



# 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!'"*  
~ Isaiah 40:9

## From the Pastor

Cabbage and I walk morning and night just about everyday. Often when we are walking, I try to keep him off a lawn because I see a little sign that says pesticide or herbicide then a picture of a child and a dog with the circle and slash. I wonder, what is the point of a lawn if it is not for dogs and kids to walk and play on it?

This also reminds me of an email that made the rounds years ago. I found this on several sites, but no definitive proof of author.



*Imagine the conversation the Creator might have had with St. Francis on the subject of lawns:*

*God: Hey St. Francis, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there in the Midwest? What happened to the dandelions, violets, thistle and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect "no maintenance" garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But all I see are these green rectangles.*

*St. Francis: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers "weeds" and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.*

*God: Grass? But it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees, only grubs and sod worms. It's temperamental with temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?*

*St. Francis: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.*

*God: The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.*

*St. Francis: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it... sometimes twice a week.*

*God: They cut it? Do they then bail it like hay?*

*St. Francis: Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.*

*God: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?*

*St. Francis: No Sir. Just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.*

*God: Now let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?*

*St. Francis: Yes, Sir.*

*God: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.*

*St. Francis: You are not going to believe this Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.*

*God: What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. Plus, as they rot, the leaves form compost to enhance the soil. It's a natural circle of life.*

*St. Francis: You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.*

*God: No. What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter and to keep the soil moist and loose?*

*St. Francis: After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.*

*God: And where do they get this mulch?*

*St. Francis: They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.*

*God: Enough. I don't want to think about this anymore. Sister Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?*

*Sister Catherine: "Dumb and Dumber," Lord. It's a real stupid movie about....*

*God: Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis.*

Continued on next page . . .

From the Pastor *continued from page 1. . .*

In the Midwest, especially, a good lawn was required to be considered a good member of the neighborhood. A dead lawn or weeds in front of your house would lead to you being on a police watch list. If you did not care for your lawn, surely you were also a criminal of the worst type.

On Army bases there was a sergeant nicknamed "The Lawn Nazi" who would measure every lawn and issue warnings or fines if the lawn was too long.

Are our lawns a good idea? Would some wild flowers (often called weeds) be that bad? Of course, I am already known as a lawn heretic. I like dandelions.

*Pastor Brian*

#### **SERMON TITLES FOR SEPTEMBER:**

9/3 "I AM Sent Me"

9/10 "The Passover or OH MY GOD, THIS IS SOOOO SCARY!"

9/17 "Brotherly Love"

9/24 "What Is Fair?" 9/24 "Why Am I Upset?" - Children's Sermon

#### **ONLY 7 WEEKS UNTIL THE FAIR!**

Everything is moving along for the fair. As always, it is coming upon us sooner than we imagine. Be sure to put the date, **October 14th**, on your calendar. That is the Saturday AFTER Columbus Day weekend, as we did last year. It will only be the one day again as well.

Assignments are as follows:

Cindy Ryan and Diane Moore - co-chairs and Silent Auction/Grandma's Pantry/ Food

Judy Murphy - Crafts Gayle Farley - Jewelry Sheila Skog - Attic Treasures Pat Bukoski - Publicity

\*\*\*NOTE: It turns out we will NOT be having vendors. It seems we will have plenty with our traditional fair.

**PLEASE** keep in mind the silent auction if you have furniture that can be repurposed, or something that you have had for years and never used (many times items are still in original packaging, unopened), or gift certificates from your place of employment, favorite restaurant, etc. Please consider either asking for it to be donated, or purchasing one yourself and donating it. You can always make something as well.



Also, we will be calling you to bake and make food for our new frozen dinner section.



**ATTIC TREASURES** Please begin to think about what you would like to donate. Please, no clothes of any kind and no VCR tapes. We welcome your books, DVD's, CD's, puzzles, games, etc. You may begin dropping off donations for storage behind the stage in the downstairs vestry.

