



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!’”

That They May All Be One

Reflections from your Interim Pastor, Rev. Mark Seifried

Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. [1 Corinthians 2:12-13](#)

As I write this article, we begin a week of prayer for Christian unity. It seems silly that we'd need to do such a thing, but the reality is that the church of Jesus Christ is sharply divided and it's mostly because of turf wars. Most people think that we're divided because of differing theologies and social outlooks. That's only true to a certain extent. Don't tell other church folks this because it's just a speculation on my part, but I think we trump up excuses not to like each other. If you look and listen, you will see that pastors and lay leaders in one church compete with pastors and leaders in another for new members, pledges and endowments, public recognition, staff and programs. Most of us would never want to admit this, of course! Who wants to confess to pettiness much less betraying one's call from God to serve Christ's church selflessly?

Perhaps the churches in Auburn have a chance to behave differently. There have been a few meetings recently between leaders of several churches in Auburn: our First Congregational UCC, Faith Baptist, and Bethel Lutheran. We are discussing an exciting joint venture: the Alpha Course.

Over 11 million people worldwide have attended an Alpha course, giving them an opportunity to explore faith and the meaning of life. Alpha has run in tens of thousands of churches of all denominations, and at universities, in prisons and on military bases across the world. During the Alpha course people explore the Christian faith in a relaxed setting over ten thought-provoking weekly sessions, with a day-long or weekend away so that the group can grow deeper in relationship with one another and deeper in faith. Alpha is low-key, friendly and fun – and is supported by all the main Christian denominations – our three Auburn congregations included. Unless you opt to buy some of the supporting materials, it's free too! (FYI: see me if you want to buy some books and can't afford the cost. We'll find the money for this!)

The great thing about Alpha is that it's for all Christians – whether new to the faith or an 80-year disciple. One of the first congregations I served offered the Alpha course ... and thank God they did. I didn't care for quite a few of the people in that church. It felt more like a country club than a community of faith (with sort of the same posturing you see among competing clergy!). I certainly did not fit in. However, fifteen or so members of the church participated in the Alpha course and I perceived incredible transformation: they were noticeably more loving, humble and gracious as the course went on. By the end of the ten weeks, they literally seemed like new people: committed to Christ, the ministry of the church and to one another. They helped change the whole feel of that congregation because their love for God and one another became contagious.

I invite you to pray about this opportunity. Take a look at the outline and schedule on the next page .

That They May All Be One (Alpha) Continued from page one . . .

It doesn't say so, but each meeting begins with a potluck dinner, followed by the viewing of a 30 - 45 minute video vignette that highlights the topic for the evening, and ends with a one -hour small group discussion.

Please take some time in the next week or so to think about your level of satisfaction in life. Has life lost its luster? Are you looking for deeper relationships with family and friends? Are you hoping that all this church nonsense leads somewhere someday? Do you need to feel the presence of God more fully? This may be the opportunity of a lifetime: to grow in faith, to grow toward God, to grow relationships with other committed Christians, to help unify the church of Jesus Christ.

Please see me or call one of the people listed on the course outline if you would like more information. You may also want to check out Alpha online at <http://www.alphausa.org/>. If you don't have computer access, stop by the church office. Denise and I will let you use the computers in our offices.

The motto of the United Church of Christ is the words that Jesus used in a prayer at the end of his ministry: "That they may all be one" (John 17:21). May we become that prayer as we step out and grow in faith for our personal good and the good of Christian unity.

The Alpha Ministry Team cordially invites you to our

Alpha Kick-Off Dinner Monday, Feb. 23 at 6 PM

**This is a great opportunity to invite people you know who have asked the question
"Is there more to life than this?"**

Spend an evening together enjoying food, fellowship and a thought-provoking DVD by Nicky Gumbel entitled: *Christianity: Boring, Untrue, Irrelevant?*

**For more information call John at 508-471-6915 or Julie at 508-987-3531
or email: fbcalpha@hotmail.com.**

We look forward to seeing you!

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

ALPHA REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone (Day): _____ Phone (Evening): _____

Cell Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

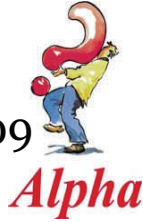
Will you need childcare? Yes Ages of children: _____ No

Please complete this form and mail it to ALPHA of Auburn, Faith Baptist Church, 22 Faith Avenue, Auburn, MA 01501. You can also register by emailing fbcalpha@hotmail.com. For more information, call Julie Sweeney at 508-987-3531 or John Bouthiller at 508-471-6915.

