# FIRST — CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

# Herald of Good TIDINGS



People who do lots of work... make lots of mistakes

People who do less work... make less mistakes

People who do no work... make no mistakes

People who make no mistakes... get promoted

#### Coffee Hour Hosts

May 28 & June 4 ~ Library

June 11 ~ Board of Ed

June 18 ~ Stewardship

June 25 & July 2 ~ Historians/Memorial

July 9 & 16 ~ Financial Secretaries/ Treasurers

July 23 & 30 ~ Nominating/Scholarship

Aug 6 & 13 ~ Outreach

Aug 19 & 27 ~ Deacons

"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!'"

I recently read a statement which said, "The primary purpose of prayer is not to change God, but to change us."

I agree but I don't always remain aware of this understanding which gives power to prayer.

I can never give God information about me, God is all knowing. But I can show God I am conscious of that which was once unconscious in my life. I can show God I am aware of that which is within me and around me, of which I was once unaware. I can show God how I will take responsibility for my life, how I will be intentional about my faith, and how I can open myself for transformation.

Our culture teaches us to blame others for what is wrong within us. Our culture teaches that products, and position will fix what is wrong within us. As nice and comfortable as our place in our culture may be—it draws us away from God—prayer can lead us back to God. Prayer can transform our lives. Not in the way we might expect—but in the way God wills.

Have a grace filled summer!

Rev. Dr. Kenneth E Knox Pastor



#### **Reminder from the Trustees**

From time to time we find doors left unlocked, heaters turned on, and lights left on after meetings. Please make every effort to insure the building is secured after all meetings. Also as a reminder, **ALL** persons who possess keys to the building must attend a mandatory Building Use Meeting on **August 24 at 7 PM.** If you find that you no longer have a use for your building key, please return it to the church office as soon as possible. Thank you.

There will be no Tidings for July/August. The next article submissions must be in by Friday August 11th as we will mail the Tidings out by August 18th. This mailing will cover the end of August and all of September. Thank You!



#### **Our Sympathies**

To Bruce Martin and his family on the loss of his wife Shirley on April 28th, 2006. Memorial contributions may be made to the First Congregational Church of Auburn, or to the American Lung Association of MA, 460 Totten Pond Road, Suite 400 Waltham, MA 02451-1991 (www.lungusa2.org/massachusetts).

To Donald and Carolyn Slongwhite on the passing of Donald's sister, Dorothy.

#### **Baptism in May**

We celebrated the baptism of Mia Gail Pellegrino,

daughter of Peter and Cynthia Pellegrino. May you continue to support her in her spiritual journeys. <u>'06 Confirmands:</u>Tegan FolsomSamantha JoslynTaylor RyanTylor McCracken



Sue Anderton

July 30



#### **Healthy Living Group**

We will be altering our schedule for the summer months.
Support group will meet on Wednesdays at 2:30PM.
We will continue to walk five days a week.

M-W-F we meet at St. Joseph's and do a two mile walk through the area. This may change throughout the summer so if you are interested, please call the church office the day before. Tuesday and Thursday we will be walking the Cemetery at 2:30 PM. I would also be happy to walk the cemetery in the morning before work on Tues. and Thurs. with anyone that wants to. Just give me a call the day before. We will be including parks and other places to keep it interesting. Call the office if you have any questions and check your bulletin for up-

dates. ~ Tammy



August 24, 2006 @ 7:00

#### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

128 Central St Auburn, MA 01501

Phone: 508-832-2845 Email: secretary@auburnfirstucc.org Web: <u>www.auburnfirstucc.org</u> It is almost time once again to reserve dates and space for building use at 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!

#### Also Graduating this Spring



Stephen Koopman, grandson of Bob & Dottie Koopman, will be graduating from Auburn High School on May 26th. He has signed up for the Navy and will be leaving July 12, 2006 for basic training. He has chosen submarines as his tentative career. He has been involved in Sea Cadet's for several years.