**ATTENTION JEWELRY LOVERS:** Gayle Farley requests that you please keep our fair in mind when you are cleaning out your jewelry drawers or finding great bargains at yard sales. After three years of sales, our stash is getting low. Donations will be accepted now and until the fair. Early donations give Gayle time to repair and clean jewelry. The following items would make an interesting addition to the table: jewelry or trinket boxes, scarves, small pocket books, cat/dog figurines, small plates, dresser scarves, doilies, paper weights. Items may be given to Gayle or left at the Church office (**please mark "for Gayle"**). Contact info: [gayle2bill@gmail.com](mailto:gayle2bill@gmail.com) or 508-753-0285

*All crafters – WE NEED YOU! This year we are asking that you make items at home rather than having craft nights at the church. Please let Judy Murphy know if you have any ideas and what you might contribute.*

**REMINDER TO ALL COMMITTEES/BOARDS – PLEASE BE THINKING ABOUT YOUR BASKETS. HAVING THEM SOONER RATHER THAN LATER IS PREFERABLE. THANKS SO MUCH!!!**

Cindy Ryan (508-832-3416 or 508-769-2740)

September Tidings from **Here We Grow** Preschool

Welcome to the 28<sup>th</sup> year of **Here We Grow** Preschool being an educational outreach program of the First Congregational Church in Auburn. On September 5, 2017 our doors will open as we welcome 102 children and their families for another great year of meeting and making new friends, and exploring and learning in a beautiful environment. As I mentioned, we have 102 children enrolled which means we have 20 openings in all M/W/F a.m. and ext., T/TH a.m. and p.m. and T/W/TH p.m. classes. Our 5 day extended class is full. At this time, I am still receiving phone calls from families wanting to visit HWG and conducting tours.

Our staff for this year are: room 1 is Anne Coyne and Michelle Lempicki, room 2 is Michele Fuller and Mariann Lavallee, room 3 is Helen Ethier and Patti Bickford, and room 4 is Courtney Tomaszewicz and Diana Mancini.

Thanks for all the help we received to get ready for the new school year. During the summer the HWG classrooms were again cleaned by Sally Gagnon. A big thank you to Mike Schillinger for all the help he gives HWG and the great job he did preparing the vestry floor and the floor in room 4. Things are looking great.

With the end of the 2016/17 school year, once again it was difficult saying goodbye to many of our families who had been with us for a while; we wished them well, and asked them to keep sending their friends our way. Many, if not all, feel the **Here We Grow** Preschool is the best program around.

All end-of-year field trips went well as did all the graduations. The four-year-olds and young fours had day graduations with make your own sundae parties. The three-year-olds had a short program in their classrooms which worked out well. All children and their families enjoyed Spree Day with games and entertainment by Pumpernickel Puppets. I am proud to say that we made it through another successful year.

So, off we go to another school year with many new faces, many returning faces, and the hope that we, as a staff, have a positive impact on the lives of these little children.

Until next month, enjoy the weather and stay safe.

Cristi Corey, **Here We Grow** Director

### Get Your "From our Pumpkin Patch" Cookbook Here!

Our cookbook contains over 200 recipes! In addition to "Our Favorite Pumpkin Recipes" section, we have Appetizers & Beverages, Soups & Salads, Vegetables & Side Dishes, Main Dishes, Breads & Rolls, Desserts, Cookies & Candy, and "This & That" (miscellaneous recipes that don't quite fit into the other categories).

Our cookbook will be available for purchase at the Church's Pumpkin Patch Fair on October 14<sup>th</sup>! If you come by the table at the Fair, there might even be a treat or two from the cookbook available for tasting!! At \$15 apiece, they will make a great addition to your own kitchen library as well as a wonderful gift for any occasion - a birthday, anniversary, bridal shower or housewarming gift or a holiday gift for Christmas...

Need additional incentive? This is a church fundraiser; a portion of each cookbook sold goes to the church's general fund. Cookbooks are available to purchase during coffee hours or call Michele at 508-259-2239.

You may also email her at [library@auburnfirstucc.org](mailto:library@auburnfirstucc.org). Please include "cookbook" in the subject line.