MONDAY Alpha

6-8:30 PM

Feb. 23 – May 11, 2009



Feb. 23 Kick-Off Dinner
 Christianity: Boring, Untrue, Irrelevant?

March 2 Who is Jesus?

March 9 Why did Jesus die?

March 16 How can I be sure of my faith?

March 23 Why and how should I read the Bible?

March 30 Why and how do I pray?

April 4 Holy Spirit Saturday

April 6 How can I resist evil?

April 13 How does God guide us?

April 20 Why and how should we tell others?

April 27 Does God heal today?

May 4 What about the church?

May 11 Celebration Dinner

For more information call:
 Julie Sweeney @ 508-987-3531 or
 John Bouthiller @ 508-471-6915

To register online, email:
 fbcalpha@hotmail.com

*Baptized
 in the name
 of the Lord*



Congratulations go out to Keith Braman and Tara Morton on the recent baptism of their son, Jackson Keith Braman. Jackson was baptized at FCC on Jan. 11, 2009.

May God bless and keep you, Jackson.

Tidings 2009

Subscription Renewal Form

In an effort to offset the costs of publishing the Monthly Tidings, we are asking for members and friends to support a voluntary subscription. Your participation is entirely optional and will not affect whether or not you receive the Tidings.

Annual Renewal -
 (10 issues, no July or August issue)

Please enclose a check or money order for \$10 payable to: **First Congregational Church.**

Please write "**Tidings**" in the memo section

Mail to:

First Congregational Church
 128 Central Street
 Auburn, MA 01501

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Thank You!

Happy Anniversary to:

Donald & Carolyn
 Slongwhite who
 will be celebrating
 their anniversary
 on February 27th.



Coffee Hour Hosts

- 2/1 ~ Board of Ed
- 2/8, 2/15 ~ Library
- 2/22, 3/1 ~ Stewardship
- 3/8 ~ Girl Scouts
- 3/15 ~ Outreach

Stewardship Message

Keeping What Matters

Then the king responded, 'Give the first woman the living boy; do not kill him. She is his mother.' (1 Kings 3: 27, full story 1 Kings 3: 16-28)

It was close to Valentine's Day and the confirmation class was tittering. To cut through the silliness I invited them to go around the circle and share a scripture about love to the best of their memory. I was impressed by how many "love passages" they knew, more than – love one another ... neighbor ... stranger.

Andy's unique choice was the story usually called Solomon's choice. Two women with newborns shared lodging. One infant died in the night and both claimed the living child. They screamed at each other. Solomon suggested the baby boy be bisected and each woman be given half. One woman said, "Fine." (*Can you hear the teenaged boy say it?*) The other said, "Give her the baby – don't kill him." Solomon gave this woman the child. Whatever the biological truth was – this was the mother!

"So, how is this a love story?" I asked.

"Well, if you really love something or someone, you know that cutting it in half will kill it." said Andy. A young woman (soon to get her driver's license) picked up the thought. "Also, if you really love something, you're willing to let it go."

These wise confirmands suggest some Solomon - stewardship for our churches. In a difficult budget time – cut, cut, cut is frequent advice, but there is much precious and vulnerable programming that won't survive the knife. Keeping what matters in our faith communities alive often requires personally sacrificial gifts – gifts without strings, ownership or naming rights – gifts of love.

Maren C. Tirabassi is Pastor of Union Congregational UCC of Madbury, NH. Her most recent book is *God in My Life: How and Why We Share Faith Stories*.

February 2009

God is still speaking,



This resource is a free service and is made possible by your gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission.

Estate Planning?

Have you included the church in your will or estate planning? Please prayerfully consider if the Lord would have you remember your church when completing your will.

"One of the greatest missing teachings in the American church today is the reminder to men and women that nothing we have belongs to us."

Gordon MacDonald, American Pastor & Teacher

Jeanne B. (Walter) Whitcher, 88, went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, December 30, 2008. She leaves her sons, Craig M. Whitcher and Gary T. Whitcher and her daughters Rae F. Gwyther and Bonnie J. Robinson. She also leaves her sister, Helen Laird and her brother, Leonard Walter and several grandchildren. Jeanne was predeceased by her husband, Raynard E. Whitcher. Jeanne was a member of our church and a more recent member of Christ Episcopal Church. A memorial service was held on January 17, 2009 at Christ Episcopal Church. Please remember the Whitcher Family in your prayers.