#### **Congratulations**

Christian Klaucke, son of Sue and Ron Klaucke, has been named to Phi Beta Kappa at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Phi Beta Kappa honors recent graduates and current juniors and seniors who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement in the humanities and fine arts, natural sciences and mathematics, and social and behavioral sciences. Christian is a member of the Class of 2006 majoring in Economics. He graduated from Auburn High School in 2002.

#### **Interfaith Hospitality Network**

A sign-up sheet located in Fellowship Hall is a good indicator of the commitment made by everyone to date to the Interfaith Hospitality week announced in last months Tidings.

We continue to be in need of volunteers willing to spend one night sleeping-over and chaperoning the guests.

A "grocery list" has also been added.

If you have small cuddly toys and puzzles, they would certainly be put to good use.

Interfaith Hospitality Network unites with other regional church communities in an effort to provide a safe transitional environment for homeless families.

Massachusetts is the third least affordable rental state in the nation. You can easily understand homelessness for so many families it is often just one paycheck away.

The First Congregational Church continues to support this housing intervention effort as well as the safety net of numerous options available to stabilize these families in crisis.

If you can help with this years on site program scheduled from July 30 to August 6, your effort will serve to provide the most basic of transitional assistance for families in the most basic of transitional assistance for families.

Pat Bukoski Alyse Bukoski



# Stewardship It's Heart Work.

#### Our theme for 2006 is Stewardship: It's Heart Work.

The beginning of stewardship and the end of stewardship both occur in one place – the heart of a Christian. Proverbs 4:23 tells us to guard our heart. You don't have to guard your heart unless there are things trying to get in that don't belong there, such as greed, covetousness, and stinginess.

One of the things that will guard your heart and ensure that your stewardship stays on the right track is an understanding of the purpose of stewardship. Stewardship has a three-fold purpose, which is as follows: I) Stewardship should glorify and honor God. 2) Stewardship should advance the kingdom of God and meet the needs of the Body of Christ. 3) Proper stewardship will result in your own life being blessed.

Over the course of the next few months we will explore each of these in greater detail.

Stewardship: It's heart work. It causes us to examine the purpose for which we manage our money. When our purposes come in line with God's plan, our stewardship becomes a great blessing to God, others, and ourselves.

Our Committee hopes that each of you finds *Stewardship* a valuable addition to the monthly Tidings mailing. We welcome any comments and/or thoughts you might have regarding this publication or about Stewardship in general. Please feel free to speak with any one of us or send your comments via email to <a href="mailto:Stewardship@AuburnFirstUCC.org">Stewardship@AuburnFirstUCC.org</a>. We look forward to hearing from you.

In His Love,
The Stewardship Committee
John Rockwood (Chair), Michael & Michele Schillinger, Al Boucher, Todd & Donna Dube

#### **Pledging in the Summer Months**

Summertime has finally arrived, which means many of us will probably be taking time off from Church and work for summer vacations. Accordingly, each year at this time we experience a drop in pledges due to vacationing members. Please remember our bills do not go on vacation, so it is important to keep our pledges up to date.

Perhaps this may a good time to consider switching to a credit card pledge. Pledging by credit card puts your pledge on cruise control and enables the church to meet its financial commitments throughout the summer months. If you are interested in this option, please speak to the Financial Secretary or someone on the Stewardship Committee.

Thank you for your continued support and have a safe and happy summer!

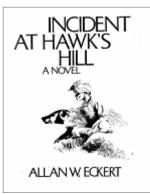


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#### **Library Tidings for June 2006**

By Gloria Whitehead

It's June - 1890 - and a little boy, 6 years old, hasn't been found after neighbors and friends have searched for him for two days and nights. It's finally assumed that Ben, the little ardent animal lover, must be dead. Based on a powerful true story, Incident At Hawk's Hill tells of a female badger who protects and keeps alive this shy little fellow through most of an incredible summer. This book was last borrowed by Olive Prouty in 1985. It's too full of unbelievable natural history and courage to be left on the shelf. Allan W. Eckert, a known naturalist, is it's author.