Please mark your calendars for **Rally Day** which will take place on **Sunday, September 10th**. Rally Day is the official kick-off of Sunday School.

Our Cradle Roll and Sunday School are equipped to meet the needs of newborns up to middle school-aged children.

**We look forward to seeing you there!**



**Library Corner....****The Children's Library is open!!**

Beginning September 17<sup>th</sup>, on all Sundays while Sunday School is in session, the Children's Library will be opening at 9:30 a.m.

**Parents -Take notice...**From now on, when you bring your children down to Sunday School, please drop them off in the Children's Library. When it is time for Sunday School to begin, the teachers will come get the children for their respective classes. While waiting, the children are encouraged to check out the many books we have available in our Library.

**5 Simple Rules of the Library**

- Children will be allowed to borrow 2 books out of the library at a time
- Books should be returned within 2 weeks
- Children will not be able to check out any other books until previously checked out books have been returned
- Have a care for the books you borrow, so someone else might be able to enjoy them once they've been returned
- Be courteous and respectful of the other children and adults while in the library

Any questions or concerns, please speak with Michele Schillinger, Church Librarian

**Coffee Hour Hosts:**

9/3	Bev Geddes & Marion Woodcock
9/10, 17	Historian, Library, Nominating & Memorial/Scholarship Committees
9/24	Board of Deacons
10/1, 8	Personnel Committee
10/15	Outreach Committee
10/22	Stewardship Committee
10/29, 11/5	Financial Secretaries/Treasurers

**SEPTEMBER COMMUNITY SUPPER**

Plan to join us at 5 p.m. on  
Saturday, September 16th, for a delicious  
**Roast Beef Supper.**

Adults ~ \$10  
Children are free!

Servers this month are members of the Board of Ed. Additional volunteers are always appreciated!

*Dear Scholarship Committee,*

*Thank you for giving me the Callan James Guilford and the Witcher Scholarships.*

*These scholarships will help allow me to continue my education at Westfield State.*

*Cassie Stockhaus*

*To the First Congregational Church Scholarship Committee,*

*I wanted to reach out and thank you greatly for the Jay Murray Scholarship award. I will use this to further my education at Becker College.*

*Thank you for helping me with my college education.*

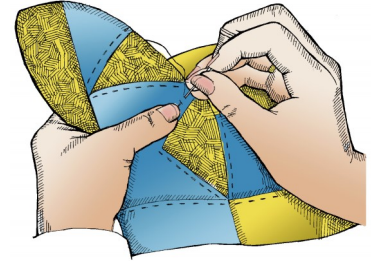
*Sincerely,  
Abby Leahy*

(Joyce & Wayne Prouty's granddaughter)



### Auburn Comfort Blankets

Have you heard the news? After a 20-year affiliation with Project Linus, Carole Murray has made the decision to end her ties with the organization. The good news is that our Project Linus blanketeers who meet on Tuesday mornings at the church will continue their good works and good times under the new name: Auburn Comfort Blankets. As a result of a recent vote of the Church Council, Auburn Comfort Blankets is now under the umbrella of the Board of Christian Outreach, although we do not seek financial support from their allotted funds.



The purpose of Auburn Comfort Blankets, or ACB, will be for the local distribution of handmade cloth or yarn blankets (no fleece will be accepted) to those experiencing stress from trauma, illness, or life-changing events. This purpose differs from that of Project Linus only in that we will provide blankets to children and to adults as well. Besides the usual delivery of infant and children's blankets to both UMass and Memorial Hospitals, some of the agencies who are potential recipients of blankets are both men's and women's veterans shelters, women and children's and men's homeless and abuse shelters, and Hospice. Personal requests for blankets from church members and friends who know of a need would also be fulfilled locally.

ACB welcomes offers of help with the making of quilt tops or completed quilts, knitted or crocheted (using patterns with no holes for little fingers to poke through) blankets. Monetary donations for the purchase of batting and quilt-tying supplies may be made through our church. We ask that checks be made out to FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUBURN with a note on the check for it to be applied to Auburn Comfort Blankets account. This keeps your donation tax-deductible and will appear on your annual statement as noted. Donations of yarn suitable for soft blankets and only 100% cotton fabric would be appreciated. Questions and offers of participation may be directed to Kathy Holt, Sue Campbell or Carol Luther, as well as Carole Murray.

