

October  
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!’”**

## **So, what’s up with the INTENTIONAL bit?**

Reflections from your INTENTIONAL Interim Pastor, Rev. Mark Seifried

“When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It’s going to rain’; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat’; and it happens. You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?” (Luke 12:54-56 and Matthew 16:2-3)

This passage is both an indictment and an invitation. It indicts Jesus’ audience (us and those who heard it 2000+ years ago) as blind to what is happening, even as it invites them (and us!) to look again, to see anew. That really is the theme of the interim time: to look again and see anew!

During the interim time, we don’t take as much for granted as we do during the settled pastorate. In my last *Tidings* article, I told you that I ask a lot of questions at the start up of the interim so that I can learn about you, the institution you built (you being a member of the church!), and the needs of the wider community. The interim time also gives you time to ask a lot of questions. The church actually promised to seek answers to certain questions, during the interim time we will ask together. Those questions are in the covenant made between the congregation and me. I have framed them below:

**What is our history?** What is the best and the worst of our congregation’s history? What lessons did we learn along the way? What should we avoid repeating? What from our past shall we carry forward to bless the future ministries and mission?

**What is or shall be new about our identity?** How has God changed us over the years? What are our strengths and weaknesses of the congregation? What does the wider community need from us so that we remain a vital part of Auburn and the region? To what ministries is God calling us? What beliefs and practices have emerged that make us a community of faith? What are the mission and vision that will drive the church?

**How will we manage shifts of leadership?** Will people who are tired just quit? Who will take their place and how? What type of training do they need? What do we need to let go of to allow new leaders to emerge? What are the spiritual gifts in the community? How will we manage the inevitable conflict as power shifts? How will we bless new leaders and thank those who have faithfully served for many years? How will the seasoned leaders and the less experienced leaders work together?

**What are our denominational covenants?** Are there resources at the regional, state or national level which would enhance our ministries in Auburn? Do we know how our dues and mission dollars are being spent? Are we spending too much or too little on mission partnerships? Are we committed to ecumenical and interfaith relationships? What do those relations look like? How shall we communicate with the wider church to maintain healthy relations and provide for blessed covenant in the future?

**Are we committed to new leadership and a new future?** Are we stable enough to call another settled pastor? Have we allowed the former pastor to truly retire as our pastor – emotionally? Do church members share the sense of common goals and achievements as we move forward? What kind of leaders, including pastoral, do we need to accomplish our mission? What will the church look and feel like in 5 to 10 years?

Together, over the next months; and perhaps years, we will *intentionally* interpret the signs that are around us. We will *intentionally* pursue the purpose God has for us. We will *intentionally* become aware of the presence of Christ in our midst. We will *intentionally* call upon the power of the Holy Spirit to energize our ministries. Together, we will *intentionally* discover the new day to which God calls the church - with joy and thanksgiving. That is my prayer. Please pray with me and for our shared ministry as we *intentionally* move ahead ... to the glory of God.

October Birthdays include:

- Eric Rockwood - October 21st
- Carolyn Slongwhite - October 21st
- George DuHamel - October 27th

Happy Birthday!



On October 8th Rich and Jean McPherson will be celebrating their wedding anniversary - Congratulations!

Happy Anniversary to George and Laura DuHamel who will celebrate their special day on October 31st.

### Blessing of the Animals Service

At Pakachoag Church, 203 Pakachoag St., Auburn  
Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.

The service will be held in the Memorial Garden. (In case of inclement weather, the service will be held inside.)  
All animals must be leashed or in pet carriers.  
Bring an animal food donation with you. The food will be given to a local animal shelter.

### Bowling League Update!

After 30+ years, the First Congregational Church Candlepin Bowling League had to be cancelled. We simply did not have enough bowlers to continue the league. We may attempt to start the league back up in January if there is enough interest. If anyone is interested in restarting the bowling league after the holidays, please contact Lori or Nick Stockhaus at 508-865-6439. We will also place a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall for anyone who wants to bowl.

