



2006

# 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!’”*

## FROM THE PASTOR

In the upcoming season of giving and sharing, there is one very special gift that you can give to your loved ones. It is the appropriate preparation for your death. Christians have no need to fear death because we believe God and Jesus are present to us in life and in death. To prepare properly for our death, lifts a tremendous burden from the shoulders, the hearts and the minds of those we leave behind.

First, we need to come to terms with death and our own death in particular. We need to think about it, talk about it, and do those things only we can do. I am always willing to talk with anyone about concerns you may have. I have shared in 545 funerals, so I have had ample opportunity to think all of this through.

We need to prepare a “Health Care Proxy” and discuss it with those who may have to make decisions about our health care so they understand our feelings, our fears, our wishes. We need to keep numerous copies available for the many health care providers who may be involved.

It is helpful to preplan our wishes regarding what we wish to happen upon our death. Don’t dump those decisions on others. You may wish to prepay for those plans. Keep all the paperwork together so the family can carry out your wishes easily. You might even draft an obituary so all those activities you participated in early in your life are remembered. It is difficult for family members to remember it all on the spur of the moment.

Keep it light. Do all these preparations over a period of time. Help others be comfortable with your plans. Don’t live your life in fear of death. God will take care of you. God loves you. To die is to go home; plan for the transition as you would plan for any other transition in your life. It can give you peace and your loved ones peace.

God bless,

Rev. Dr. Kenneth E Knox

New documents on the table in Fellowship Hall provided by  
Elder & Disability Law Advocates  
255 Park Ave, Worcester, MA 01609

Explanation of:

**Guardianship**

**Trusts**

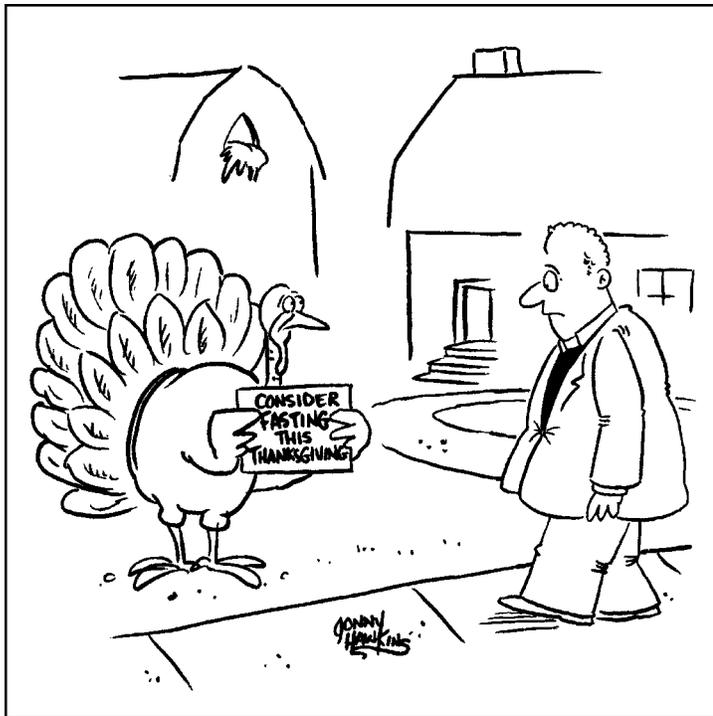
**Durable Power of Attorney**

**The Probate Process—Wills**

**The Basic Rules of Nursing Home Medicaid Eligibility**

**Health Care Proxy**

(with Proxy forms from Central MA Partnership to Improve Care at the End of Life, Inc.)



### FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

It is that time of year again when we begin to think about who will continue the committee work of this church.

If you have never served on a committee here, you are missing out on the workings of this church. The doors do not just open on Sunday mornings without the commitment of many people who serve on committees as in any organizations.

There are wonderful opportunities to serve and we hope you will say "YES" when asked. Or, better yet, offer to take an active part in your Christian community by contacting Carole Murray or Marion Woodcock to let them know of your interest.