In closing, THANK YOU to Carole Murray for her years of service as Area Coordinator for Project Linus. She has overseen the distribution of nearly 45,000 blankets over the years. That is a lot of comfort, healing, warmth and love that was spread around!

Please add Nancy MacLeod's new address to your directory. She has moved to the Cape to be closer to her daughter, Judy.

Nancy would love to hear from her church family. You may send cards to:  
Nancy MacLeod  
c/o Benchmark Sr. Living at Plymouth Crossings  
157 South Street, Room 110  
Plymouth, MA 02360

### FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

January through July statements are in the process of being mailed. These giving statements only reflect the first half of the year 2017 pledge, including July donations.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at 508-832-9347. Please leave your name and call back number with a detailed message. I will respond as soon as possible.

Thank you,  
Sue MacPhee

### **American Cancer Society's Relay for Life**

Celebrate ~ Remember ~ Fight Back

September 8th - 9th  
(6:00 p.m. Fri. - noon Sat.)  
at Lemansky Park, Auburn

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"When we try to do God's job, we get in God's way." - Beth Moore



Deaths in Our  
Church Family

The following families have experienced losses since the last printing of the *Tidings* in late May. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they continue to mourn the loss of their loved ones.

**William E. Wallace Jr.**, 89, passed away on June 25th, 2017, surrounded by his family. Bill grew up in a tenement house on Newbury Street in Boston, MA. As soon as Bill met the age requirement, he joined the army, and was a member of the U.S. Army Military Police. After the war, he followed in his father's footsteps and pursued a career in the funeral business. He graduated from the former Boston School of Anatomy and Embalming in 1950. In 1955, he established the Wallace Funeral Home in Auburn - which he ran until 1988.

He served as a member of the Board of Deacons and Board of Trustees of our Church. He was a volunteer with the American Red Cross. Bill was a member of the Auburn Board of Health, the Hazardous Waste Site Safety Committee and the Town of Auburn Solid Waste Advisory Committee. He was a former Town Meeting Member, Past President of the Auburn District Nursing Association, and Past President and Charter Member of the Auburn Kiwanis Club. He was an incorporator and President of the former Auburn Business Men's Association (now the Auburn Chamber of Commerce). He was a Justice of the Peace and a member of the Massachusetts Justice of the Peace Association and served on its Executive Board. He remained a member of the National Funeral Directors Association as well as the Massachusetts Funeral Directors Association.

He is survived by three sons, William E. Wallace III, Robert J. Wallace Sr., Christopher J. Sommerhoff, one daughter, Karin Graves, as well as nine grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren. He was pre-deceased by his wife of 43 years, Norma H. (Ring) Wallace, and his son, Donald B. Wallace.

A service with military honors was held on Friday June 30, 2017 at Britton-Wallace Funeral Home in Auburn with private burial in Hillside Cemetery, Auburn.

**Joyce A. (Mitchell) Aker Wooldridge**, 79, of Auburn passed away peacefully of Alzheimer's on Saturday, July 29, 2017 in Evergreen Nursing Home in East Providence, RI. Joyce was born in Brattleboro, Vermont and raised in Auburn, the daughter of the late Herbert I. and Eleanor J. (Brown) Mitchell. Her older brother, Glenn E. Mitchell, passed in 2014; her younger brother, Ernest L. Mitchell, lives in Windham, ME. Joyce adored her family and built her life around caring for others. She worked in the Auburn Public School cafeterias. In retirement, Joyce volunteered at the Auburn Life Care Center and around the Town of Auburn, earning her a Massachusetts Volunteer of the Year Award in 1998.

She leaves her loving children, Kevin W. Aker; Bonnie M. Courtemanche; Beverly L. Tatro; Mitchell O. Aker; and Scott A. Wooldridge. She is also survived by a niece, two nephews, and many beloved grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her funeral was held on Thursday, August 3, 2017 at our Church. Burial followed in Worcester County Memorial Park, Paxton, MA.

