



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

A WORD FROM PASTOR BRIAN

I read an interesting article last week by Susan Silk in the *Los Angeles Times* about how to avoid making the mistake of saying the wrong thing to someone in the midst of a crisis happening to someone else. Read on . . .

“Draw a circle. This is the center ring. In it, put the name of the person at the center of the current trauma. For Katie’s aneurysm, that’s Katie. Now draw a larger circle around the first one. In that ring put the name of the person next closest to the trauma. In the case of Katie’s aneurysm, that was Katie’s husband, Pat. Repeat the process as many times as you need to. In each larger ring put the next closest people - parents and children before more distant relatives; intimate friends in smaller rings, less intimate friends in larger ones. When you are done you have a Kvetching Order.

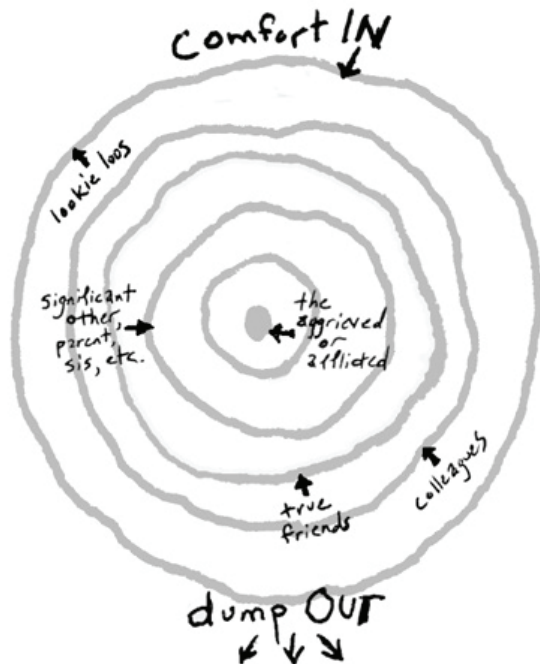
Here are the rules. The person in the center ring can say anything she wants to anyone, anywhere. She can kvetch and complain and whine and moan and curse the heavens and say, ‘Life is unfair,’ and ‘Why me?’ That’s the one payoff for being in the center ring. Everyone else can say those things too, but only to people in larger rings.”

It can be summed up quite simply and eloquently as, comfort those toward the center (the person actually experiencing the crisis), save the complaining, “truth” telling, and dumping for those farther away from the center. "Comfort in. Dump out."

It is normal to have a filter slip, in shock or emotional distress. That is human. We miss speak. However, I have seen people make a crisis worse, add pain to an already intolerable situation by being rude, or making a crisis all about them. The circle is a good reminder that others are affected, and more deeply affected than we are, and should be supported.

We all need support. We will all be in the inner ring of a crisis. May we all have a huge circle of people supporting us, including our Father in heaven.

-- Pastor Brian Grover



(Illustration by Wes Bausmith / *Los Angeles Times*)

Read the complete article at:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-0407-silk-ring-theory-20130407,0,2074046.story>

SERMON TITLES FOR JUNE

6/2 “Elijah Doesn’t Play It Safe”

6/16 “Would You Like Elijah at Your House for Dinner?”

6/30 “What a Ride”

6/9 “The Strange Story of Elijah and the Widow”

6/23 “The Gift That Makes All Others Useless”

Children’s Time: 6/9 “The Dead Rise”

Constitution and By-Laws Update

The By-Law Committee appointed by the Church Council has completed the required review and update of the Constitution and By-Laws. The changes have been approved by the Church Council, and a Special Church Meeting will be held following the Church service on June 9, 2013 for the Church members to approve the changes.

The last page of the revised Constitution and By-Laws has a listing of all the changes made by the By-Law Committee that you can review. Some of the key revisions:

Changed the committee sizes to recommended, and defined a quorum if the board is not full.

We incorporated an Appendix Index to be maintained by the Council to document Church policies, and forms that support the Constitution and By-Laws. The Council will be responsible to approve future changes to Church policies.

We eliminated the position of the Administrator, and deleted the organization chart.

