

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!'"

Interfaith Hospitality Network Program

The First Congregational Church will host homeless families through the Interfaith Hospitality Network Program once again this year. The week will begin on Sunday, July 18th through Sunday, July 25th. Any help you may be able to give during this week will be appreciated.

Everyone has been wonderful with meal preparation and play time with the children. We will need overnight chaperones who spend the night at the church. This often presents a challenge, particularly during the summer. If you could commit to one night as a chaperone, it would assist in providing the necessary coverage.

Thank you for all you have done in past years. Should you have any questions or concerns, please call me at (508) 798-8765.

Thank you — Pat Bukoski



First Congregational Church of Auburn
9th Annual Golf Tournament
Saturday August 7th, 2010

Pine Ridge Country Club in Oxford 12 p.m. Registration - I p.m. Tee-off

Event features:

Raffle - Longest Drive - Closest to the Pin Contest - Prizes to top 3 teams

\$95 per player – includes golf, cart and dinner!
Non-golfers welcome to join us for dinner - \$30.00 per person

detach here							
Players:	Sponsor a Hole: \$100.00						
1	In honor of:						
2	In memory of:						
3	or business name:						
4							

Make checks payable to: First Congregational Church (write "GOLF" in memo) and mail or drop off (with registration form) to the church office

Bridge to the Future Reflections from your Interim Pastor, The Rev. Mark Seifried

Hopefully you've heard by now that my last Sunday as the church's Interim Pastor will be June 13. The Pastoral Search Committee was getting close to recommending a candidate as settled pastor, which necessitated my search for another post. I interviewed for, was offered and accepted the office of Interim Pastor for the First Churches of Northampton (a church born from a merger of UCC and American Baptist congregations).

Unfortunately, within a day of my acceptance, the top candidate for First Congregational Church in Auburn's settled pastorate pulled out of the process, which means that the search continues. It will likely require several more months for the Search Committee to get back to where they were in the process, so please have faith and be patient. God is working through the process on God's timetable – even though it may seem otherwise!

So, this is my time to say "farewell." I am grateful for the love we have shared throughout these last two years - even when it felt like the love was tenuous. I am grateful for those who allowed me into their lives so that I could fulfill my call as pastor and teacher. I am grateful for the congregation's faithful leadership and devoted staff. I am grateful for the community relationships I formed. I am grateful for the Knoxs' friendship and also for their grace in keeping sacred boundaries that allowed me to be pastor and the congregation to move on. Mostly, I am grateful to God for more blessings than I can enumerate.

The Holy Spirit has blown through the church and is doing something new. As one of the sages in the congregation said, "We won't completely know what this interim time and your ministry meant for years." I can say the same of your impact on me. I know I am a better pastor as a result of ministering among you, but won't know the full impact of our time together for years.

During my last service, we will offer each other forgiveness for mistakes made and encouragement to move on. I will be specific in saying, "I am no longer your pastor." By the time you read this, the deacons will have announced a new interim plan which will include a pastor to bridge the gap between my ministry and that of the settled pastor. For ethical reasons, I will remove myself from all church activities so that the next pastor can be just that and so that the congregation can grow in new ways. (This is excepting one wedding in August because I worked many hours with the couple in premarital counseling and planning the service.)

I pray that you will accept the "bridge interim" pastor as your pastor for as long as it takes to find the called pastor, whether with you a month or a year. I also pray that I can release you as my flock just as I need to be released as your pastor. That said, I cannot and will not stop loving you. God brought us together and blessed our relationships. Love and friendships don't die. So, when we see each other after June, the relationship will naturally be different - we will simply be sisters and brothers in Christ.

My greatest hope for this congregation is that you harness the spiritual power of Christ who moves among you and in you. You have far more gifts than you realize and more than you call upon. The church needs to take risks for the sake of the gospel. The church will be a growing beacon of hope and joy for Auburn when you embody this belief.

I'll have much more to say from the pulpit over the next few weeks, so I share these words which we will pray together on my last Sunday:

God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. The time we were together in your name saw our laughter and tears, our hopes and disappointments. Guide us as we hold these sacred memories but move in new directions, until that time comes when we are completely one with you and with each other, in the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.





FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

This is a tough article for me to write. The ending of this Sunday school year is bringing about a lot of changes. As you all know by now, Pastor Mark is leaving. We are also losing our Sunday school teachers. Mike Schillinger is stepping down after 5+ years of teaching. Rich McPherson is also leaving after 9 or so years teaching. Rich started the year after we joined the church, and has been teaching off and on ever since. We are grateful for those who step up to the plate, but, as is so typical these days, we then assume and expect them to continue. Even though the children and I will surely miss them both, I understand that they also would like to move on and experience other aspects of the church, like a Sunday service from start to finish more than a couple times a year.

So the plea is going out to all of you who have enjoyed the service week after week, year after year, to give teaching a try. Ron Hanks, who is in the choir, even found time to take a month off from the choir and teach. We have wonderful curriculum and I will provide training for anyone interested. Our plan is to have team teaching so you will only be teaching one or two Sundays a month, or we can have block teaching where you will be teaching just for one month all year. Please prayerfully consider sharing your time and wisdom with the children. We are only asking for a short commitment and if everyone pitched in just a little, everyone will benefit a lot! Please

contact me at 508-832-5677, see me after church, or leave a message with Denise. You can usually find me downstairs cleaning up after my class. Otherwise, please move over and make way for the children to sit next to you in the pews.

I wish everyone a wonderful summer and I am waiting to hear from all of our new teachers for the fall.

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



Deb Pranaitis and Sue MacPhee represented the First Congregational Church of Auburn in a walk on June 16th, which was delightedly one of God's most beautiful Sunday afternoons. We were among many, touring the streets of Worcester from Elm Park, to support **CMHA's 25th Annual Walk for the Homeless**. Our church is amazing and the Outreach Committee extends a proud thank you for the monies collected during church service in the sum of \$295 toward a total donation of \$335; plus your encouragement and support. If you'd like to check out more information, the website is: http://www.cmhaonline.org/.

In Love, Hope, Peace & Understanding,
Sue MacPhee, Outreach Committee Secretary



June's health calendar makes us aware of Scoliosis, Headaches, Sun Safety, and Lightning Safety. June 6th is National Cancer Survivors Day. God Bless all of you, and we pray for continued achievements with cancer cures. The earlier the diagnosis, the better chances you have for treatment and cure.

July is UV Safety Month and Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month.

Be careful in the sun. Protect your skin and your eyes.

August is Cataract Awareness Month, Children's Eye Health and Safety Month, and National Immunization Awareness Month.

Please be careful with foods at cookouts. Don't leave them out too long without a way of keeping them cold. Be careful and have a wonderful, safe summer.

God Bless! Debbie Pranaitis, Parish Nurse

Church World Service - Blankets+

Blankets+ (formerly called Tools & Blankets) is a special mission opportunity that can involve all ages. Some 8,000 congregations and groups across the United States hold CWS Blankets+ events, providing funds to help people in need around the world, including the U.S.

Your contributions provide the means to transform lives and communities when they are faced with an emergency or simply struggling to put food on the table. For over 60 years, Church World Service has worked in partnership with local communities to identify their needs and access the resources they need to build the foundation for a more viable future, including:

- Blankets, tents, food and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster
- Tools and seeds for refugees returning home to replant their fields
- Wells for families living in drought prone areas to provide clean, safe water to drink and to irrigate crops and gardens
- Literacy training and microcredit for women struggling to realize their potential.

Church World Service Blankets+ . . . It's about blankets and so much more!

Please make checks out to First Congregational Church and note "Blankets+" in the memo section. You can place an offering in the collection plate on Sunday, or mail it to us at First Congregational Church, I28 Central St., Auburn. Also, if you would like to make a donation in honor of a loved one, CWS has provided us with cards for this purpose. Look for a sample card on the table in Fellowship Hall. (There is no charge for the cards when making a donation.)

<u>Here We Grow</u> Preschool June Tidings

Once again I'd like to thank Denise for reminding me that I needed to submit Tidings for June.