**Eunice Borglund** passed on August 2. She is survived by daughter, Nancy J. Sigmund and her husband, Ted, two grandsons, Kevin and Christopher Sigmund, two sisters, Edna L. Kurtz and Frances A. Zuckerman and several nephews and nieces. A service was held on Saturday, August 12, 2017 at Lindquist Lundin Funeral Home in Worcester.

**Carolyn R. (Cooper) Slongwhite**, 91, died peacefully on Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at Overlook Masonic Home in Charlton. She was born in Worcester, the daughter of Harold and Amy (Peterson) Cooper and lived many years in Princeton, Rutland, Brookfield and Auburn before moving to Charlton over 10 years ago.

Carolyn graduated from Princeton High School in 1943. She married the love of her life, the late Donald W. Slongwhite in 1944. Carolyn worked for RH Hamilton and Son in Princeton and went on to work as Assistant Treasurer for Rutland Heights Hospital, retiring in 1984. Carolyn was a long time member of the First Congregational Church of Princeton. After moving to Auburn, Carolyn became a member of our Church.

She leaves her daughters, Marcia L. Siart and Linda E. Babineau; her sister, Elaine C. Ives; three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. Carolyn was predeceased by her husband of 71 years, Donald W. Slongwhite, in 2015; her brother, Rev. Harold F. Cooper and her sister, Corrine Dodge.

A Funeral Service was held on Monday, August 21st at Miles Funeral Home in Holden. Burial was at Worcester County Memorial Park, Paxton.

**FROM JEAN McPHERSON, OUR DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Welcome back! I pray everyone had a wonderful summer filled with sunshine and good times. Over the summer Lillian, Rebecca and I were hard at work sprucing up the classrooms for another year filled with the opportunity to discover more about our amazing faith and God’s unyielding love.

Our teachers for the fall are:

Shannon Hartmann	Pre K – 1
Myself	Grades 2-3
Lillian McPherson	Grades 4-5
Mike Schillinger	Middle School