Thank you,  
Nick & Lori Stockhaus

### IF YOU HAVEN'T FILLED OUT A CHURCH SURVEY

please find one enclosed in this month's *Tidings*.

### THE PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE NEEDS FAMILIES, INDIVIDUALS AND CHILDREN TO RESPOND.

If returning it by mail, be sure to put it to the attention of the PSC. You may also drop it in the designated box during coffee hour or simply give it to any Deacon or PSC member.

Thank you!

### The Pumpkins Are Coming!

- When:** Saturday, October 11th at 1 p.m. until Friday, October 31st at dusk
- Where:** Pumpkin Patch First Congregational Church 128 Central Street, Auburn, MA
- Why:** Fundraiser
- Needed:** Volunteers

If you enjoy visiting with people this is for you! All that is asked of you is to collect the money from selling pumpkins, gourds and fall decorations. There are sign-up sheets located in Fellowship Hall. Once you have decided when you can help, just fill it out and drop it in the collection plate, or give us a call.



Thanks!  
Shirley Hill ~ (508) 832-6335  
Diane Moore ~ (508) 832-8078  
Jen Bohn ~ (508) 832-0428

The following families have lost loved ones since the last printing of the Tidings.  
Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

### HAZEL C. STEVENS

Hazel C. (Hutchinson) Stevens, 84, passed away peacefully at the Overlook Masonic Health Care Center on Wednesday, August 20th, surrounded by her loving family. Her husband, Haroll D. Stevens, predeceased her in 1976. She is survived by her 3 children: June C. Hallberg, Barbara D. Gould and Edward D. Stevens; 5 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Mrs. Stevens leaves 2 brothers, Elwell E. Hutchinson and Jerauld L.

Hutchinson, as well as many nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by brothers Walter T., Jr. and Edward W. Hutchinson. She was a member of our church and taught Sunday school. A funeral service was held August 25th at Britton-Wallace Funeral Home in Auburn.

(Hazel is Laura and George DuHamel's sister-in-law.)

### WALTER A. ROBERTS

Our heartfelt sympathies go out to Judi Taft in the recent loss of her dad, Walter A. Roberts, who passed away peacefully Sunday, August 31, 2008, following a short illness. His wife of 45 years, Lucille M. (Ducharme)

Roberts, passed away in 1984. Besides Judi, he leaves his son, Paul R. Roberts of Douglas and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His funeral was held on Friday, September 5th with a Mass at 10 a.m. in Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church in Millbury.

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

We are looking to gauge the level of interest in assembling a bell choir. If this is something you may want to be a part of please contact Cliff Peterson to express your interest. You can reach him at (508) 797-1457.

**Disabled woman living in Auburn is looking for help with miscellaneous housekeeping duties.**

**Pay and hours are negotiable. If interested please call Jane at 508 - 832-5853.**

### MONTHLY CHURCH SUPPERS

We bid a fond farewell to Chef Bill Storie. No, you'll still see his smiling face around here, you just won't be able to taste his delicious, home cooking anymore. That's right, Bill has decided to toss in his chef's hat. We want to take this opportunity to thank Bill from the bottom of our hearts (and stomachs) for his many years of faithful service in cooking for our monthly church suppers. That being said, we are now in need of a cook for our monthly church suppers. If you'd like to be responsible for preparing the suppers each month or for just one month, please contact one of the Trustees for more information. Our suppers are held on the third Saturday of the month at 5:00 p.m. and run Sept. through May.

Again, many thanks to Bill!