Here We Grow will be graduating on June 8th, 9th, 10th, & 11th. It is always a busy, yet exciting, time of the year for everyone associated with **Here We Grow.** With graduation approaching fast, we go forward with many mixed emotions. It is a time when we will be saying

good-bye to some families we have known for quite a few years. But with that it is also a time when we will be bringing in a group of new families. At this time, we all would like to say thanks for the support and memories that we have all been part of these last few years.

On May 7th, the 3-day and 5-day program classes visited Capen Hill Nature Sanctuary for their end-of-year field trip. The weather was accommodating and the children spent the day outside exploring pond life, trees and plants and live animals. On May 13th, the 2-day program classes visited Stowe Farm. The children had a hay ride, visited and fed live animals and planted pumpkins. Everyone enjoyed themselves at both trips. It was also nice to support two non-profit organizations and spend time outside with the children.

At the closing of this school year our enrollment for the 2010-11 school year is full. Openings may become available over the summer for a variety of reasons, but for now it is nice to know we have 134 children planning on attending **Here We Grow** soon.

Our two week summer program is just about filled. Week 1 (June 21 - 25) we have 5 spots left, week 2 (June 28 – July 2) only 2 spots left. The teachers working summer camp are Helen Ethier, Anne Coyne, Gina Murphy, Cristi Corey, Pam DiLeo, Lisa Whitley, Amber Dombrowski, and myself.

In closing, I'd like to wish all church members and their families a safe and funfilled summer. See you in the fall.

Until September,

Dawn Murphy **Here We Grow** Director

Strawberry Pickers Needed Thursday June 17th

We'll be meeting at the church at 8:30 a.m. Cleaning and strawberry slicing at 3 p.m. in the church kitchen.

Sanctuary Loan Update

As of April 30th, the Sanctuary Renovation Loan has been paid back in full. Thank you to everyone who donated and made pledges over these past three years! Any additional Sanctuary pledge money that comes in will be deposited into the Capital Reserve Fund for future building projects and improvements. Thank You!

SAT. JUNE 19TH YARD & PLANT SALE, 9 a.m.-2p.m. CHICKEN BBQ (serving lunch & supper)

YARD SALE SPACES STILL AVAILABLE

Join us on the church lawn for our **Community Yard Sale**. Spaces are \$15 for church members, \$20 for non-members. Use of a table is \$5 per table. Please contact Cindy Dube at 508-832-6646 or Denise in the church office at 508-832-2845 to secure your spot.

Stewardship Message Teaching Stewardship

"When your children ask you in times to come..." Deuteronomy 6:20

In our congregation, we invite our children to lead worship for us on Children's Sunday as summer begins each year. As the children plan that service, it is interesting to watch what they have learned about worship from worshipping in adult-planned services during the year. Hearing their comments as they plan their service makes us look again at what they are receiving and what we think we are transmitting to them in worship; what we think we're giving is not always what they are getting!

Undoubtedly, the same is true about what our children understand about giving and its relationship to the faith of the adults around them. Because the liturgical trappings of our offering time are attention getting (a procession, a special song or two, brass plates with velvet lining!), clearly we are communicating that this is an important part of worship. As congregations, we also need to help parents and other caregivers understand how to communicate to their children how all their decisions around money in their lives have a faith context. An acquaintance of mine, now in her thirties, told me that her mother told her as a child to give a dollar a week to the church, and that is still what she is doing now, despite having a much larger income! Teaching stewardship needs to be an integral and natural part of all our Christian formation programs in our churches, keeping in mind the "times to come."

Rochelle A. Stackhouse is the Senior Minister of The Church of the Redeemer, United Church of Christ, New Haven, Connecticut.

June 2010

God is still speaking,



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

From the Church Historians . . .

The following is an excerpt from a ledger that was stored in the Town Hall basement. It outlines step-by-step decisions made by our men in building our meetinghouse and forming our town.