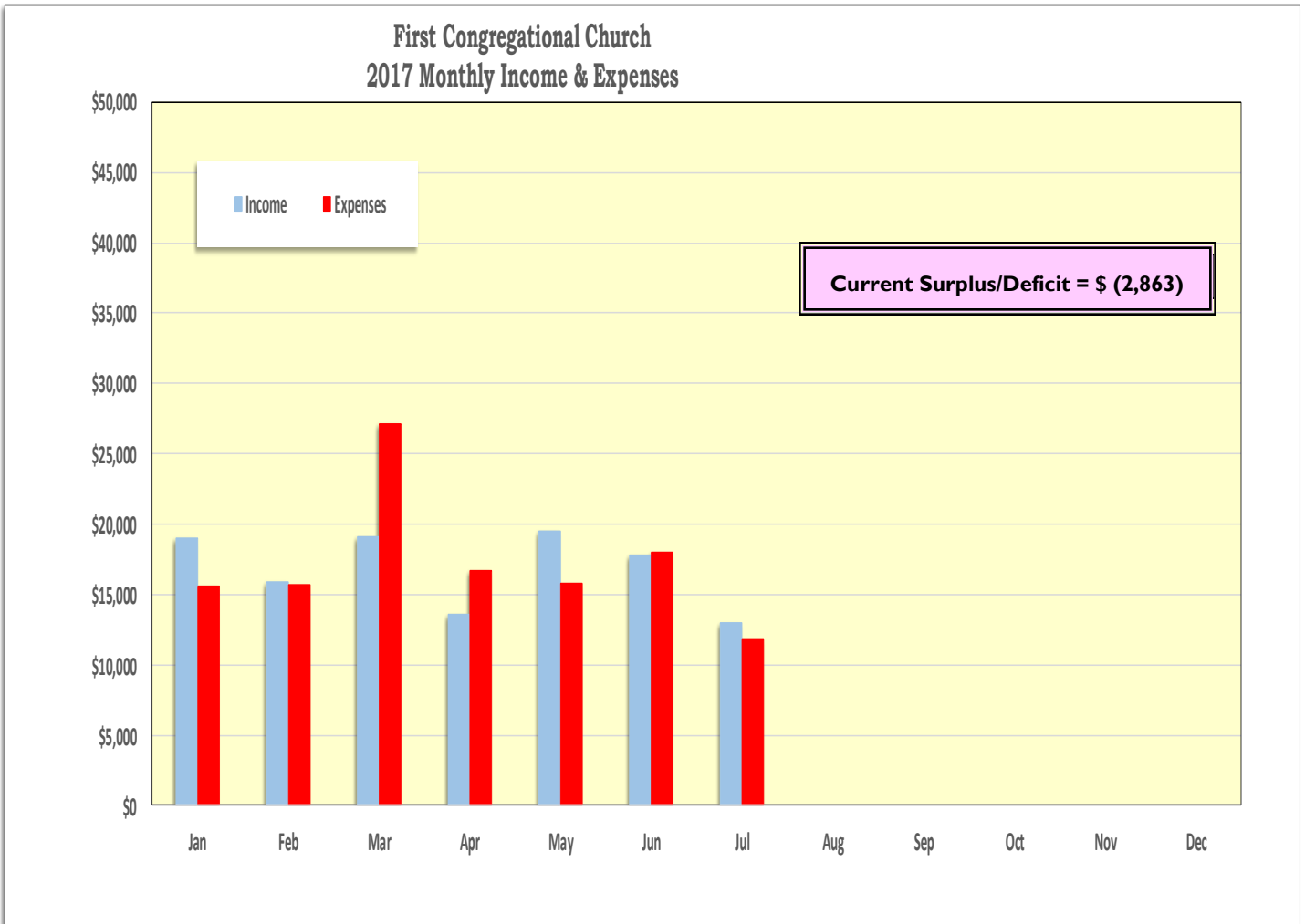
**\*\*\*New\*\*\* Library Program**

Prior to the start of Sunday School, the Library Committee has volunteered to open the library at 9:30 a.m. to allow kids to pick out a book. Please see detailed information under **“Library Corner” on page 4.**

**Youth On a Mission (YOM)**

YOM is open to anyone in grades 6-12. We usually meet at least once a month for fun and fellowship. We will be having our “Get to Know You” pizza party on Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, from 7 to 9 p.m. From 7 to 7:30 p.m. we will have a parent meeting so please arrive at 7 p.m. and bring a parent. Also, be sure to invite your friends to join us. We will have food, games and plan our year. Anyone who is interested, please email me at [crazyclan6@live.com](mailto:crazyclan6@live.com) so I can plan food and add you to our group email list. Also, be sure to mark your calendars for our first sleepover on Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. We will discuss this in more detail on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Jean McPherson, Director of Religious Education





**Choir Practice** will resume beginning **Thursday, September 7th, at 6:00 p.m.** We will be singing during the worship service on **September 10th.** If you're interested in joining the adult choir, please speak with Heather Moore, our Minister of Music.

*Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!*

*Psalms 95:2*

**A BIG THANK YOU** to all who helped and contributed in any way to our yard sale last June. Lots of shopping was done, as well as eating. We realized a profit of over \$2,300 — a great day all around!

Thank you and God bless,  
Cindy Dube

(And our heartfelt thanks to Cindy and her right-hand gal, Judy Murphy, for all of their hard work!)

September Birthdays include:

Pastor Brian - Sept. 6th

Jacob McPherson - Sept. 14th

**Happy Birthday!**

On September 14th  
Lori & Nick Stockhaus will  
be celebrating their 26th  
wedding anniversary -

**Congratulations!**



### POTLUCK & MOVIE/BOOK DISCUSSIONS

With summer coming to a close, we will begin meeting again for potluck suppers. Our first get-together is planned for Tuesday, Sept. 19th, at 5:30p.m. in the "green room."