There are openings on the Board of Deacons, Music, Nominating, Stewardship, Christian Outreach, Board of Christian Education and we need a Clerk as well. Please give some thought to how you might serve **YOUR CHURCH.**

#### Happy Birthday

Rich McPherson 11/6

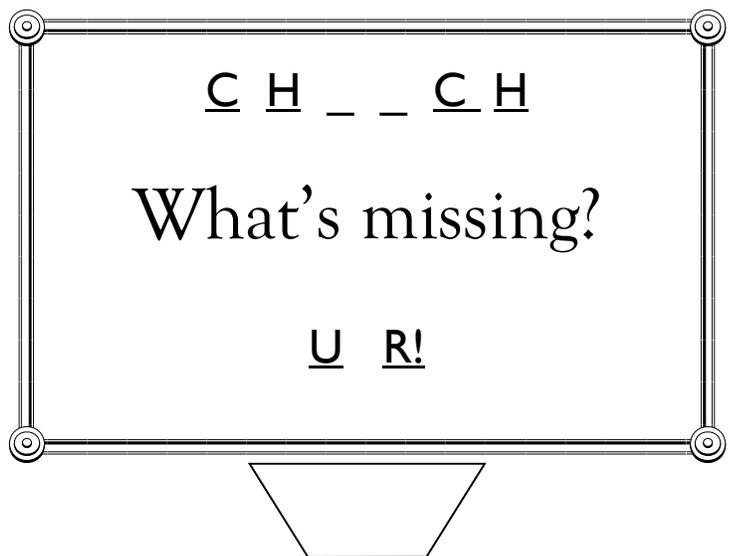
Nick Stockhaus 11/7  
"THE BIG 40"

Victoria Stockhaus 11/14

Suzanne Kress 11/22



Thanksgiving Eve Service  
Is at  
Faith Baptist Church  
7:30 PM  
&  
Presentation of the  
Riley Award



### Library Tidings

By Gloria Whitehead

What better way than through the Tidings could the Library Committee and all of the church library readers choose to thank our beloved church secretary, Tammy, for her years of transcribing our long hand written monthly news along with an “editing license”. You will be missed Tammy, not only for employing so many talents but for your open ears and sunny disposition which welcomes us into “your office”. May an abundance of God’s blessings grace you and your family as you step onto a new plateau in your life.

Many of our readers have been captured by the writings of Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins. Before leaving for Florida permanently, Linda and Dick Graham gave us The Rising, The Regime, and The Rapture which have been added to the author’s other books which are all on the top of the low bookcase under the right window at the rear of the church.

The following is a partial list of new children’s books:

The Lorax by *Dr. Seuss* (one of his 44 world famous books for children)

Shelter Dogs (Amazing Stories of Adopted Strays) gift of the Cariglio family

John, Paul, George and Ben, Oh Yes, and Tom! (The story of five little lads BEFORE they became really big Founding Fathers) by *Lane Smith*

The following are paper back books from which you can make copies if there are pages which intrigue you:

Pepper’s Journal (A kitten’s first year) by *Stuart J. Murphy* - Level 2 Math Start

Shark Swimathon (subtracting 2 digit numbers) by *Stuart J. Murphy* - Level 3 Math Start

Bigger Better Best (Is bigger always better?) by *Stuart J. Murphy* - Level 3

Especially now, take time—many times—to take notice of things for which you can and should thank God.

### THANKS GIVING

All libraries have books waiting to strengthen the significance of THANKSGIVING along with some great tales and some humor.

May yours be a Happy Thanksgiving!



## Stewardship



In the June Tidings we spoke of the “purpose” of Stewardship. The third of the three purposes of Stewardship tells us that proper stewardship will result in our own lives being blessed.

Luke 6:38 reads “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.”

You are giving to honor God with your substance. You are giving to further His work on earth and meet the needs of others. God, in turn, promises to bless your financial life so you can continue to fulfill His purpose for stewardship.

Paul said in II Corinthians 9:6, “If we sow sparingly, we will reap sparingly. If we sow bountifully, we will reap bountifully.”

With these Scriptures before you, what kind of steward should you be?

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.

All of us on the Stewardship Committee want you to know that as October 22nd came upon us, there were already 48 pledge cards in the Joash chest. We had approximately 100 people in attendance on Consecration Sunday for service and brunch. This alone tells us of your commitment to First Congregational Church of Auburn. We wish to thank each and every one of you for the pledge you have made to your God and your Church for 2007.

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 [Stewardship@AuburnFirstUCC.org](mailto:Stewardship@AuburnFirstUCC.org). We look forward to hearing from you.

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

## One Liners

**God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.**

**If God is your Co-pilot - swap seats!**

**The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.**



November is National Hospice Month, Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, Lung Cancer Awareness Month, National Adoption Month, National Healthy Skin Month, National Family Caregivers Month and American Diabetes Month.