George DuHamel & Paula Lubin Church Historians

LEDGER 1773-1786

To Alr. James Hart Ir., Constable for the Town of Ward

Greetings in the Name of the Government and People of the State of Massachusetts Bay in New England,

These are to Will and require you forthwith to notify and warn the freeholders and other inhabitants of S'd Town Qualified as the Law directs to Vote in Town affairs to met and assemble at the meeting house in S'd Ward on Thirsday the 28th day of this instant January at one of the clock in the afternoon to act on the following Articles as they shall think proper.

1st To choose a Moderator for S'd meeting.

2nd To see what the Town will do about building those pews which were last voted by S'd Town and how they will dispose of S'd Pews and likewise of their products and do and act any thing relative thereto as they shall think proper.

3rd To see if the Town will vote that any person that hath or may join the Town of Ward who hath done his proportion in the Ware or any part thereof shall have Credit for the same with us and do act any thing relative thereto as they shall think proper.

4th for the Town to hear a report of the Committee last those for finishing the meeting house.

Hereof fail not and make return of this Warrant unto one or more of us, the Subscribers, at the time appointed for holding S'd meeting. Given under our hands and seal at Ward this 18th day of January 1779.

Charles Richardson

Nathan Patch

Selectmen

. Jon'a Cutler

Ward January 18th, 1779

In obedience to this Warrant I have warned all that is Qualified as the Law directs to Vote in Town affairs to meet time and place by posting up a copy at the meeting house.

James Hart, Jr., Constable of ye Town

Good Reading

This Summer

<u>Library Tidings</u> By Gloria Whitehead

It's almost a fact that every Amish novel in our library has a receptive readership. When I picked up *Where the Wild Rose Blooms* by Lori Wick I assumed that it fell in that category. If I'd looked closer at the book jacket, I would have read Rocky Mountain Memories Series. In addition to her Amish tales, turning to the inside flap, it told that Lori Wick was one of the most versatile Christian novel writers of today. This includes a series on Victorian England and another which tells of the rugged strength and enduring faith of pioneers in the last part of the nineteenth century.

Where the Wild Rose Blooms opens with sixty-three year old Mitchell Fontaine, a successful store owner who lives in a community shared by mine owners, which are part of the reason why they have a school and church. Clara, Mitchell's wife, had died 3 years ago and he is very lonely. He has reduced his living quarters in the large home to the rooms over the store. With these and other concerns on his mind Mitchell hopes, first of all, that his brother, Morgan, will receive the letter which he's just sent to Boston. Reference is made to changes in recent years in business and Mitchell hopes his brother will consider making a change. With this, Mitchell offers Morgan the proposal of a position and a home for his family - wife, Adaline, and 2 sons. He misses the separation of family more than ever and feels he can't continue under existing conditions. Morgan replies that, with pleasure, he and his family will be coming sometime in July, and that they're looking forward to a change. Thus, Where the Wild Rose Blooms, bursts open. The next generation of characters is drawn into action, happiness is altered by tragedy and its outcome awaits your choice to find a comfortable chair, good light and eventually, completing the reading of a captive story.

Summer will be here soon, but the library isn't planning to take a vacation. In fact, it hopes that you may have more time to find some good material from its shelves. However you spend it, may God guide and grant you the peace and joy that you've been anticipating.

VACATION WITH A MISSION

The Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Worcester (IHN) is sponsoring a pledge drive with a nice reward. Network congregation members and IHN friends have generously donated the use of their vacation homes and time shares for a raffle to benefit the homeless children and their families that IHN serves. For a \$100 donation you apply your ticket for a possible weekend in Maine or

New Hampshire or a week on Cape Cod! Go to www.ihnworcester.org/vacation to view a listing of all donated properties and the dates they're offered. Raffle tickets are available by calling the IHN office at 508-798-6732 or online at the above website (drawing is June 12th).

Church Camping Weekend June 25th - 27th at Oak Haven in Wales, MA

It's not too late! You can still join us for our annual church camping weekend. Please let us know as soon as possible if you plan on joining us, as I need to contact the campground soon with the number of sites we will need. Please note that once you make the commitment to go, you will be responsible for the payment even if for some reason you are unable to join us.

Thanks for your cooperation, Lori Stockhaus (508) 865-6439 Please remember the following families in your prayers.