All are welcome to join us for supper and fellowship as we view the movie, *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, a 1975 British slapstick comedy film that parodies the legend of King Arthur's quest to find the Holy Grail.

On Oct. 17th at 6 p.m., we will be taking a second look at the book, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* by Robert Fulghum. Here Fulghum engages us with musings on life, death, love, pain, joy, and sorrow.

**All are welcome!**

Alice Carlson wishes to thank her church family for thinking of her as she recently marked her 90th birthday!

The cards and well wishes are very much appreciated and she hopes to get back to church soon.

### Concert Grand and the Ukulele Band!

A Sunday afternoon sing-along on July 23, was led by pianist Jackie Knox and the Machias Ukuleles (University of Maine at Machias Ukulele Club). Knox was taught to play piano when she was 9-years-old by her uncle, William Tooze, on the century-old Henry Miller concert grand piano at the Eastport Arts Center in Eastport, ME. She has been coming back to visit the EAC, as well as favorite haunts Down East, for many years, and has had a recurring gig as pianist for the EAC's annual Moose Island Follies.

The UMM Ukulele Club, inspired by a mid-1920's club at the university, was revived in 2006 and has been going strong ever since. The diverse group of UMM students and community members keeps busy.



Article was taken from [www.Artsipelago.net](http://www.Artsipelago.net)





Below is only a partial listing of this month's National Health Observances. September is:

Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, Fruits & Veggies—More Matters® Month, Healthy Aging® Month, National Atrial Fibrillation Awareness Month, National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month, National Food Safety Education Month, National Preparedness Month, National Recovery Month, National Sickle Cell Month, National Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness Month, National Yoga Awareness Month, Newborn Screening Awareness Month, Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, Pain Awareness Month, Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, Sepsis Awareness Month, Sports Eye Safety Month, Whole Grains Month and World Alzheimer's Month

- 10 - 16 National Suicide Prevention Week
- 13 National Celiac Disease Awareness Day
- 18 - 24 National Farm Safety & Health Week
- 18 - 22 Malnutrition Awareness Week™
- 18 National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day
- 19 Get Ready Day (flu season)
- 20 National School Backpack Awareness Day
- 22 Falls Prevention Awareness Day
- 24 Family Health & Fitness Day USA®
- 25 Sport Purple for Platelets Day
- 27 National Women's Health & Fitness Day
- 28 World Rabies Day
- 29 World Heart Day

I will be out of the country from August 30<sup>th</sup> until September 14<sup>th</sup>. I have no idea what my cell coverage will be. If you have questions, I will be checking my email.

God bless,  
Debbie Pranaitis, Parish Nurse, email: debpra@charter.net

### **Bell Choir**

Are you interested in joining a dynamic and fun-loving group? Then the bell choir is probably the right answer for you. We will have an organizational meeting for this year's group on Sunday, September 17th, during coffee hour.

Ringling bells requires: no previous experience. You also do not need to know how to read music. All that is required is a little enthusiasm and dedication.

Join us during coffee hour on the 17th for more info. This is not a commitment!

Herb Mower

### **GOD'S GIFTS, MY GIFTS**

*We on the Stewardship Committee hope that everyone enjoyed the wonderful New England summer, one of God's many gifts to us. This fall we will be sharing our thoughts on the theme of God's Gifts, My Gifts. What are some of the gifts that we have received, and how can we share them?*

*When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed. - Maya Angelou*

### The Pumpkin Patch will be opening soon!

The pumpkins will be arriving at the Church on September 30<sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m.

We are hoping for the usual great turnout of people to unload the truck. We will be getting a full truck again this year, so the more people — the faster it will go.

Once again the patch will be managed by Sheila Skog, Debbie Mahlert, Linda Mahlert, and Judi Taft. Please help out by planning now to set aside days to help with the patch. Look for a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall and relieve stress by signing-up early!

We're all looking forward to another successful pumpkin patch season!

**THANK YOU!**



*TIDINGS is a monthly publication of*

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*God's church in Auburn Center  
doing Christ's work in the world.*

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



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

### September 2017

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

**OR CURRENT RESIDENT**