



JUNE

2007

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!’”

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Summer Church Office Hours will be Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. beginning 6/18 - 8/10. There may be a few variations to this schedule; so, we suggest you call ahead.

First Congregational Church's
6th Annual
Golf Tournament
Sat., Sept. 15, 2007
at Pine Ridge
Country Club
12 p.m. Registration
1:00 p.m. Tee-Off
See enclosed insert
for more details!

When we say church we usually think “First Congregational Church in Auburn.” But, we have been learning through our mission effort that it also means “Massachusetts Conference, UCC,” and all our sister churches who are also sending people on mission trips. And, it means “United Church of Christ” when we connect with Good Shepherd Church and Beecher Church in New Orleans. We have further learned that it means “Aldersgate Methodist Church” in Webster Square and “Baptist Churches” in Kentucky, West Virginia and Tennessee when Youth On a Mission goes on their mission trips.

Church really means the Church of Jesus Christ wherever it is gathered. And, when we connect with all these other churches we begin to understand how big, grand, and connected we become by being involved with them in helping people wherever they need help.

We need to be in touch with all of our brothers and sisters who reach out to the needs of others. We can do so much more when we join with them and venture out of our little Auburn cocoon.

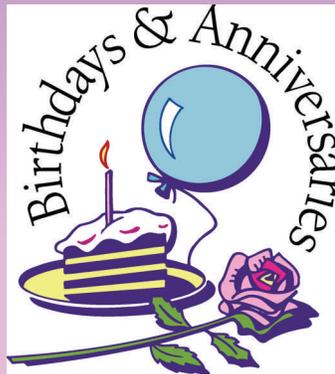
Not only do we see ourselves in a different way - we also see Christ in a new way. Hallelujah!

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Kenneth E. Knox
Pastor

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no Tidings for July/August. The next article submissions must be in by Friday, August 10th, as we plan to mail the Tidings out by August 17th. This mailing will cover the end of August and all of September. Thank you!

Happy 55th Wedding
Anniversary to
Jeanne & Ernie Johnson.
They were wed on
June 13th.
Congratulations!



Happy Birthday to
Alyse Bukoski.
Alyse's birthday is
June 16th.

Coffee Hour Hosts

- 6/3 ~ Library
- 6/10 ~ Prudential
- 6/17 ~ Stewardship
- 6/24, 7/1 ~ Historians & Memorial
- 7/8, 7/15 ~ Financial Sec'y & Treasurers
- 7/22, 7/29 ~ Nominating/Scholarship
- 8/5, 8/12 ~ Outreach
- 8/19, 8/26 ~ Deacons



Heifer International's Overlook Farm
216 Wachusett St., Rutland, MA 01543
Phone: (508) 886-2221

2007 International Fair
June 23rd 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and
June 24th from noon 'til 5 p.m.
The fair will include music and international
entertainment, a parade of animals, Dale
Perkins' Horse Show, hayrides, food, farm
exhibits and international crafts. See our
Global Village come to life.
Admission is free - \$5 to park.

THANK YOU SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS!!!



I would like to thank all of the students, teachers, and parent - helpers who made this Sunday School year a success!

Please consider teaching our children next year. The curriculum is all laid out and very easy to follow. We work in teams of four, so that works out to only two Sundays a month! If you are interested in seeing some of the curriculum, or signing up to teach, please see me in church or email me at LEAV831@MSN.com. We are also looking for someone for our Cradle Roll room. Please see me for more information.

Heather Zautner

GOSPEL PILGRIMAGE STORYTELLING

Rev. Drew Willard, pastor of Holiday United Church of Christ in Holiday, FL, will be making a road trip and performing “An Evening of Biblical Storytelling” at 16 scheduled stops from Florida to Massachusetts, and we’re excited to be one of those stops! On Thursday, June 28th, Mr. Willard will be with us. We are planning a potluck dinner at 5:30 P.M. followed by his presentation beginning at 7 P.M.

He performs a series of stories selected from the Gospels. *The Prologue* is about the beginnings of Jesus Christ’s ministry with selections from each Gospel. *The Sabbath* is a day in the life of Christ, filled with extraordinary events from Mark 2:23-5:43. *A Love Song to God* includes the turning point of Jesus’ mission, his journey to Jerusalem, and Mary Magdalene as part of the narrative leading up to the Crucifixion and Resurrection. Mr. Willard’s storytelling creates a dynamic portrait of Jesus for his listeners.