Kairos Spiritual Life Center

The Kairos Spiritual Life Center is a ministry of All Saints Church, Worcester, and takes its name from the Greek word, *kairos*, which refers to “God’s time” or “holy time”.

Journey into Lent: A Day of Prayer and Reflection for Clergy and Professional Lay Ministers

Feb. 23 at the UCC Church in Boxborough. The cost for the retreat is \$20 and includes lunch.

Going Deeper into God: A Lenten Journey in Prayer and Presence

March 3 Prayer & Presence. Led by David Rynick
 March 10 Writing from the Heart of Prayer. Led by Emily Ferrara
 March 17 Soul of Leadership. Led by Margaret Benefiel
 March 31 Praying & Praising with Our Whole Selves. Led by Shantia Wright -Gray

For more information about Kairos, or to register for events, please call 508 -752-3766, ext. 19, or email kairoscenter@allsaintsw.org. You can also find more about Kairos events at www.allsaintsw.org.

Notes from Stewardship....

At the Annual Meeting on Saturday January 17th, a question arose as to further comparisons between the pledging received for 2009 versus previous years, so I thought it best to take a moment and reflect on the pledging trends of our Congregation over the last 9 years.

Year	# of Pledges	Total Pledged	over/(under)	Avg Pledge
2001	181	\$128,330	---	\$ 709
2002	169	\$130,750	(\$ 2,420)	\$ 774
2003	159	\$129,414	(\$ 1,336)	\$ 814
2004	153	\$123,067	(\$ 6,347)	\$ 804
2005	146	\$126,777	\$ 3,710	\$ 868
2006	151	\$132,449	\$ 5,672	\$ 877
2007	148	\$135,761	\$ 3,312	\$ 917
2008	143	\$130,741	(\$ 5,020)	\$ 914
2009	116	\$121,050	(\$ 9,691)	\$1,044

We had 27 less pledges in this last campaign than the previous one and 65 less than 2001, and as you can see from the figures above, although there were many less folks making a commitment to FCC in 2009, the average commitment has increased by \$335 from a pledge of \$709 in 2001 to an average of \$1,044 being pledged this year.

We may have lost some members over the course of the last few years and we may be looking to overcome deficit spending this year, but the stats above represent a huge statement about the fiscal and spiritual commitment of the current members and friends of First Congregational Church of Auburn!

It is my hope that 2009 will be a year of spiritual introspection for each of us and may God lead us in ways we can only imagine...from our Pastoral Search to successfully continuing in our various ministries to spreading the Good Word to those around us to inviting others to join us in worship. God Bless you all!

In His Love,

Michele Schillinger

Church Incorporation Submitted by George DuHamel and Paula Lubin, Church Historians

The officers at the present time are: Clerk, William F. Stone; Treasurer, George H. Sibley; Deacons, Stephen Sibley, Thomas S. Eaton, Enoch L. Bancroft and Hosea J. Marcy.

Standing Committee, Thomas S. Eaton, Enoch L. Bancroft and Hosea J. Marcy. Superintendent of Sunday Schools, Mrs. Julia F. Bancroft; assistant superintendent, William F. Stone.

The Advisory Board consist of the pastor and deacons and two members who are chosen annually.

The present membership of the church is 122; 44 males and 78 females, of which 42 are non-residents.

One of our members, Miss Ella J. Newton, is a missionary located in China, and at the present time is in charge of a girl's school at Foochow. She went out in 1878 and has been there ever since with the exception of one year which she spent at home. Although on the opposite side of the world she is very much interested in our church and has subscribed liberally toward the erection of the new one.

Miss Lydia Eddy, who afterward married Daniel P. Eddy, united with our church by profession on April 1, 1810. She died in East Greenwich, Rhode Island, June 24, 1890, aged 96 years and 7 months, having been a member of our church eighty years, two months and twenty-three days, an event which is rarely equaled.

The oldest living member at the present time (1897) is Mrs. Clarissa Merriam who will be 92 years old the 17th. day of next March. She united with this church by letter from Vermont, September 7, 1893. She will present the church with a beautiful pulpit Bible upon the day of its dedication.

Notes from the Nominating Committee...