Father's Day is this month, along with Summer Solstice, so we were looking for books to loosen shelf space by adding them to the yard sale. Charlotte came upon <u>Daddy's Home - A Practical Guide for Maximizing the Most Important Hours of Your Day</u>, by Greg Johnson and Mike Yorkey. These authors interviewed hundreds of Dads to get hundreds of new insights. The result, along with good humor, is a useful discussion on subjects like "Father Knows Stress", "Four Words You'll Never Want to Say", "Making Your Wife Feel Good - No This isn't a Chapter on Sex", "Every Home is a Stage" and eleven others. It's great reading for both men and women AND IT'S BEEN MISSED BY BOTH! How about borrowing it and giving it to your husband on Father's Day?

For The Brotherhood - The Auburn Fire Department is on the library table. You'll want to -at the very least—look at this book for which our own Kim Tentor took all the photographs and compiled same. It was her senior capstone project publication for Clark University's Communication and Culture Department. Outstanding work, Kim!

A group of new adult books have been book ended on the first shelf of the glass cabinet.

Don't forget to check at home for overdue books from both libraries. Quite a few are missing. If misfortune has fallen upon a book just tell us rather then ignore it and keep us wondering.

When you're returning an adult book just put it in the top drawer of the library stand. We'll fill in the date and return, put the card in the pocket and put the book back into circulation. (The cards are filed by title in the tray and have been discombobulated lately).

BORROW - READ - BORROW - READ etc. this Summer!

Your library will be open.

HAVE A BEAUTIFUL AND BLESSED SUMMER!!!

The Library Committee

#### **Visitor on June 25**

Shantia Wright-Gray will be here to talk about the mission work going on in Louisiana. She will have a slide show presentation available as well. We are looking for a DVD player for the church to use with it's TV. If anyone has one that they would like to donate, please speak with Rev. Knox. Thank you!



Page 6 **Herald of Good TIDINGS** 





Make Our With several churches closing in SITORS our area, we are starting to see new faces on Sunday. Let's show them what a welcoming church we can be. If you speak with them in Fellowship Hall, please show them where they can grab a copy of our Tidings. Offer to give them a tour of the facility or mention events that are coming up

soon, like our Summer Solstice. Let them know that if they would like to attend, they are welcome to sit with you and your family for the barbecue. Help them to feel comfortable and ease their fears of a strange building and strange faces. Introduce them to the Pastor and to the Deacons. If they have young children, introduce them to someone in Cradle Roll or a Sunday School teacher. Just because Sunday School is ending, you can still plant the seeds of acceptance for next year. Introduce them to people their age that they may bond with. Don't attack them with too much information but watch their body language and modify your approach if you notice anxiety or discomfort. You don't have to be a Deacon to reach out to new people. Just a thoughtful Christian.

Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ~Romans 15:7

#### June Camping Weekend

The Church Family Camping Weekend has been scheduled at Oak Haven Family Campground for June 23rd-25<sup>th</sup>. The cost will be \$54 per site for two days and includes water and electricity. Oak Haven Family Campground has many activities and facilities for all ages. Please see the church website for pictures from last year's trip (www.AuburnFirstUCC.org). We will also be having the traditional Pot Luck Supper on Saturday night. If you would like to spend a weekend relaxing and having fun with members and friends, please contact Lori Stockhaus as soon as possible at 508-865-6439. Thank You!



#### **Vacation Bible School**

First Congregational Church will **NOT** be having Vacation Bible School this summer as a result of a survey we did with several area churches. Their was not enough interest and not enough volunteers to staff the event.



#### **Church Bowling League**

It was another fun filled year for the bowling league. Everyone had a great time and we are already thinking ahead for next season which begins in the fall. We are looking for 2 full timers and any spare players that we can get. Please speak with Lori Stockhaus if you are interested or call her at 508-865-6439.

The office will maintain regular business hours through out the summer, but you may want to call first to make sure that

someone will be here as all of the staff will be taking some vacation time over the next few months and that may include leaving early. The secretary is taking some time off in August and is looking for anyone that may be interested in covering the phones until noon time on Friday, August 4th & 11th. Thank you for your flexibility during this time. Happy Summer!