## Here We Grow

*Here We Grow Preschool has just begun to provide its 20th year of operation. The program was started in 1989, as an outreach program of First Congregational Church for young families with children living in and around the community. The school opened its doors with an enrollment of eight children and two teachers and has grown to a staff of 9 teachers, a full time director and enrollment of 134 children. HWG is housed in the lower level of Fellowship Hall using 3 classrooms and the fourth classroom shared with Sunday School. We offer Monday/Wednesday/Friday, Tuesday/Thursday, and Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday classes and a Monday through Friday extended day class. HWG is licensed by the Department of Early Education and Care (DEEC) and has received the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation.*

### **Our current staff:**

**Karen Banks** ~ 4th yr. at HWG. Is DEEC teacher certified. She is a past HWG parent.

**Helen Ethier** ~ 5th yr. at HWG. DEEC lead teacher certified. A past HWG parent.

**Sherri Leonard** ~ 2nd yr. at HWG. Degree in Early Childhood. Teacher certified and past HWG parent.

**Robin Mancini** ~ 9th yr. at HWG. DEEC teacher certified.

**Jean Marhefka** ~ 11th yr. at HWG. Was at HWG for 9 years, left for 7, and has returned. Teacher certified, and past HWG parent.

**Michelle Mulcahy** ~ 8th yr. at HWG. Lead teacher certified. A degree in Primary Ed. Past HWG parent.

**Gina Murphy** ~ 1st year at HWG. Lead teacher qualified.

**Debra Nelson** ~ 6th yr. at HWG. Degree from University of Maine at Orono. Lead teacher certified. Past HWG parent.

**Amy Pietrewicz** ~ 1st yr. at HWG.

**Dawn Murphy** has just begun her 19th year. For the first 11 years she was a Lead Teacher and has been Director for the last 8 years.



### **Sunday School Rally Day Was a Hit!**

Thanks to the very dedicated teachers who did an awesome job in my absence. We have 22 eager children enrolled.

We are still in great need of teachers and/or assistants. We have but 40 hours a YEAR to share God's love and wisdom with our church's future leaders. Won't you consider sharing your faith for an hour or two?

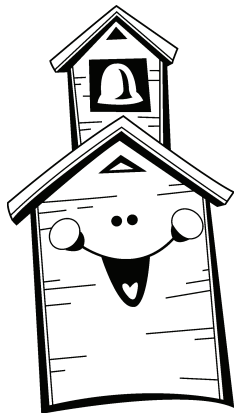
Also, Family Nights are coming! All will be invited to share in fellowship and good times. Please watch the bulletin for upcoming dates.

A Junior Youth Group is also under investigation for kids in grades 5 -8. We are considering partnering up with Pakachoag Church in Auburn. Our initial meeting to determine how many children are interested will be held on Sunday, October 19th from 2 to 4 at Pakachoag Church, 203 Pakachoag Street. There will be games and refreshments will be served. Please look for more information to come on this.

Please stop "down under" and check out our "fisher of men" bulletin board and all the activity.

With His guidance we serve,

Jean McPherson, Director of Religious Education



### Here We Grow Preschool

Here we go again, off to another new year. It is the end of September and we still have a **few** criers. Usually by October the children have stopped crying and have settled into a nice routine. I will let you know next month if it happens or if it was just wishful thinking on my part.

*Here We Grow* began the school year with 55 three-year-olds and 75 four and five-year-olds. At this time we have 2 openings in the 5-day program, 1 opening in the p.m. 3's and 1 opening in the young 4's p.m. class. If you know of someone who would like to send their child to preschool, please send them our way.

During the month of September the children became familiar with their teachers, new friends and new surroundings. They had a tour of the church building and the beautiful renovated sanctuary. It looks wonderful.

Each child had homework the second week of school. Carrying on with one of our traditions, the children created a picture page of their families and added it to their classroom family album. It is one of the ways we become familiar with all the families attending HWG. I happened to stop in one of the classrooms the other day and one of the boys sat and shared his album page with me. It is a great way for the children to open up to someone, just talking about their families.

Once again most parents attended the three Parent Orientations which were held on the first days of school. Many questions were answered and hopefully any fears were put to rest. The parents also had the opportunity to pick up all forms needed for their children's files before the first day of school. Thank you to Denise Jobin for helping those parents out.

