chester Chipmunks Thanksgiving, Thanksgiving at the Tappleton's, The Plymouth Thanksgiving, Turkeys, Pilgrims and Indian Corn, and more are waiting to be gobbled up from the Children's Library.

So shake a leg in preparation for the feast of God's bountiful harvest. Then take some time to recognize all the blessings for which we should be grateful.

The Library Committee:

Gloria Whitehead
Charlotte Steffen
Dorothy Eklund
Jean McPherson
Deb Pranaitis
Connie Whitehead Hanks
Florence LaPlante



When thou
hast eaten and art full, then
thou shalt bless the LORD
thy God for the good land
which he has given thee.

Deuteronomy 8:10

Trustees Roof Update



By the time you read this, the new roof on the church should be almost complete! This has been a great accomplishment for our church and we should all be proud of it. Thank you to Bob Murray & Bob Johnson for obtaining the quotes and coordinating this entire project. Also thank you to Cindy & Mike Dube for all of the great fund raising ideas they came up with this past year.

Even though the construction is complete, our funding for this project is not. As of October 18th, we have raised approximately \$41,000 towards the new roof. This means that we need to borrow \$17,000 from invested funds to finish paying off the roofing contractor. The Trustees would like to pay off this loan by the end of 2006 to minimize any long term effects on the church budget.

While we will continue to have fund raising events over the coming year, many people who could not give one time gifts towards the roof have asked about making a year long commitment or pledge towards the roof fund. If anyone is interested in making a "roof pledge", please see Nick Stockhaus as we have special envelopes that can be used for this purpose. Any monies collected over the amount needed to pay back the loan will be put in the capital reserve fund for future building improvements. Again, thank you to all who have helped make this big project a success!

God Bless!

The Board of Trustees

October 25, 2005

11 Paul Street
Auburn, MA 01501

To Whom It May Concern;

We have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to be involved with helping displaced local families have the feeling of hope, love and peace of mind for ten years, seven years here at First Congregational Church. In that time we have housed over thirty families as they awaited housing, including over one hundred children.

The times have been very rewarding, sometimes heart breaking, funny and frustrating, but always a wonderful experience. Interfaith Hospitality Network is a way for our church to make a difference within our walls. A thank you to Shirley Hill for always being there when needed, the Whitehead crew for great cook outs, Joyce Ringgard for helping set up and take down, Carol Murray for the beautiful quilts for each child, Avis and Lorain for Sunday night welcoming dinners every year and Pat and Elyse Bukowski for bringing dinner, sleeping over and all the great donations from local businesses. A special thank you to our family for all their hard work and support without which this would not have been possible.

We will no longer be coordinators for Interfaith Hospitality Network at this church due to increased frustrations over space limitations.

Sincerely,
David Moore
Maybelle Stone



Marion Malone's memorial service is being held November 5 at 1:00 PM here at First Congregational Church. There will be a gathering in Fellowship Hall after the service.

Robert Barnett passed away last Tuesday after a long illness. He was the husband to Florence Barnett (church member) who passed away in '94. He leaves a daughter, Karen Stevens and her brother Gary Barnett.

Norman Eldon Kumin, passed away on October 4th at his home in Mashpee. Our sympathy to his wife of 42 years, Carol (Swartz) Kumin and to their family.



THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE
will be held at
Bethel Lutheran Church
on **November 23, 7:30 PM.**
90 Bryn Mawr Ave., Auburn.

Electronic Tidings

In an effort to reduce mailing costs, we would like to compile a list of people who would like to receive electronic versions of the monthly Tidings and Calendar in place of the paper copy that currently gets mailed out. Since April, electronic versions of the Tidings and Calendar have been available online at the church's website www.AuburnFirstUCC.org. The electronic version looks the same as the printed version. Since each copy of the Tidings costs approximately 38¢ to mail, there is a great potential for savings by getting more people to download electronic copies. If you would like to subscribe to the electronic Tidings in place of the paper copy, please send an email to Tidings@AuburnFirstUCC.org with the word "Subscribe" in the Subject line, and your name and address in the body of the email. Each month when the Tidings and Calendar are placed on the website, you will receive an email with a link to the Tidings and Calendar for that coming month. This is a great option for those who live out of state as the electronic version will be available days, if not weeks, before the paper copy reaches them. Thank you!