The Nominating Committee would like to thank everyone who has stepped up to the plate sharing their time and talents for various committees over the next three years. This is not a commitment to be taken lightly and we appreciate your servitude toward the Lord and First Congregational Church.

With that said, there are committees still needing additional resources in order to meet with the requirements set forth in our Church's by-laws. The open slots we are currently looking at are:

Board of Deacons (3); Board of Christian Education (1); the Stewardship Committee (1)

As with any position in which one serves the Lord, each of the above can be personally fulfilling and gratifying for the right individual. The Lord gave each one of us many talents in order that we can serve him.

Are you ready to share your time and talents?

If so, please see any one of the Nominating Committee members to find out more about how you can help serve within your Church.

We are waiting and looking forward to talking with you. Don't be shy!!

In His Love,

Your Nominating Committee: Kay Shapter (Chair), Michele Schillinger and Pat Bukoski

From The Choir Room

Anthem highlights for February include two new anthems to be presented for the first time. On February 1st, the First Church Choir will present “There is Power in Jesus’ Name.” The anthem was commissioned by the First Presbyterian Church in Lincoln, Illinois. If possible, several percussion instruments should accompany the music. Our own Pastor Mark has graciously agreed to play one! The anthem, written in cut (or half) time, pulses with energy. The simplicity of the structure belies the powerful excitement of the music. It has a definite gospel feel appealing to all ages. “Child of the Universe” will be presented on February 15th. This anthem has a very memorable melody. I fell in love with the uplifting melody first; then noticed the inspirational text! This anthem’s message speaks to adults as well as youth.

“I am only a grain of sand . . . Tell me what my purpose is. Where do I fit in? You’re a child of the universe.
Let your spirit fly! Climb your mountains high! You are the chosen one to try and touch the sky.”

Both anthems are available to be donated as a Music Tribute.

Joyful Noyse will present “We’re Building a Circle of Love” on February 22nd. This anthem is somewhat complex for the younger singers, with several key changes and two part harmony. I’ve made some adaptations to make it accessible to everyone in the group. The little ones came up with their own idea of holding hands in an actual circle. It was very sweet until the “walking in a circle” became “running in a circle” and they all fell down in a laughing heap! On second thought, maybe we’ll leave that part out . . .

The Praise Team has been leading the choral meditations and will continue to play, as schedules allow, up until Lent. “Shout to the Lord” is tentatively scheduled as a hymn on February 8th to be led by the Praise Team. Anyone interested is invited to step up and sing with us at any time, no experience necessary.

“God gave us music that we might pray without words.” — Anonymous

Blessings,

Heather Moore
Minister of Music

Joyful Noyse Schedule

2/1, 2/8, 2/15	11:15 a.m. rehearsal	4/12 (Easter)	No early rehearsal <i>Peace I Leave with You</i> (with adults)
2/22	9:15 a.m. rehearsal <i>We’re Building a Circle of Love</i>		
3/1, 3/8, 3/15	11:15 a.m. rehearsal	4/19, 4/26	11:15 a.m. rehearsal
3/22	9:15 a.m. rehearsal <i>I Will Believe</i>	5/3, 5/10, 5/17	11:15 a.m. rehearsal
3/29	11:15 a.m. rehearsal	5/24, 5/31	11:15 a.m. rehearsal
4/5	11:15 a.m. rehearsal (with adults)	6/7	Children’s Sunday – Joyful Noyse Recognition <i>Beach Party – Surfin’ the Scriptures</i>



February is National Cancer Prevention Month, American Heart Month, and National Children's Dental Health Month. February 6th is National Wear Red Day, Give Kids a Smile Day, and National Women's Healthy Heart Campaign. February 7-14 is Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week. February 22-28 is National Eating Disorders Awareness Week, and the 14th is National Donor Day.

Please notice the following signs of a stroke. Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

- S** *Ask the individual to **SMILE**.
- T** *Ask the person to **TALK** and **SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (Coherently)**
(i.e. It is sunny out today)
- R** *Ask him or her to **RAISE BOTH ARMS**.

If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call 911 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

NOTE: Another 'sign' of a stroke is this: Ask the person to 'stick' out his tongue.. If the tongue is 'crooked', if it goes to one side or the other, that is also an indication of a stroke.

If a person with these signs is taken to the nearest Emergency Room right away, there is a great chance for a full recovery.