I would also like to thank Craig Premo, Wayne Prouty & David Sampson for all the help in preparing HWG for another school year. We wouldn't have been ready without their continued support. So THANKS, guys.

Upcoming events for the month of October: No more criers?, Apple Orchard field trips, visits from the police and fire departments, and Halloween parade and parties.

Until next month, stay healthy and enjoy the beautiful weather we have been having.

Dawn Murphy  
**Here We Grow** Preschool Director

## LEDGER

1773-1786

A few years ago I read and copied a ledger that was stored in the town hall basement. I don't believe this book has been read in the last two hundred years. It is a complete record of the step-by-step decisions made by our men in building our meetinghouse and forming our town.

The following is the fourth in a series of excerpts from these writings.

George DuHamel and Paula Lubin, Church Historians

Worcester Sa. To Jacob Stevens, Clark of the parish in the Southwest part of Worcester and the parts of the towns attached belonging to Said parish. You are hear by required in his magistrates name fourth with to notify and warn all the freholders and other inhabitance qualified according to the law to vot in town affairs belonging to Said parish to met at the Dwelling hous of Thomas Drury innholder of Worcester in said Parish on this Day the tenth Day of march next at one of the clock in the afternone to vote on the following articles.

Article 1 to chose a Moderator forsaid meeting.

2 to chose Parish clerk.

3 to chose all Parish officers as the Law Dirgets.

4 to grant money if they see caue to Pay for Preaching and other necessary youses for the benefit of the parish the year eusing.

5 to chose one or more Suitable persons to go to the general cort and return the names of those persons that have Signed & order of court invenne the courts order.

6 To see if the parish will buld a poreh or porehes to the parish meeting house or act thereon as they shall think Proper.

7 to know the minds of the parish whether they will buld a covenant plais for to hang a Bell on the meeting hous upon condition it beosen by Subscuption or act thereon as they Shall see caus.

You re hear by ordered to wrn the injabatitants of the above Said Parish by posting a true attested copy of this worent at the above Said Publick hous and make return of this worent to one on maiestries on or before the our of meting on the tenth Day of march next at one of the clock in the afternoon.

Given under our hands an Seal this twenty fifth Day of February one thousen Seven hundred and Seventy four an in the fourteenth gear of his maiestries heirs.

Alexander Nichols

John Hart

Comfort Rice

John Hart Jr.

Benjamin Carter

Committge for Said Parish

Worcester Sa. March ye 10, 1774

In obediencce to the worent I have warned all the freholders and votabzal inhabitance of this Parish to meet at time and plas agrezable to this worent by posting a copy of the same at the hous of Thomas Druryes Innholder in Worcester.



### News from Outreach

On Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> the church lawn/pumpkin patch will be the place to be! From 10 to 2 we are planning to serve coffee, donuts, and cider in the morning and then hot dogs and rolls with coffee and cider at noon.

The Heifer Project will provide a small petting zoo. Children will be able to make haunted houses. (We only have supplies for 100 houses so please sign up by calling the church office 9-2, Monday through Friday, or by calling Deb Pranaitis at 508-612-4521.) The cost to make a house is \$5 per child (in families with 3 or more children the first two children will be \$5 and each additional child will be charged \$3). The money earned from this event will go towards the \$5,000 needed to buy an ark for the Heifer Project International. Remember our overall goal is to build an ark with pairs of several different kinds of animals. These animals will provide families with a steady source of nourishment and income.



**Sunday Oct. 26th at  
Auburn Youth and Family Services  
Registration is at 12:45 and  
the walk starts at 1:00.**

This is a 3.5 mile walk that starts at Auburn Youth and Family Services, loops around by Bethel Lutheran for a bathroom break and ends back at Auburn Youth and Family Services. Families and friendly dogs on leashes are welcome (no bikes please.) Walkers gather sponsors and the proceeds go to Church World Service (**25% of the money will stay in Auburn and be given to Auburn Youth and Family Services**). This is a wonderful opportunity to walk with area church families in a common cause to end hunger. There is additional information on the table in Fellowship Hall.