#### **Camping with Jen and Randy**

Jen & Randy Bohn will be attending the church camping weekend on June 23rd - June 25th. They are opening it up to any youth 8th grade and up that would like to go along with them.

It will be \$15 per person to help pay for the campsites and food. If you have ANY interest in going you need to let them know ASAP so that they can determine how many sites they need.

They had a ball last year and they assure me it will be just as much fun this year. 508-832-0428

**Parish** 

June is National Scleroderma Month, Home Safety Month, and June 1st-July 4th is Fireworks Safety. June 4th is National Cancer Survivors Day, June 12-18 is National Men's Health Week, and June 27- July 5th is Eye Safety Week.

This is also the time of the year to be especially careful with the UV rays from the sun. Use sunscreen whenever you are out in the sun and try to avoid going out between the hours of 10:00am-2:00pm. Tans look nice, but skin cancers don't!

A reminder to call Pam Daigneault at UMass-Memorial if you're interested in the babysitting course. It will be June 27-28th 10:00am-2:30pm with 1/2 hour for lunch. Pam's # is 508 334 6485. Have a safe and healthy summer.



<u>Here We Grow</u> will be graduating on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup>. It will be a happy occasion, but also a sad time for the staff and families of HWG. We feel very fortunate to have had a part in helping so many children grow and learn in a relaxed, fun atmosphere. The sadness comes because with graduation; it also means that for some of the families this will be the last year with HWG. Their children will be going off to kindergarten. To the big school. Some of the families have been with us for one year and some have been with us for six and seven years. Either way, we feel lucky to have known them and we wish them all luck in the upcoming year.

Did you know that <u>Here We Grow's</u> most successful type of advertisement is the families from HWG? It's true, these families have such good experiences while with us, that they share it with friends and neighbors. What more could we ask for!

Have you noticed how nice the vestry looks? HWG hired Sally Gagnon, (a HWG parent) to paint the lower half of the vestry. Thank You to Sally for a job well done. The new darker color looks great.

The Department for Early Education and Care paid us a visit in March since we were up for re-licensing. They visit programs every two years unless there are complaints about a program. I am happy to announce HWG has never had a visit from a complaint. The licensor was impressed with the program and HWG is re-licensed for two more years.

In ending 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



## らummer Solstice Celebratioゥ Saturday June 17th

9 am - 2 pm



Yard Sale Book Sale Plant Sale



Don't forget our Goddard Rocket Contest. Rocket base models are available now at the church. See Cindy Dube for more details.

<u> 10 am - 2 pm</u>



Games Tattoos

Crafts 12 tickets for \$5.00

Giant Slide Balloons



Breakfast available thanks to Bill Storie and his helpers

Snacks, Hot Dogs, Drinks 504 to \$1.00

10:30 Flippo the Clown arrives 11:00 Flippo's Juggling and Magic Show \$1.00 11:30 - 12:30 Flippo makes Ballon Art 10am - 2pm

3 balls \$1

Dunk Tank Dunk Jennifer Bohn! Dad dunk your kids!



Strawberry Shortcake Booth

Fresh Strawberries, homemade biscuits and real whip cream!!!

<u>4pm - 7pm</u> Chicken Barbeque

Tickets are available now at coffee hour,

during office hours

and from members of the BBQ committee.

<u>5pm - 6pm</u> Concert by the Alethea Grotto Band (Free)

**7pm - ?** Camp Fire

Songs and Stories S'more Fixins 50¢ \$9.00 Adults \$5.00 Children 12 and Under



#### **Community Campfire**

We had our first, in a series of four, community campfires Saturday night May 20<sup>th</sup> from 7pm to 10pm on the front lawn of the church. Future dates for the campfires will be June 17<sup>th</sup> as part of the Summer Solstice, July 22<sup>nd</sup> and August 19<sup>th</sup>. There will be stories around the campfire, sing-a-long, s'mores and maybe even some flashlight tag! *ALL ages* are welcome. This is a great family event and it's FREE! Bring your own lawn chair or blanket, a

stick for roasting marshmallows and a friend! There are no rain dates. See Jen Bohn or

Breyn Brothers for details.