We combined the Scholarship and the Memorial Committees.

We combined the Pastor/Parish and the Pastoral Search Committees.

We clarified that *Here We Grow* preschool is a Church organization so this is clear for all our Church members. We specified all the members the Church has on the HWG Board of Directors. Five of the nine Directors are Church staff or appointed by our Committees, or Council.

Numerous other changes were made to clarify requirements.

For the Policy for Education about Abuse, Prevention of Abuse, and Response to Abuse in our Church:

We tried to simplify and make it workable.

We developed a form to document the training and approval of volunteers and youth leaders. It also covers hiring of staff to make sure all requirements have been met.

We updated the permission slip and requirements for offsite activities.

We identified our mandated reporters, and the response requirements to be posted in the church.

Copies will be made available for Church members to review before the Special Church Meeting.

The By-Law Committee,

Pat Bukoski, Stu Campbell, Pastor Brian Grover, Ron Hanks, Steve Hill, Wayne Prouty, and Nick Stockhaus

D.U.C.K.S. (RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM)

We are starting our dime bottle drive. On Sundays we will have our "duck" bottles on tables in fellowship hall and challenge you to be the first table to fill your duck. We will also have bottles available for you to take for home or office to fill and return. We thank all of you for participating to make the 10th anniversary of the Relay the best yet!

We are always looking for others to join our team in any capacity you are able. Please speak with Jean McPherson or Shirley Hill for more information. Together we can help "Quack Out Cancer."

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAM . . .

As many of you already know, Cassie Stockhaus has been selected, interviewed and accepted to participate in the People to People Student Ambassador Program and will be traveling to France, England, Wales and Ireland for 3 weeks this July. The People to People Program was founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956. He believed that if people from different cultures could come together in peace and friendship, eventually so would countries.

The program tuition is \$7,500 which includes all transportation, accommodations, meals, educational activities and insurance. If you would like to make a donation to help offset the costs, please make checks payable to "People to People" and give to Lori Stockhaus. Thanks in advance for your support.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

WOW! I can't believe another school year is over. I think back to September and remember thinking that this day was so far away, then you blink and it's June.

Congratulations to our Confirmands! They are: Rebecka Babcock, Symantha Brothers, David Engstrom, Julianne Green, Jacob McPherson, Amber Premo, and Cassandra Stockhaus. I know, both as a parent and Director of Religious Education, how hard they worked to reach this milestone in their church life. I (as I am sure all of you) wish them the best as they begin this second stage in their walk with the church.

I want to begin by thanking the more than 35 volunteers that have assisted in some way with the Sunday school program. Whether you were a lead teacher, a cradle roll volunteer or an extra set of hands, this year would not have been a success without each and every one of you. The fact that you took time out of your worship time to share your enthusiasm and wisdom with the children will be invaluable to them as they look back on the earlier years in their church life. You not only teach them about God's word, but by volunteering your time you SHOW them what it means to be a member of this church and God's family.

VBS is coming! July 15-19 5:00-7:00pm here at church.

Please invite any and all children you know from pre-k – grade 5 to come and experience **Everywhere Fun Fair Where God's World Comes Together**. As you may imagine this will take MANY volunteers to pull off a successful program. PLEASE think about volunteering. Speak with me if you are interested. If you can only commit to one day, we can still use you. I will have an ongoing list of supplies needed posted in the bulletin and on the Sunday school bulletin board in fellowship hall. **There's also a list included on the back side of this month's Tidings' calendar insert.**



The cost is \$5 per child with a family max of \$10. This is to offset t-shirt and supply costs. If you are unable to pay, please speak with Pastor Brian or me. We want everyone to have the opportunity to experience this fun event.

As many of you leave for the summer sun and beaches, please remember to stay safe and know that God is always watching over each and every one of you.

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



Please pray for Earle and Cynthia Brothers as they mourn the loss of their son, Timothy Scott Brothers, 49, who passed on May 8, 2013. Tim also leaves 3 brothers, David, Peter and Joel Brothers as well as several nieces and nephews and many friends from his group home setting. A graveside service was held on Tuesday, May 14th at Hillside Cemetery.