Please see Sue Campbell to sign up on the First Congregational team or to make a donation. You may call Sue at (508) 799-2718 for more information.

*Thank you to everyone for your prayers for Gordon Battye and now also as he continues to recover at home.*

*Sincerely,  
Joan Battye*

*Thank you to my church family for all the cards and prayers while I was in the hospital. It was nice to know people were thinking of me.*

*Lillian McPherson*

### Youth On a Mission Fundraiser

The pies are coming! YOM will be offering samples and taking orders for Ever-So-Humble pies during coffee hour on 10/5 and 10/12. Pies will be in on 11/2. These pies are DELICIOUS so be sure to order enough for the holidays and still be able to keep one for yourself! **All orders and money due by 10/15.**

### Youth On a Mission Schedule

- Sun. 10/5 Be at church by 9:00 a.m. for Ever-So-Humble Pie samples/orders
- Sat. 10/11 Be at church at noon to unload pumpkins
- Sun. 10/12 Be at church by 9:15 a.m. for Ever-So-Humble Pie samples/orders

**10/12, 10/18, 10/19, 10/25, 10/26 - YOM pumpkin patch duty. See sign up sheet for YOUR specific dates and hours**

- Sun. 10/26 YOM will be doing the church service and presenting our trip to Marshall, NC
- Sat. 11/1 Bonfire at the Bohns - 6 to 10 p.m. Please feel free to bring a friend or two
- Sun. 11/2 Ever-So-Humble Pie Delivery
- Sun. 11/16 General meeting at 11:15 a.m.

**Don't forget to turn in your Camp Berea forms a.s.a.p.**

**And, remember, all teens are welcome at YOM!**

Thanks,  
Jennifer & Randy Bohn



## Managing through Change.... MISSION: POSSIBLE

Throughout the fall of 2008, we will delve a little deeper into the various ministries of our Church. Being constant in our Faith and serving others through our ministries is one way in helping us to keep in step with our Lord.

The Church bulletin for September 21<sup>st</sup> gave us some insight into the Parish Nurse Ministry within First Congregational Church of Auburn. Some of the programs offered are geared toward FCC members while others are offered at a regional level. We thank God for the talents He has given Deb Pranaitis, our Parish Nurse for approximately 9 years, which allow her to be such an advocate for our elderly as well as all the ways in which she helps our congregation and others in our local area.

September 28<sup>th</sup>'s article will give us a little insight into the goings-on of the yearly Confirmation Class of FCC. The Confirmation Class is under the direction of the Board of Education with the Lead Teacher being the Minister and its goal is a reaffirmation of Christian Faith through study and outreach for any youth 9<sup>th</sup> grade and above. One of the outreach programs the students are involved in is "City Reach," which is when the students make an overnight trip into Boston to feed and fellowship with the homeless in the city. It's a humbling experience for our youth who, under normal circumstances of everyday life, may never come in contact with a homeless person.

The following week will have us journeying into the activities of our Youth on a Mission (YOM). FCC's YOM group has been active for 5 years. The "mission" of this group is to provide voluntary community service. The group's primary service has been rehabilitation of homes and churches but although this is the case, the aim of the group is outreach. YOM trips include Jonesville, VA (2004), Wheeling, WV (2005), Hunterville, WV (2006), Pipeville, KY (2007) and Asheville, NC (Summer, 2008). YOM is not a line item in the Church's budget and relies solely on fundraising events and donations to provide what they need for their outreach activities. While planning their fundraising events which include an annual spring auction, the youths and their mentors also enjoy many social events such as bowling, plays, and cookouts.

Throughout the many changes we have endured this year, First Congregational Church of Auburn has remained very active in its various ministries. In your prayers, remember to thank our Lord for all that he provides so that we can continue to be faithful to Him.