#### Minister of Christian Ed.

As I have been reflecting on this past Sunday School year, I have thought about the many ups and downs we have had. We have had more ups than downs, such as wonderful teachers and wonderful students. Attendance has been good and the students have learned a great deal. With all the new students coming, we are in desperate need of teachers. If at least 16 of you come forward and teach, that would be really great. As a teacher you will be up in church for 2 weeks and downstairs 2 weeks. Please consider this wonderful opportunity to teach wonderful kids with wonderful curriculum. We have started holding Morning Worship in the Vestry at 10:00 before going to our classrooms, and we have learned some new songs that we will share on Children's Day, June 11th. The children will be leading the entire worship service that day. They are working hard on this. Following the service we will be having an Old Fashioned All Church Picnic. There will be games for the children, and adults. Bring your lawn chair or blanket and join the fun. Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, and Beverages will be provided. Please sign up on the form provided.

Please join us as we celebrate our Sunday School children and teachers with an

# Old Fashioned Church Picnic

Date: Sunday, June 11, 2006
Time: Right after Church (around 11 A.M.)
Place: Front Lawn of First Congregational Church

## GAMES & ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES!

Needed: two grills, a couple of men willing to help bring out tables for food, and some chairs for those who do not wish to sit on blankets. Do you have a lawn chair? By all means bring it. In the event of rain the picnic will take place in Fellowship Hall.

We will provide hamburgers, hotdogs & beverages. If you are planning to attend the picnic, we would appreciate it if you could fill out this form to help with the planning. The form can be brought to church and placed in the offering plate. This will give us an idea of how many potluck dishes, salads and desserts we will have.

7———- !	Church Picnic - please respond be June 4th
Name	
No. Attending	
l will bring	

#### **Article on MAUCC from the Outreach Committee**

Our Auburn Church belongs to the MACUCC. The Outreach Committee regularly supports this part of our wider UCC community. We often have representatives at the Conference level as well as at the Central Association meetings. Rev. Robert MacLeod and Nancy have been delegates as have other members of our Church family. Nancy was kind enough to pen the following letter to help us understand more about our affiliation with the UCC. Should you have any questions or comments, please contact a member of our Outreach Committee or speak to Nancy MacLeod.

### THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (UCC) BEYOND THE LOCAL CHURCH

The Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ (MACUCC): What is its function? From the office in Framingham it connects with the over 400 plus UCC (Congregational) Churches in Massachusetts. It gathers them together for fellowship and program.

The staff at the office are the "go to" people for resources for the local Church. There is a Resource Center where one might look at Church School curricula and other print material as well as audio-visual material. Many of these things may be borrowed. An important function of staff is to be available with resource suggestions for support of the local church---its pastors and members. The Search and Call of Pastors to local congregations is handled here. Staff will meet with Search Committees to "shepherd" them through this very important process.

The national United Church of Christ offices in Cleveland help with the Search and Call process by gathering profiles of those who are looking for a call and circulating them to Conferences where they will be dispersed to the local search committee after it has determined the kind of skills it is seeking.

A very important function at the National level is to gather funds from local churches to be distributed by Church World Service when disaster strikes. The Church will be "on scene" long after others have moved on.

Each Church is autonomous but when our vision includes those near and far, we are all strengthened.

#### **Birthday Slips**

Don't forget to fill out our birthday and anniversary permission slips in Fellowship Hall so that we can post your special day in our newsletter.



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 the check out to First Congregational Church, memo: Tools & Blankets. This collection runs from May until the end of June. Thank You!



#### **Golf Tournament**

On Saturday June 10, 2006 the First Congregational Church in Auburn is having it's 5th Annual Golf Tournament at Pine Ridge Country Club in Oxford. 7 a.m. registration, 7:30 a.m. tee off. If you would like to play or sponsor a hole, the slips are in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to attend just the meal, it is \$30 per person.