Benjamin Bosworth Britton

Benjamin Bosworth Britton, 89, of Auburn died Thursday, May 20th, in the Life Care Center of Auburn after an illness. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Avis B. (Smith) Britton, and their children Brian A. Britton of Monson, Barbara A. Allaire and her husband George of Auburn, and Jo-Ann A. DeRosa and her husband Gilbert, Jr. of Hudson, three grandchildren Gina J. DeRosa, Sara E. DeRosa, and Benjamin P. Allaire, and a brother Merrill Britton of Orange City, FL. He was preceded in death by his brother Bruce Britton. He was born in Rumford, RI; he was the son of the late Raymond and Evelyn (Bland) Britton.

Called Home to Heaven

Ben was a proud veteran of WWII serving in the US Army. He was wounded in the Battle of the Bulge in Dec. 1944. He worked as a truck driver for the former Inland Express for over 20 years; he later worked for the Auburn Cemetery Department for 10 years, later serving as a Cemetery Commissioner.

Ben was a member of our Church where he served as a deacon. He was a member and past master of the Auburn Grange, a past president of the 106th Infantry Division Association, a member of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, the American Legion, and the DAV of Worcester. He was an avid hiker and member of the Green Mountain Club.

His funeral was held here on Tuesday, May 25th. Burial with military honors will be held at a later date. Ben's family would like to express their sincere gratitude to the staff of Life Care of Auburn for their compassionate and loving care.

Donations may be made to the First Congregational Church of Auburn, 128 Central St. Auburn, MA 01501

Gordon Battye

Gordon Battye, 76, of Paxton passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 22, 2010 in the Rose Monahan Hospice Residence after a brief illness. He leaves his loving wife, Joan Patricia (Larson) Battye. He also leaves his sister-in-law, Dorothy Heath, her son and wife, Gregory and Judith Heath, and their children Douglas, Colleen, Eric, and Sara of Andover; brother-in-law and wife, William and Lois Larson of West Springfield, and their daughters, Cheryl and husband, Chris Christiansen, and their children Brian Henry and Jessica of Toms River, New Jersey and Cynthia Larson of Barrington, Rhode Island. He also leaves his beloved "kitties" Boris and Tabitha.

Gordon was born on June 1, 1933 to the late Walter and Alice (Bamforth) Battye. He was educated in the Worcester Schools graduating from the "old" North High School in 1953 where he ran cross country and track. As an 18 year old he ran and completed the Boston Marathon. He was active in the drama club, glee club, and mixed chorus. He also was an avid bicyclist completing many century rides including from Worcester to Boston, to Cape Cod, and to New York. He received his Bachelors Degree from Fitchburg State College and his Masters Degree from Worcester State College.

Gordon was a member for 25 years of the National Ski Patrol. He received his 30 year certificate as a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary and was a member of the Department of Homeland Security. An avid sailor he taught sailing at Regatta Point Community Sailing for many years and remained an active member of the Corporation.

Gordon's funeral service was held here on Thursday, May 27, 2010. Burial will be held privately. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Rose Monahan Hospice Residence, 10 Judith Road, Worcester, MA. 01602. "Lord, as I drift on the waters, be the resting place of my heart."



Amy Cariglio, daughter of Steven and Cindy Cariglio, and granddaughter of Paul and Debra Pellegrino and Larry and Cherolyn Cariglio, graduated with honors from Holy Name High School on May 27th. She was awarded a scholarship from the Whitcher Scholarship Fund and plans to major in business at Assumption College in September.

Kasey Dube, daughter of Todd and Donna Dube, and granddaughter to Cindy and Mike Dube, and Judy Murphy, will be graduating from Auburn High School on Friday, June 4th. Kasey was awarded a scholarship from the Jay E. Murray Scholarship Fund. She is continuing her education at Western New England College in Springfield, Massachusetts where she will study communications/journalism.

Diana Rusakovich, daughter of Sharon Sampson, and granddaughter to Carole and David Sampson will be graduating from Auburn High School on Friday, June 4th. Diana was awarded a scholarship from the Ruth Romkey Scholarship Fund and the Warren Scholarship Fund. She plans to attend Southern Vermont College in Bennington, Vermont to study nursing.