Mr. Willard, a Florida resident, has been a minister for 10 years. A West Point graduate, he served as a Signal Corps officer in Europe and Korea, and later served as an assistant to the West Point post chaplain.

He has been a Biblical storyteller for 20 years and is affiliated with the Network of Biblical Storytellers (NOBS). He has presented Biblical stories in a variety of venues including the Drew Theological School in New Jersey; Wesleyan Theological Seminary in Washington, DC; Cornerstone Café in Groton, CT; Outpost in the ‘Burbs Coffeehouse in Montclair, NJ; the Mercy Center in Madison, CT; Greystone Psychiatric Hospital in New Jersey; Ft. Monroe Post Chapel in Virginia; West Point Post Chapel in New York; Blair Academy in New Jersey, as well as churches in Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.

We feel blessed and privileged to have Mr. Willard with us, and encourage you to join us as we journey back to when Jesus walked the earth!



*Congratulations to
Lisa Dyan Moore and Scott Veau
on their recent marriage on
April 28th, 2007.*

*Lisa is the daughter of Diane & Paul Moore and
granddaughter of Maybelle Stone*



Outreach News

On Sunday, May 20th, church members voted unanimously to approve a \$10,000 grant from the Sibley Fund to support our New Orleans outreach now and in the fall. The money will be used to send volunteers to New Orleans in November; to continue to ship books to New Orleans, and also to send people to the UCC 50th anniversary Synod in Hartford, Connecticut, on June 23. The Synod will be quite a happening. Barack Obama will be speaking, and there are many events planned. Please contact Reverend Knox if you are interested in attending.

Sue and Stu Campbell made a wonderful banner for the First Congregational group to display in the Memorial Day parade. It highlights our accomplishments in New Orleans:

First Congregational Church
Auburn to New Orleans
12 Volunteers
3 Tons of Books

Special thanks to Dawn from Here We Grow for providing the materials.

We had a successful town cleanup on May 12. Representing Outreach were Cindy Dube, Sue Campbell, and Ellie Lowell, joined by Jean, Lillian and Jacob McPherson. We got quite the haul of trash.

Outreach will be sponsoring a camper at the Auburn Youth & Family Services Summer Camp.

Thank you, everyone, for supporting our Outreach efforts!

The Outreach Committee:

Ellie Lowell, Cindy Dube, Gayle Farley, Alicia Schillinger, Ernie Smith

Foothills Theatre Tickets to be sold at the Auburn Public Library

On June 4th from 6-8 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library, the Auburn Cultural Council will be selling tickets to four Foothills Theatre summer children's productions. Tickets are \$8 each.



Shows are: *Wind in the Willows (Mr. Toad's Wild Ride)* on July 11; *Tom Sawyer* on July 25; *Stuart Little* on August 8; and *Schoolhouse Rock, Live!* on August 22nd. You may purchase tickets for a single show, or all shows; however, each show must be paid for separately by check made out to the Foothills Theatre.



Here We Grow Preschool June Tidings

I thought the *May Tidings* was my final one for this school year, BUT Denise was nice enough to let me know I needed to do one more; THANKS DENISE!!

Here We Grow will be graduating on June 7th, 8th, 11th, and 12th. It is always a fun time for all. As graduation approaches, the staff and I have many mixed emotions. Some of the families of the 4 year-old children who will graduate and move on to the "BIG" school have been a part of *Here We Grow* for one, two, or even six or seven years. No matter how many years they have been with us, we have become friends in one way or another. We know we will miss them. We feel very fortunate to have had a part in helping so many children grow and learn. Either way, we feel lucky to have known them and we wish them all the best in the upcoming years. Did you know that *Here We Grow's* best type of advertisement is the families from HWG? It's true; these families have so many rewarding experiences while with us that they share it with friends and neighbors. What more could we ask for?!!!

On May 8th, the children in the 2-day class headed off to Noodle Noggin N' Bean for their end-of-year field trip. Once again they had a wonderful time. If anyone has a child or grandchild between the ages of 2-5, this is a great place to visit. On May 10th, the 3-day class went to Davis' Farmland. The weather was great and we all had fun.

At this time, here is a quick update for the upcoming school year. All 4-year-old spots are filled, all A.M. 3-year-old spots are filled and the P.M. 3's has only two spots left. If you, or someone you know, is looking for a great preschool program, please send them our way.