All registrations must be in by Friday, June 2!!!

### Babysitter's Training and Job Opportunities

The secretary has been receiving phone calls from people enquiring about available babysitters within our church. If your teenage son or daughter has completed the Babysitter's Training Course and is interested in a summer job, please get me their information as soon as possible. I have two job opportunities that need responses ASAP. If you have not had the training but would like to, our next class is June 27 & 28 from 10:00 a.m.- 2:30 p.m. with 1/2 hour lunch. Please call Pam Daigneault at U-Mass to reserve your spot 508-334-6485.



#### Baptism Workshop

The next Baptism
Workshop will be on
June 15 at 7:00 PM.

#### **New Membership**

If you would like to become a member of the church, please speak with a Deacon or the Pastor. Rev. Knox keeps regular office hours and is available most evenings as well. Please stop in or call for an appointment 508-832-2845.



New Found Lake Hebron, NH

www.campberea.org

I know we haven't even started our summer vacations but I'm very excited about this opportunity for a fun filled weekend at Camp Berea in New Hampshire. We'll jam an entire summer's worth of fun in to one weekend. We'll have a blast while building our faith and courage. The fun includes tubing, paintball, swimming, artillery (rifle), a rock climbing wall and more! Talk to Jen & Randy Bohn if you have any questions 508-832-0428.

**WHEN:** Friday, September 8th (5pm) to Sunday, September 10th (1:00pm)

WHERE: CAMP BEREA, HEBRON, NH

WHO: Any youth entering grade 8 in the fall and up

**HOW MUCH:** \$110 includes food, fun and lodging! Paintball is \$20 extra for anyone who is interested.

I got a late start, so we'll need to hurry! If you're interested, I must have this completed form and your \$55 deposit by June 1!!

NAME	D.O.B.	
ADDRESS		
PARENT NAME	SIGNATURE	
 PHONE #		



June 4 ~ Stewardship II AM

June 4 ~ Sr. Choir Recognition 10 AM

June 5 ~ HWG Board Meeting 7 PM

June 8 ~ Trustees 6:30 PM

June 9 ~ HWG 3 yr olds graduation and Spree Day

June 10 ~ Golf Tournament (page 11)

June 11 ~ Children's Sunday with Church Picnic (page 9)

June II ~ Music Committee Meeting II AM

June 12-14 ~ HWG Graduation Programs (page 7)

June 15 ~ Baptism Workshop 7 PM (page 11)

June 17 ~ Summer Solstice Celebration and Kids Fest with a Yard Sale and Chix BBQ and campfire (page 8)

June 18 ~ Father's Day

June 19-30 ~ HWG Summer Program

July 22 ~ Campfire on the Common 7-10 PM (page 9)

July 22-30 ~ Youth on a Mission - Mission Trip

June 23-25 ~ Church Camping Weekend (page 6)

June 27 & 28 ~ Baby Sitter's Training Course 10-2:30 PM (page 11)

June 28 ~ B.O.C.E. 6:30 PM

July 30-Aug 6 ~ Interfaith Hospitality (hosting families that are homeless) (page 3)

August 11 ~ Tidings Articles Due to cover end of August and all of September

August 19 ~ Campfire on the Common 7-10 PM (page 9)

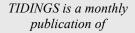
August 23 ~ HWG Parent Orientation

August 24 ~ Building Use Seminar 7 PM (page 2)

August 27 ~ Stewardship II AM

August 28 ~ Church Council 7 PM

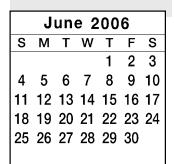
**Board of Christian Ed** will meet in August but a new date will be established as it was originally the same day as the HWG Parent Orientation. Keep an eye on your bulletin for the new date!



#### First Congregational Church 128 Central St. Auburn MA 01501

Phone: (508)832-2845

Web:auburnfirstucc.org





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etin Board