Coffee Hour Hosts

Oct. 30 & Nov 6	Prudential
Nov. 13 & 20	Financial Secretaries/Treasurers
Nov. 27 & Dec. 4	Music
Dec. 11 & 18	Nominating/Scholarship
Dec 25	No Coffee Hour
Jan. 1	Trustees
Jan 8 & 15	Deacons
Jan. 22	Outreach

From the Choir Room

This years Christmas Cantata will be sung on December 4th. In addition to our two newest members; three more singers will be joining us for the Cantata. We will be presenting “Touched by a Child, Touched by a King” by John Purifoy.

The seven movements include:

- I O Come, All Ye Faithful
- II Touched by a Child, Touched by a King
- III Rejoice, Rejoice, All People
- IV I was touched, and I believe
- V The Truth and the Light
- VI Light of the World
- VII Angels’ Song

The opening narration gives us this overview of the theme:

“Mary and Joseph had been touched by God and for months they had remained strong even when they did not know what lay ahead. Then, finally, in that moment when Jesus was born, they knew. They knew that here was the Child, the Savior, the promised Messiah, who would bring love to the world. They had been touched by a Child, touched by a King.”

I’d also like to share with you something Rev. Knox drew my attention to. It is from one of his hymnals, and each choir member has a copy in their folder!

There Has to Be a Song

There has to be a song -

There are too many dark nights,
Too many troublesome days,
Too many wearisome miles,

There has to be a song -

To make our burdens bearable,
To make our hopes believable,
To transform our successes into praise,
To release the chains of past defeats,
Somewhere-down deep in a forgotten corner of each person’s heart -

There has to be a song -

Like a cool, clear drink of water,
Like the gentle warmth of sunshine,
Like the tender love of a child,

There has to be a song.

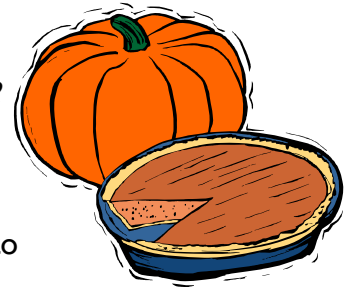
-Robert Benson

Blessings,
Heather Moore - Minister of Music

Joyful Noyse Schedule

11/6	11 AM Rehearsal
11/13	11 AM Rehearsal
11/20	11 AM Rehearsal
11/27	9 AM Rehearsal “Where the Stable Light Shines”
12/4	11 AM Rehearsal
12/11	11 AM Rehearsal
12/18	9 AM Rehearsal “Hear the Good News” “Come, Light of the World!”
12/24	5:00 PM service Christmas Eve “Come, Light of the World”

**Thanksgiving is coming soon. Will you be too busy to bake?
Have an oven filled with Turkey?
Still want delicious fresh-baked pies?**



The **Friends of the Auburn Public Library** can help you this holiday. We invite you to Buy a Pie and help support the Auburn Public Library. For \$10, you can order an apple, a blueberry or a pumpkin pie!

Each pie is hand-made of the highest quality of ingredients and conveniently boxed for travel, courtesy of Gerardo's Bakery. In three tempting flavors, you can take one home, bring one to Grandma's, and still have one to enjoy after the football game.



To order, please call Avis Britton (508) 832-2308 or Nan Johnson (508) 832-5128 for an order form. You can choose to pick up your pie on Tuesday, November 22nd between 5pm and 9pm or on Wednesday, November 23 between 9am-1pm.

Nutcracker Trip Called Off

Plans for a trip to Nutcracker have been cancelled due to limited interest, higher costs, and lack of available buses on the date planned. We thank those who did express interest.

TIDINGS is a monthly publication of

**First Congregational Church
128 Central St.
Auburn MA 01501**

Phone: (508)832-2845
Fax: (508)721-2539
Web: auburnfirststucc.org



BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
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November 2005						
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