Summer Church Office Hours:

Beginning the last week in June, church office hours will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. We will return to a 5 day week on Aug. 19th. Due to scheduled vacation time, it's best to call before coming to the church office during the summer.

Summer Birthdays include:

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

Happy Birthday to all!





Olivia Chirsky, daughter of Stephen & Karen Chirsky, granddaughter of Bob & Carole Murray, recently graduated with a Degree in Pharmacology from Northeastern University. She and Joel Deso, who she is recently engaged to, will be living in Pacific Grove, CA and working for CVS.

Sydney Folsom, daughter of Russell & Susan Folsom, and granddaughter to Judy Murphy and Mike & Cindy Dube, graduated from Shrewsbury High School on May 30, 2013. She has been granted a scholarship from the church's Whitcher Scholarship Fund and will be attending Johnson & Wales University in the fall to study Culinary Arts.

Kelsea Hanks, daughter of Ron & Connie Hanks and granddaughter to Gloria Whitehead and Violet Hanks, graduated from Bentley University on May 18th earning her B.S. Degree in Marketing, Cum Laude, with a minor in Information Technology and a minor in Law. She has accepted a position as a Marketing Assistant with AIR Worldwide in Boston beginning June 3rd.

Christian Klaucke, son of Ronald & Susan Klaucke, will be graduating from the University of Massachusetts Medical School on June 2, 2013. He will complete his training in Emergency Medicine with a 3 year residency at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center, University Campus in Worcester.

Kaila Ringgard graduated from the University of Massachusetts – Amherst, receiving her Bachelor's Degree in Geosciences. She is the daughter of Ronald & Sandra Ringgard and granddaughter of Joyce Ringgard.

Diana Rusakovich, daughter of Sharon Sampson, and granddaughter to Carole and David Sampson graduated from Southern Vermont College in Bennington, Vermont where she studied nursing. She has accepted a position as an R.N. with Good Samaritan Hospital in Troy, NY.

Bre'Annah St. Francis, daughter of Pamela St. Francis & Darren Madoo, and granddaughter of Louis & Christine Cove is graduating from Baldwin High School in Baldwin, NY and will be attending the University of Bridgeport, CT where she'll be studying Criminal Justice.

CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES TO ALL OUR GRADUATES!

HAITI UPDATE

We just wanted to remind everyone that we are still accepting donations to support our medical mission trip to Haiti this fall, Sept. 30 to Oct. 9. The cost for both of us is \$3,400 which includes transportation, food, lodging and SOME of our medical supplies. ANY amount, large or small, is much appreciated.

We received the following list of medicinal needs: infant, children's chewable (not the gummies, they melt) & adult Tylenol, Tums, saline drops (generic is fine), homeopathic pink eye meds, adult ibuprofen, Aleve, pre-natal vitamins, all creams (anti fungal, antibiotic, hydrocortisone), Selsun Blue shampoo (no conditioner in it), Benadryl for sleeping and for allergy, and iron pills.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support, your love, and your prayers for the people of Haiti and especially the children.

In His Service,
Jennifer & Randy Bohn



Here We Grow Preschool June Tidings

Here We Grow will be graduating on June 4th, 6th, & the 7th. Spree Day will be on June 5th. If you have a little one and would like to join us for Fran Flynn, Magician Extraordinaire show, stop in. He starts at 10:45. It is a very busy time of the year for everyone associated with **Here We Grow**.

With graduation fast approaching, we go forward with many mixed emotions. We will be saying good-bye to some families we have known for 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 6th & the 13th, the 3-day and 5-day program classes visited PlayTown Express in Southboro for their end-of-year field trip. The weather was great, the children, parents and staff had a great time. It was nice to see the children running and having fun; and the teachers too. On May 16th, the 2-day program classes visited Stowe Farm. The children had a hayride, visited and fed live animals, planted sunflower seeds and played in the playground. The weather was sunny and the sky was a beautiful blue. I especially enjoy going to Stowe Farm because I know the owner of the farm rescues many of her horses from auctions, and the money we pay to use her facility helps feed those beautiful, safe horses.