Our two week summer program is filling fast. At this time we have a few spots left in week #1, (June 18-22). The theme is "World Explorers." The second week of camp, "Royal Digs," is totally full. The teachers brave enough to work the summer program are Anne Coyne, Helen Ethier, Pamela Mitchell, Michelle Mulcahy, and myself. Joking aside, we really do have a good time with the campers, and we are also as tired as they are when we leave.

In closing, I'd like to wish all the church members and their families a safe and happy summer.

Until September,

Dawn Murphy
Here We Grow Director

Library Tidings

by Gloria Whitehead

After the cool, sometimes dismal, spring we've had, are you praying for a long, hot summer? If so, you'll need a good book in hand as you find a shaded, breezy spot in which to read, or to share a book with an elderly person or "little tyke" – supreme relaxation! Here are a few suggestions:

Bryson City Seasons and *Bryson City Tales* (its sequel) by Walt Larimore are both captivating books that will warm your heart with both richly textured miracles and laughter. These books were donated by Gloria Beauregard (Sue Klaucke's mother).

The third book given by Gloria Beauregard is titled, *Whispers Through the Trees* by Susan Plunkett and Krysteen Seeles (sisters) and is a novel that deals with a mystery of nature.

Someone donated an autographed copy of *Not In a Thousand Years* by Geoff Fernald which explains how and why a fascinating and thought-provoking list of "things" evolved.

Among the very large books in the Adult Library is *The Travel Book*, given by Pat Bukoski. It's huge, and heavy, AND IT'S A JOURNEY THROUGH EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. It's filled with superb info and you can borrow it for 3 months (or more upon request). This "rule" will apply year round and if you borrow it just for its illustrations, you'll be rewarded.

A beautiful and very large Adult Library book is *Giant Book of the Dog*. This is a wonderful exposure for children to the canine world. It's publicized as the biggest and most authoritative work ever produced.

As an adult, older child, or hamster lover, you'll love the interpretation of British history, through some intricate pictures of hamsters and a clever presentation of historical facts, found in *The Hamster's History of Great Britain*. Though not a book with general appeal, Janis Mitchell has put together a bit of unique entertainment.

The Children's Library will be open every Sunday during the summer.



The Tools & Blankets Program, through Church World Service, is an offering to help people who have been devastated by tragedy. People are struggling to live day to day because of the lack of food, shelter and clean drinking water. Your offering will go towards items like tools needed to plant gardens, build shelters and provide materials for blankets and clothes to those in need. Please make your check out to First Congregational Church, memo: Tools & Blankets. This collection runs from May until the end of June with a church offering on Father's Day, June 17th. Thank you for your support!



Martha S. (Wahlberg) Miles

March 21, 1943 – April 22, 2007

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Martha Miles who passed away on Sunday, April 22nd, in the UMass Memorial Healthcare Center of Worcester. She leaves her loving daughter and son-in-law, Donna and Stephen Grady of Auburn and her two grandsons, Eric and Ryan Grady of Auburn.

George N. Tucker

May 9, 1921 – May 16, 2007

Please pray for the family and friends of George Tucker, who died on Wednesday, May 16th, in the UMass Memorial Hospital after an illness. He leaves his wife of 19 years, Marjorie (Stone) Smith Tucker, his two children, Daniel H. Tucker III of Millbury, and Karen Potter of Warren; his sister, Robertine Fountain of Wilbraham, and his four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. George had celebrated his 86th birthday on May 9th with his extended family in attendance. George will be missed.

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

From the Board of Trustees

The fundraising for the Sanctuary Renovation Project is well underway. The work is scheduled to begin as soon as *Here We Grow* Preschool is dismissed in the spring of 2008, and should be completed by the end of the summer. We were hoping to do the project this year, but a number of concerns had to be addressed before we could get started. Rather than hastily move forward, we took the necessary time in order to address those issues thoughtfully. This date also gives us the ability to raise the necessary funds needed to proceed with the job, and get all our ducks in a row before we start. We anticipate that a preliminary sketch of the altar area will be available for viewing by the first week in June. The new design and layout for this will be a change that better accommodates all of the functions that take place during the course of the year. We hope that you will be as excited about it as we are. Please remember that this is the congregation's project, and we welcome any comments and concerns that you may have regarding this renovation. Our goal is not only to satisfy the majority, but to beautify the sanctuary in a way that will breathe new life into our place of worship. Last, and certainly not least, MANY, MANY THANKS to all who have contributed their time, talents or money, thus far, to this worthwhile project.