Signs of a heart attack can be chest pain, discomfort in other areas of the upper body, such as arms, jaw, back, neck or stomach, shortness of breath, or breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea, or light-headedness. Same thing, Minutes Matter! Call 9-1-1 within 5 minutes.

If you are able to donate blood, please do. It only takes a few minutes of your time, but it can help to save lives. I'll be going at the end of the month if anyone wants to go with me.

During the February vacation I'm sponsoring another babysitting class. It is for girls and boys 11 yrs. old and up. It will be Feb 18-19, 10:00-2:30 with 1/2 hour for lunch. You can register by calling Pam Sheeran at Memorial Hospital (508)334-5474.

I want to remind everyone of the importance of having a carbon monoxide detector; having one can save lives (as one of our church families recently discovered).

God bless,

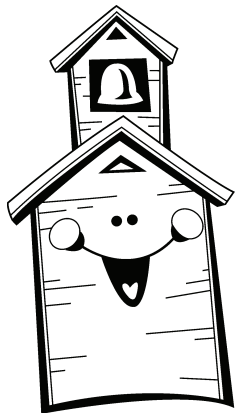
Debbie Pranaitis, Parish Nurse



Ash Wednesday Service

Please plan to join us for our Ash Wednesday Service on February 25th at 7 p.m.

All Are Welcome

Here We Grow Preschool

Happy Valentine's Day everyone. As of this writing New England has already had a very cold winter. I am ready for spring, how about you?

Looking towards the month of February *Here We Grow* will be very busy with Valentine parties on February 12th & 13th. The children will have the opportunity to be "mail carriers" and share cards and goodies with their friends.

Here We Grow will be running its third and final fundraiser for this school year. It will be Yankee Candle and we will run it February 2-26. If you need or *want* anything I will leave a booklet with Denise in the church office. Thank You for your support. All monies earned go towards field trips, special programs offered throughout the year, equipment for the classrooms, and enrichment classes offered to the children, (yoga, music, & aerobics). Profit from our second fundraiser, (Avon & Tastefully Simple) was just about \$1200.00. We were lucky to have two past HWG parents who sell these products. They were very helpful with organizing and running this fundraiser. SO thanks to Tricia Gervais & Sally Gagnon.

The school will be closed for winter break from 2/16-2/20. Hope everyone has special days with their children over this vacation.

I am writing this month's Tidings at a late date, sorry Denise. I do have a good reason. During the month of January, I was averaging 4 visits each week from interested families looking at HWG for the next school year. Open House was set for January 29, in the morning. At that time *Here We Grow* had a few spots left for the upcoming school year of '09-'10. Our total enrollment for next year will be 134 children. As of this writing we have 2 spots left in the 4 year old sessions and about 20 left in the 3 year old sessions. These numbers are before the Open House. I am noticing a decline in 3 year old parent visits. I really believe it is due to the economy. This is something we will need to watch closely for the next few years. SO keep us in your thoughts and wish us luck with the few openings we have left.

I wanted to let you know that since Karen Banks left in November, "things" have settled down. The children are used to their new teachers and the teachers have adjusted to their new schedules. We did hire a new floater who is also a past parent. We welcome Cristi Corey to the staff.

Until next month, stay warm and be healthy.

Dawn Murphy
Director
Here We Grow Preschool

Library Tidings by Gloria Whitehead

Does *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch ring a bell with you? About a month or so ago Pastor Mark gave us some thoughts from this slim book with a dynamic message. A diligent Carnegie Mellon professor of computer science was in his prime. For years it was common practice for the college to ask professors if they'd write a lecture reflecting on various experiences that had influenced their lives, what had been most meaningful to them in life, etc. Randy Pausch knew that he had pancreatic cancer before he was asked if he'd deliver such a lecture, but he also had an optimistic outlook. Then, suddenly, his life's timeframe was reduced to months. His children were only 18 months, 3 years and 6 years old. Jai, Randy's wife, looked upon all of this lecture preparation as an intrusion on this fragmented time they could seize as a family and husband and wife. With trials, talks and tears, the focus became clear. His youngest would probably never remember him, but all three would have a sense of direction and Dylan, Logan and Chloe would absorb their Dad long past twenty. There is so much more starting with Randy's childhood, his parents, the people who influenced him, and then you come upon a group of pages that deal with psychological problems, or as Randy writes, "It's really about how I've tried to live my life and it's worked for me." It's safe to say that there's no reader who won't feel paid back for time spent reading the last chapter. It's an inspiring composition of a guy who gave his best to life as though nothing less should ever be considered.