At the closing of this school year our enrollment for the 2013-14 school year has openings in the afternoon classes. Hopefully, we will pick up a few more children during the summer break. If you know of anyone looking for a 3 or 4 year old spot, please send them our way.

Our two weeks of summer program are just about full. Week 1, *Medieval Adventures*, (17-21, we have 4 spots left), week 2, *Diggin' the Dino's*, is full. The teachers working our summer program are Helen Ethier, Cristi Corey, Anne Coyne, Kathleen Lanava, Stephanie Stokes and Dawn Murphy.

Since January, Here We Grow has had a collection jar in our entrance for donations to help defray the cost of postage for the Linus group. We have collected and given to Carole Murray \$42.72.

In closing, I'd like to wish all church members and their families a safe and fun-filled summer.

Dawn Murphy, **Here We Grow** Director

A DRIVE FOR A DRIVEWAY - Due to its deteriorated and unsafe condition, it has been voted by the church to replace the driveway and parking lot. This is a project that is long overdue. The congregation voted to use invested funds to get this project underway, but the reality of the situation is, it is never good to permanently use these funds. Invested funds are used to generate income for the church on a yearly basis, and to use the principal portion of these funds for capital expenditures is not in the best interest of the church's future.

So, we have initiated a campaign to replace those funds. The goal is \$35,000. We are looking for both long term and individual commitments to reach our goal. A pledge letter was recently mailed to church members, and we are asking that pledges be returned by June 1st or as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Your Board of Trustees

We continue to hold scheduled potluck suppers (a combination of the "Spirit Suppers" and a book/movie club - "Dinner and Discussion") in the vestry. The next get together will be on **Tuesday, June 25th at 5:30 p.m.** We will be viewing the movie *To Save a Life*, a movie about teens, their problems and reactions. EVERYONE is invited to join us for any or all parts of the evening.

2013 RELAY FOR LIFE

Celebrate ~ Remember ~ Fight Back
Sept. 6th - 7th, Lemansky Park, Auburn

On September 6th and 7th at Lemansky Park teams of people will walk the track in the annual Central South County Relay for Life. Highlights of this event include the survivor and caretaker walk and the luminaria ceremony. We invite you to join us. It is not too late to join a team. For more information contact Garry Mahlert at 508-864-0086. The Relay for Life is a fundraising event for the American Cancer Society and we are dedicated to helping the world celebrate more birthdays.



Look for Mahlert's Way
 bake sale during coffee
 hour on Father's Day,
 June 17th.

We would like to thank all of the people that were involved in bringing the Church directory to us. Being a person that does not like to have her picture taken, I must compliment the photographer for her ease and professionalism.

Thank you for the work that was put into it, and we look forward to seeing the finished product.

Diane Moore and family

Coffee Hour Hosts

- 6/2 Personnel Committee
- 6/9 Board of Trustees
- 6/16 Outreach Committee
- 6/23 Board of Deacons
- 6/30 Stewardship Committee



June is Cataract Awareness Month, Men's Health Month, Myasthenia Gravis Awareness Month, National Aphasia Awareness Month, National Safety Month, and National Scleroderma Awareness Month. June 1- July 4 is Fireworks Safety Month. June 2-8 is National Rip Current Awareness Week. June 2 is National Cancer Survivor's Day. June 10- 16 is Men's Health Week, the 23rd -29th is National Lightning Safety Awareness Week, and the 27th is National HIV Testing Day.

July is Cord Blood Awareness Month and Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month. August is Children's Eye Health and Safety Month and National Immunization Awareness Month.