In His Love,

Your Stewardship Committee:

Michele Schillinger (Chair), Todd Dube, Mike Dube, Steve and Sandy Landry, Ron Klaucke

### **MONDAY NIGHTS AT THE CHURCH**

Beginning October 6<sup>th</sup>, please join Pastor Mark Seifried, the Pastoral Search Committee and other church leaders for conversation and community Monday evenings at 5:30 in Fellowship Hall. We will begin our time together discussing the book *Becoming a Blessed Church* by N. Graham Standish and will likely meet throughout the year to discuss other books that are related to spiritual growth. Pastor Mark can order books at a discount, so if you'd like a copy, please contact him or Denise in the church office. Our gatherings will be casual and likely gastronomic (depending upon how the Spirit moves us), so bring a sandwich, a pizza or a pot of soup to share!



Library Tidings by Gloria Whitehead

Three Cups of Tea by Greg Martenson and David Oliver Relin - "One Man's Mission to Fight Terrorism and Build Nations . . . One School at a Time" is an intense and remarkable true story of a man who built 55 schools in Pakistan's and Afghanistan's poorest communities. Many parishioners have already sensed the experience and impact of the devastation in our unstable world through reading Three Cups of Tea.

\* \* \* \* \*

If Nathan Hale was living today we'd have to send him a letter telling him how much Haydn McPherson was impressed by Nathan's life. Haydn wrote this spontaneously and a big thank you goes to him. Also, the book flap notes that, although written for juniors and teenaged boys and girls, grownups will want to borrow this book so we're putting it in the adult library for a while. Marion Marsh Brown is the author of this fictionalized biography of an unforgettable patriot, Young Nathan.

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- Nathan Hale  
Haydn McPherson

Nathan came from a rich family. He was a school master. George Washington and Nathan became

62

Friends, Nathan wants to marry his step Alice. Nathan's cousin Sam turned him in to the British for spying. He was hanged. His famous line was I wish I could give more than my life for my country.

It's an oops! When we first distributed the DVD's that Nick Stockhaus had made of Pastor Ken's Retirement Service they were in a white envelope and we just listed your names. As your name wasn't written on the envelope, there was no way to identify who left the ones that were dropped off at the Children's Library this summer. Please let us know if you do not belong on this list of outstanding DVD borrowers: Allison Hill, Forrest Jacobs, Linda Mahlert, Barbara Cowden, Jean McPherson, Peggy Smith, Carol Jones, and Lee Fenby. Also, please let us know if you have one that you assume is signed out.

We apologize, but want to straighten out all the records.



October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Halloween Safety Month, Fire Prevention Safety Month, Talk About Prescriptions Month, Eye Injury Prevention Month, Healthy Lung Month, National Down Syndrome Awareness Month, and National Physical Therapy Month. October 5 -11 is Fire Prevention Week and National Mental Illness Awareness Week. October 6 is National Child Health Day, October 13 is Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day, October 16 is World Food Day, and October 17 is National Mammography Day. October 19 -25 is Respiratory Care Week, October 20 -24 is National Health Education Week, and October 20 is World Osteoporosis Day. Please check the table in Fellowship Hall for information on these subjects.

I would like to start "Get My People Going" later this month. This is a wellness program designed for use by everyone in the congregation. The goal is to encourage a healthy lifestyle. You can participate by doing armchair exercises, drinking more water, or strengthening your prayer life. This program is set in the context of the Exodus story. Please read the following article and consider participation. I will be available to answer any questions. God Bless!

Debbie Pranaitis  
Parish Nurse

### **“Get My People GOING!!” - An invitation to Wholeness**

You are invited to take part in a healthy lifestyle challenge with others from our congregation that will take place from October 12th to December 6th. This “invitation to wholeness” encourages you to identify small changes in your lifestyle which would help you be healthier. YOU choose three areas you would like to work on, and YOU set your own goals. WE will encourage each other, and WE will journey together.