God Bless,
Board of Trustees

Interfaith Hospitality Network



And if **anyone** gives even a cup of cold **water** to one of these **little ones...** he will **certainly** not lose his **reward.**

Matthew 10:42

The First Congregational Church will host homeless families through the Interfaith Hospitality Network beginning Sunday, July 15th.

We are in need of overnight chaperones, volunteers to prepare evening meals, volunteers to visit with our guests, miscellaneous items for snacks and lunches and/or small monetary donations or gift cards to defray the weekly costs associated with the program.

Thank you for any assistance you may be able to give these homeless families.

Pat and Alyse Bukoski



June 2007

June is National Home Safety Month, National Safety Month, and National Scleroderma Awareness Month. June 4th is National Cancer Survivors' Day. We have survivors amongst us, as well as some in remission, and some still being treated. God

Bless you all! You're in our prayers!

June and July are Fireworks Safety Months, and Eye Injury Prevention Months.

August is National Cataract Awareness Month.

I have information involving emergency preparedness available. If anyone is interested, please see me. There is information on the Health table in Fellowship Hall and a form to sign up as a volunteer. This group is screened beforehand, so that if there is an emergency, they can step in. This group was a first - responder to the water crisis in Spencer recently.

The closet with the medical equipment continues to be a great help to many parishioners and their families. Just help yourselves to anything that's there.

Have a happy, healthy summer. Use sunscreens, sunglasses, and bug spray. If you get bitten by a tick, remove it with an alcohol soaked cotton ball and take it with you to the doctor. When riding bikes, use your helmets.

God Bless!

Debbie Pranaitis, Parish Nurse



YARD SALE JUNE 9TH 8 A.M. ~ 2 P.M.

Please leave donated items in the 4, 5 & 6th grade Sunday School room. (No clothing please.) If possible please price items ahead of time (using masking tape is fine). We will need help pricing any unmarked items. We will also need help setting up on June 8th and volunteers to help on the day of the sale (June 9th).

Any questions, please call Debbie Mahlert at 508-832-3348.

WANTED: PERENNIALS & PLANTS

We are planning to have a plant/flower table at the church yard sale. So, the next time you're out cleaning your flower beds, please consider potting some of your perennials to donate to the church yard sale. We are also accepting house plants. If you need any pots or have any questions, please call Sue Klaucke at (508) 754-2487.

COME HUNGRY . . .

as the Trustees will be serving hamburgers and hot dogs at this event.

OUR GRADUATES

Erica Gemme, daughter of Paul & Lynda Gemme, will be graduating with Honors from Marianapolis Preparatory School on Sunday, June 3rd. Erica will be attending St. Anselm College's Honor Program in the Fall.

Iain Zautner, son of Ailaine & Kevin Zautner, will be graduating with Honors from Auburn High School on Friday, June 1st.

Nadya Clark, daughter of David & Elizabeth Clark, will also be graduating from Auburn High School. Nadya was chosen as the Worcester T&G's Student Achiever.

Olivia Chirsky, granddaughter of Bob & Carole Murray, will be graduating from Auburn High School's class of 2007.

Allison Hill, daughter of Steve & Shirley Hill, recently received her Masters Degree in Education.

Allison will continue to teach at Mary D. Stone.

C. Michael Bjork, son of William & Susan Bjork, graduated May 12th from Unity College in Maine.

CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES TO ALL OUR GRADUATES!

If we missed a graduate, please call the church office so that we may acknowledge him/her in an upcoming church bulletin.

May Baptism

On Mother's Day, May 13th, we celebrated the baptism of 6 month old **Devin James Mahlert**. Devin is the son of David Mahlert and Amy Trudeau, and his proud grandparents are Mark and Debbie Mahlert. We ask God's blessing upon Devin and his family.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Sandi & Christopher Rhodes on the birth of their son **Nathan Michael Rhodes**. Nathan was born on April 24th and weighed 8 lbs., 14 oz., and was 22" long. Congratulations!

JIMMY FUND WALK

September 16, 2007

This year, Jean McPherson is joining Lori Stockhaus and Debbie Pranaitis for the 26.2 mile walk. If anyone else is interested, see Lori or Debbie. They ask that each walker raise at least \$200 for a donation. All checks are made out to the Jimmy Fund. If you register before May 31, 2007, it is \$10. After that it is \$15.

Remember Dad this Father's Day, Sunday, June 17th. Happy Father's Day to all the dads and granddads!