Ministering to the missing generation is what the *Tribal Church* by Carol Howard Merritt addresses. It's just one of the books Pastor Mark ordered for us last fall and, though you may find it impossible to join a discussion group, you can be "with it" for one by reading *Tribal Church*. It's timely wisdom on a universal subject—the future of the church—and it will crisply stimulate both concerned and curious minds. All this and easy reading. Just pick up the book from the display table in the adult library. (We'll keep it there when it's not being borrowed.) Turn to page 54 and read the bit entitled, "A Spiritual Problem." Chances are good that you'll be writing your name on the sign out card and you can keep the book out for more than two weeks. Just tell us.

Thanks for reading.



FROM THE BOARD OF ED

The Board of Christian Education reorganized at the All Committee Meeting. Our new members, Gayle Farley and Marion Woodcock, were welcomed and surprised at all of our duties. Mike Schillinger will remain the Chairperson, as well as Sandi Rhodes as Secretary, Ellie Lowell, Council Representative, and Shirley Hill will continue as the representative on the *Here We Grow* Board. Along with other members, Janice Greene, Bruce Fant, and Stephanie Rice, we will be assisting Jean McPherson, Director of Religious Education, with all activities.

The Board is always in need of your help. Please volunteer to help. We can learn so much from our children.



Tidings February 2009



As I sit and write this article it is again snowing. We have certainly had our share this winter. The Jr. Youth group and family group met for fellowship, food and fun on January 18. We shared lunch and then went sledding and made crafts to share with the shut-ins.

The Jr. Youth group will be participating in the World Vision **30 Hour Famine on February 27-28**. The youth will be approaching you to request donations that will be sent to World Vision to help with this preventable cause of death to over 26,000 kids a year. The weekend will include the youth having a "lock-in" at church while we prayerfully reflect on the problem of hunger, poverty and disease. Of course we will also fill the time with games, movies and dancing. Sleep, I hope, will be on the agenda, but having hosted many sleepovers, I know that *that* is not always on the kids' minds. On Saturday we will be participating in a community project involving the elderly population that we were unable to visit in December. To keep us hydrated during the fast, we will be accepting donations of juice boxes (100% juice please) and flavored waters. We will break our fast on Saturday night with a well deserved pizza party. I prayerfully request your assistance in this "life altering" experience for our youth and adult volunteers.

With His guidance we serve.
Jean McPherson
Director of Religious Education

All YOM members and their parents attended a mandatory meeting on January 11th. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the direction of YOM in the future. The decisions about how to proceed were determined by the youth.

It was decided that the summer mission trip would be not quite so far away, perhaps Maine, upstate NY or Pennsylvania. This would reduce the burden of fundraising by cutting down on fuel, vehicle rental, hotels etc. We will still do fundraising but we will also do other things not just the summer mission trip. The youth would like to do the City Reach program in Boston, Nightwatch in NYC, perhaps more work with Worcester Fellowship. There was also discussion about possibly doing home repairs, etc for members of our own church and community. This goal may be obtained by taking nominations a couple of times a year. The details still need to be worked out, but Randy and I are both looking forward to 2009 with renewed enthusiasm.

I have been in touch with Joe Corbi's and we will be offering samples and taking orders during coffee hours on February 1st and 8th. We have also penciled in Nightwatch at St John the Devine Cathedral in NYC for the weekend of March 28th. We have also picked a tentative date for our YOM auction of April 19th; this is the Sunday following Easter. If you would like to make a donation please contact any YOM member, Randy or myself.

In God's service,
Jennifer & Randy Bohn



Our next church supper is planned for Saturday, February 21st, at 5:00p.m.

Adults \$10 Children \$5

Please plan to join us.

Servers: Outreach

We are in need of a chef/chefs for this supper.

The workshop on visitation ministry held on January 25th was a success. We now have a team in place to supplement our pastoral and parish nurse visits. The team includes: Pat Bukoski, Connie Whitehead Hanks, Ron Hanks, Linda Hardy, Shirley Hill, Ron Klaucke, Cliff Peterson, and Judi Taft.

Thanks so much to each of you for your willingness to serve our less mobile members.

TIDINGS is a monthly publication of

First Congregational Church
 128 Central St.
 Auburn MA 01501

Phone: (508)832-2845

Web: auburnfirstucc.org



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

February 2009

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