Moses was radically changed by his experience in traveling with the people of Israel on their way out of Egypt to the Promised Land. Our program is based on the Exodus story and invites us to encourage each other to seek wholeness in all areas of our lives - from healthy eating, to moderate exercise, to getting enough sleep. It is for all ages, and for people of every health condition, because it is completely tailored to your situation and your choices. Our parish nurse, Debbie Pranaitis, will be glad to answer any questions you might have about the program. You will receive a small packet of materials when you sign up. We will be available after worship on October 5th and October 12th to sign you up and get you started.

### **Our Historical Memory**

Throughout the month of October, you're invited to come to Sunday worship a bit early, stay for coffee hour, or come by the church during the week. Pastor Mark wants members of the community to note our memories of people, events, and news throughout the history of First Congregational Church. We'll cover the wall across from the pastor's office with a large timeline which the congregation will fill with memories. You'll have opportunities to share what the community was like, what was happening in the neighborhood, what the congregation was like, and the prevailing worship style. We will be sharing significant events in the life of the church, the community, the Nation, and the world. We'll note significant people who affected each of these realms. Following worship on October 26, we'll wrap it up with some reflections regarding what the responses tell us about the church. This will be a fun project for all ages: the long-time and newer members, the old and the young people in the church ... and everyone in between. Come and make your mark on the history of the church!

**FROM THE CHOIR ROOM**

**“Why Do We Need a Choir?”**

This question, “Why do we need a choir? We’ve got lots of CD’s.” wound its way back to me. My first thought was, “Of course we need a choir!” But . . . why? I turned to God in prayer for a clear answer. Immediately, our music mission statement came to mind. “To worship God through music and to partner with others in experiencing the power of music and faith to build community.

***Build Community***

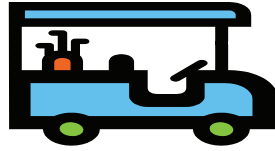
That would not be possible without *actual people* to do it. An inanimate object is no substitute for God’s own living children, lifting their voices in praise and thanksgiving to Him. Music is one of many gifts God gives us and calls us to use. For those of us blessed with a love of music, whether singing or listening, music *MINISTERS* to us. We use music to heal, to pray, to uplift, and to learn God’s word.

As the worship service is the foundation of the Christian faith, this is where we can joyfully follow God’s call to use our gifts in His name. *That* is why we need a choir.

Blessings,  
Heather Moore  
Minister of Music

Joyful Noyse Schedule

10/5, 12 & 19	11:15 a.m. rehearsal
10/26	9:15 a.m. rehearsal TBA
11/2, 9 & 16	11:15 a.m. rehearsal
11/23	9:15 a.m. rehearsal <i>Lord, I Lift Your Name on High</i>
11/30	11:15 a.m. rehearsal
12/7, 14	11:15 a.m. rehearsal
12/21	9:15 a.m. <i>Light a Little Candle</i>
12/24	5:00 p.m. Service 4:45 warm-up <i>Come, Light of the World</i>



**First Congregational Church 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament**  
**Saturday October 18<sup>th</sup> 2008**  
**Pine Ridge Country Club in Oxford**  
**12 p.m. Registration - 1:00 p.m. Tee-off**

Event Features:  
 Raffle – Longest Drive Contest – Closest to the pin contest – Prizes to top 3 Teams

\$90 per player- includes golf, cart and dinner!  
 Non-golfers welcome to join us for dinner- \$30.00 per person!

-----detach here-----

Players:  
 1.) \_\_\_\_\_  
 2.) \_\_\_\_\_  
 3.) \_\_\_\_\_  
 4.) \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsor a Hole- \$100.00**  
  
 In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_  
 In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
 or Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner only: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: First Congregational Church (write GOLF in memo section!)  
 Return to: FCC, 128 Central Street, Auburn, MA 01501

*TIDINGS is a monthly publication of*

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

Phone: (508)832-2845

Web: [auburnfirstucc.org](http://auburnfirstucc.org)



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

**October 2008**

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	