Building Use Meeting Thursday, August 23 at 7 P.M.

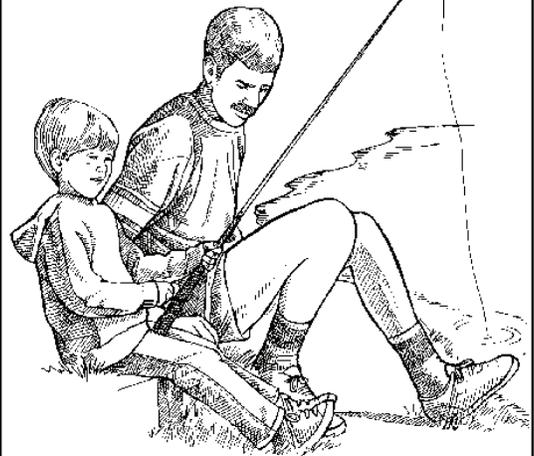
The purpose of this meeting is so that groups who use our building may reserve future dates. Please make every effort to be in attendance so that you can reserve space and be aware of any changes that may affect your group.

YOM will be sponsoring the following FUNdraisers during the month of June. Please mark your calendars.

Sunday, June 3rd—we will be going door-to-door in the town of Auburn collecting returnable cans and bottles. If you would like us to come to your house for a pick-up please give your address to any YOM member, Randy, or Jennifer.

Saturday, June 30th—we'll be having a booth and "whack-a-car" at the town-wide Fourth of July celebration, more details to come in a June church bulletin.

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." PROVERBS 22:6



God Bless Our 2007 Confirmands

Michael Brothers
Amy Cariglio
Kasey Dube

Michael Fant
Amanda Gemme
Joshua Green



The 26th General Synod

The 26th General Synod of the United Church of Christ will be in Hartford, CT, Friday, June 22, 2007 through Tuesday, June 26, 2007. Church members are encouraged to participate and see the U.C.C. in action in a different way than we usually experience it. Because of security concerns, everyone who attends must register (\$50) in advance. (Sunday's 3 p.m. worship service is free.)

It is the 50th anniversary celebration of the U.C.C.

**AUBURN RELAY FOR LIFE
DINNER DANCE**

Friday, June 8th 7-12 p.m.

Relay for Life for Cancer will hold a fund-raising Dinner Dance on Friday, June 8th from 7 to 12 p.m. at the Auburn Elks.

Tickets are \$25 per person and include a great buffet and dancing to the music of DJ Dave Wiley. A variety of items will be raffled. Tickets are available from Loretta Hall in the Auburn Town Clerk's office, or you can call Roberta Stencel at (508) 832-4954, or Charlotte McMahon at (508) 832-5080.



CHURCH CAMPING WEEKEND

This year's Camping Weekend will be June 22nd to June 24th. Once again, we will be

returning to Oak Haven Family Campground in Wales, MA. If you would like to spend a weekend relaxing and having fun with members and friends from First Congregational Church, please contact Lori Stockhaus at 508-865-6439 and let her know you may be interested.

ONE

*I am only one, but I am one.
I cannot do everything,
but I can do something.
What I can do, I should do and,
with the help of God, I will do!*

Everett Hale

JULY & AUGUST CHURCH BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to:

Lisa Rockwood ~ July 21st

Sue Anderton ~ July 30th

Pat Bukoski ~ August 5th



We'd like to acknowledge your special day (be it a birthday and/or anniversary) in an upcoming Tidings. Please just complete a slip and drop it by the church office. Slips can be found on a table in Fellowship Hall.

June 7 ~ HWG Day Graduation
 June 8 ~ HWG Spree Day
 June 9 ~ Yard Sale & Plant Sale 8 am - 2 pm
 June 11 & 12 ~ HWG Graduation Programs
 June 17 ~ Father's Day
 June 18-22, 25-29 ~ HWG Summer Camp
 June 22-26 ~ U.C.C. General Synod
 June 28 ~ Church Potluck 5:30 p.m. and Storyteller, Drew Willard at 7 p.m.
 July 14-July 23 ~ Youth On A Mission Service Trip to Pikeville, Kentucky
 July 15-July 21 ~ Interfaith Hospitality Network
 August 23 ~ Building Use Meeting 7 pm (The purpose of this meeting is to reserve dates for building use at the First Congregational Church. Please make every effort to be in attendance so that you can reserve space and be aware of any changes that may affect your group. See you there!)



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
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June 2007						
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