College Graduate:

Emily Hanks, daughter of Ron and Connie Hanks, and granddaughter to Gloria Whitehead and Violet Hanks, graduated from Connecticut College on May 23rd. She received a B.A. in Biology with a Minor in Psychology.

CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES TO ALL OUR GRADUATES!

MACUCC ANNUAL MEETING June 19th at the DCU Center in Worcester REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JUNE 4TH

For more info go to www.macucc.org or call 508-875-5233

Time for fellowship, important business and inspiring worship - don't miss out!

Summer Birthdays include:

Alyse Bukoski - June 16th Lisa Rockwood - July 21st Sue Anderton - July 30th Pat Bukoski - August 5th Alice Carlson - August 23rd



Summer Birthdays include.

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Celehrating a

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no July or August *Tidings*. Look for our next issue in September and have a great summer!

Coffee Hour Hosts

5/30 ~ Library

6/6 ~ Prudential

6/13 ~ Stewardship

6/20, 6/27 ~ Historians/Memorial

7/4, 7/11 ~ Financial Sec'y/Treasurers

7/18, 7/25 ~ Nominating/Scholarship

8/1, 8/8 ~ Outreach

8/15, 8/22 ~ Deacons

8/29 ~ Outreach

Happy Birthday to all!

WE NEED YOU!

Saturday, June 19th, will be a busy day for our church family. Many members are participating in our Community Yard Sale, we will be having a Plant Sale, Chicken Barbeque, and Strawberry Shortcake Booth (more on the booth to follow) and we need everyone's help to make this day a success!

Thank you to Cliff Peterson for "volunteering" to look into some entertainment for the late afternoon. I have come up dry, so if anyone else knows of a band or song group who might make for some good entertainment please contact Cliff or me. I was thrilled to hear from Shirley Hill.

She and Diane Moore have volunteered to oversee the plant sale.

In jeopardy of not taking place this year is our Strawberry Shortcake Sale. Without one or more volunteers to be in charge on the 19th we will be unable to offer this. Responsibilities entail making sure there are plenty of supplies (bowls, biscuits, berries, etc.) outside, and to whip cream. Last year we were selling shortcake by 10 a.m., it makes a great late breakfast! We realized a PROFIT of \$500 from these sales alone. It would be a shame if we do not find the help to offer this again. I have strawberry pickers lined up (can always use more) for Thursday, June 17th in the morning. If someone comes forward to help with this, we will need people to bake biscuits. Also, needed are volunteers to sell the coffee and doughnuts plus the shortcake and any baked goods that are donated.

Additional volunteers are needed. Below is a list of ways YOU can help:

June 18th evening or June 19th early a.m.: A crew of 6 to 8 are needed to carry out tables and chairs.

June 19th 8:30 am - 'til we run out: Sell coffee and baked goods, work at our Strawberry Shortcake booth, assist with the Barbeque by clearing tables or selling tickets.

June 19th 5:00 pm: A clean-up crew is needed to carry in tables and chairs.

PLEASE SHOW YOUR SUPPORT - Donate plants and/or buy some perennials at our plant sale, rent a space and/or shop at the yard sale, have lunch or dinner at the Chicken BBQ followed by delicious strawberry shortcake, or purchase some goodies from our bake sale, and remember to invite some friends and family to join you.

I would love to hear from you. You may reach me anytime on my cell phone 774-238-0260, or you can leave a message on my home phone 508-832-6646. Please join us for a brief informational meeting on June 6th after service, and thank you for any help you can offer.

Faithfully, Cindy Dube

Saturday June 19th on the Church Lawn



9am to 2pm Community Yard Sale

9am 'til we run out Plant Sale ~ Bake Sale

9am 'til we run out Strawberry ShortCake

11 am to 5 pm Chicken Barbeque (Take-out available)



TIDINGS is a monthly publication of

First Congregational Church 128 Central St. Auburn MA 01501

Phone: (508) 832-2845

Web:auburnfirstucc.org



June 2010								
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