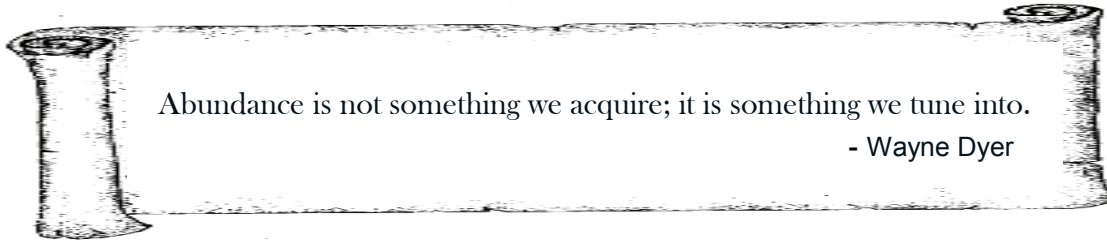
Congratulations to our cancer survivors. You have been through rough times from the time you were first diagnosed until you passed that 5 year cancer free time. You are an inspiration to others and bring hope to those who are presently undergoing treatment.

Please remember to check the closet at the entrance to the educational wing for medical equipment. I will be bringing in some equipment this week. Have a safe and healthy summer. Use sunscreen, wear sunglasses, and stay hydrated.

Sincerely,
 Debbie Pranaitis, Parish Nurse

From the Stewardship Committee

How does an awareness of abundance and of God's blessings reveal itself?



As you enjoy the blessings of family and friends this summer, please think about what abundance means to you, and which things in life truly delight you.

Can you recall times that you...

...experienced unexpected abundance, and how it made you feel?

...felt surprising delight in giving that generated joy in others?

We'll be talking more about these ideas in the fall.

See you at coffee hour on June 30. Have a wonderful summer!

- Your Stewardship Committee

Ellie Lowell, Rufus Guilford, Sue Klaucke, Rich McPherson, Cliff Peterson, Bev Scobie

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

Library Tidings by Gloria Whitehead

Ever since Pastor Brian Grover arrived at First Congregational Church of Auburn (well, almost) we've had constructive thoughts and his interest in the Libraries. "Did you get any more books on trucks?" was a recent question. Answering in the negative, we were almost positive that he might answer in the affirmative and enjoy making the choices. Within that afternoon, Pastor Brian had selected 7 books which are certain to appeal to preschool children whose greatest numbers are in their monthly visits from Here We Grow.

We're taking advantage of reminding grandparents and such that the Children's Library can be a source of activity for visiting relatives and younger tykes so the following is a list of the new books. Don't let the titles lead you to think that they're only for boys, and be sure to read the final paragraph.

Construction Kitties by Judy Sue Goodwin Sturges

Builder Goose – It's Construction Rhyme Time by Boni Ashburn

Steam Train, Dream Train by Rinker and Lightheld (also authors of the #1 N.Y. Times bestseller listed next)

Goodnight, Goodnight Construction Site

Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel by Virginia Lee Burton (by chance, this is a replacement for a book which for years was very popular years ago) and finally . . .

Amazing Dinosaurs - consulting editor: B.S., M.S., PhD, is professor of Zoology at Aalborg University, Denmark and much more. Authors: D. Alberton, S. Barraelough, Dr. P. Christansen, K. Connolly, P. Hammond, T. Jackson, C. Martin, C. Wahling, V. Ross, and S. Ulridge.

When Pastor Brian left the bookstore he'd purchased what "appears" to be the most complete book a youngster could ever have on the creatures that roamed the earth over a million years ago. The illustrations of 44 different dinosaurs and the information on this is incredible!

**First Congregational Church of Auburn
12th Annual Golf Tournament**

A Golf tournament form is printed on the back side of this month's calendar insert. Please consider sponsoring a hole. We also need players. If you're not a golfer, why not join us for dinner? The tournament fundraiser is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. **Sat., August 3rd at Pine Ridge Country Club.**

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

**SAVE THE DATE
THE PUMPKINS ARE
SCHEDULED TO BE
DELIVERED
ON OCT. 5TH!!!**



CRADLE ROLL

- 6/2 Judy Murphy 6/9 Cindy Dube
- 6/16 Sue Campbell 6/23 Marion Woodcock
- 6/30 Tori Stockhaus

TIDINGS is a monthly publication of
**First Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ
128 Central St., Auburn MA 01501**

Phone: (508) 832-2845
Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Email: secretary@auburnfirstucc.org
or PastorBrian@auburnfirstucc.org

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

Web: auburnfirstucc.org



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

June 2013

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