November 15th is World C.O.P.D. (Chronic Pulmonary Obstructive Disease) Day. Then, the next day, November 16th is the Great American Smoke Out!

Please check the health table in Fellowship Hall for brochures about youth & smoking. There are some nice booklets regarding peer pressure and talking to your teen about smoking. The brochures are from the Philip Morris Company.

I also have a few coupons for \$80.00 off Activation of a Lifeline system. This small button worn around your neck or on your wrist is just moments away from help if you've fallen or are hurt in your home. If you know of someone who could use this system, please take a coupon. I can get more, if needed.

As usual, I still have medical equipment in my closet (walkers, wheelchairs, tub seats, etc.). Please help yourself!

God Bless,  
Debbie Pranaitis, RN



Being a Christian is like being a pumpkin.

God lifts you up, takes you in,  
and washes all the dirt off you.

He opens you up, touches you inside  
and scoops out all the yucky stuff-- including  
the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc.

Then He carves you a new smiling face and  
puts His light inside you to shine for the entire world  
to see.

Happy Fall!



Coffee Hour Hosts

- Oct 29 & Nov 5 ~ Prudential
- Nov 12 & 19 ~ Music
- Nov 26 & Dec 3 ~ Financial
- Dec 10 & 17 ~ Nominating/Scholarship
- Dec 24 & 31 ~ Deacons
- Jan 7 ~ Trustees
- Jan 14 ~ Deacons
- Jan 21 ~ Outreach

COUNT TO ELEVEN

Communication IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM AT First Congregational Church. Sometimes, we don't say enough to each other and to the church office and to the whole church about our plans and activities and, especially, to any changes in plans. That leads to confusion and misunderstandings. Sometimes we say too much, too quickly, resulting in hurt, frustration and anger.

"A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger" (Proverbs 15:1) We hear "count to 10 before speaking" - might we suggest counting to 11 -10 plus 1 to consider how we might speak to Jesus, or for Jesus. Everything we do, even our communication, we do in Christ's name. Take an extra moment as a disciple!

Food Drive

Nov 14 from 10-1pm  
Shaw's Market in  
Auburn  
Cub Scout Pack 53  
from St. Joseph's will  
be collecting  
non-perishable items  
for the Auburn Youth  
and Family Services  
Food Pantry.

Church Supper

Turkey Dinner on  
November 18, 2006  
At 5 pm  
Adults \$8  
Children \$4  
  
Servers will be:  
*The Music &  
Scholarship  
Committees*

## OUTREACH NEWS

### **Work day October 28 - Rehabbing a mobile home in Auburn**

We are pleased to announce that Confirmation and Youth on a Mission will be participating in the work day on Saturday, October 28.

This project, rehabbing a disabled man's mobile home in Auburn, is under the auspices of the Worcester Area Mission Society (WAMS). The kids will be working under the expert guidance of Bob and Jeff Murray. Reverend Knox, Jen Bohn, and Outreach members will also be putting on our warm socks and work gloves for a productive and fun day.

### **Mission Trip to New Orleans - Katrina Recovery**

We are excited to announce that Cindy Dube, Jen Bohn, Shirley Hill, Bill Storie, Al Boucher, and Jean McPherson have all expressed an interest in going to New Orleans. That's great news! We'll be bringing you more information on how you can lend your support to this amazing project.

### **CROP Walk**

Thanks to all who supported the CROP walkers. It's a great cause and it's always nice to see so many organizations involved. Did you know: There are CROP Walks in over 2,000 communities nationwide. CROP Walk monies go to support long-term development in approximately 80 countries and also provide some \$4 million each year to fight hunger here at home.

### **Barnabas Returns!**

Stay tuned for updates ....

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### **Piano Dedication in Memory of Rev. George A. Hodgkins**

On Sunday, September 28, First Congregational Church dedicated a piano in honor of the life and ministry of Rev. George A. Hodgkins. The piano which had belonged to George and Connie Hodgkins, was the piano on which George had composed the hymn "Who Has The Name Exalted". The choir sang the hymn during the worship service. The church was pleased that George's wife, Connie and her daughter, Carol, were here to present the piano and participate in the dedication. George was our Pastor from 1955 to 1960.

*Dear Rev. Knox and Members of the church;  
"J" and I want to thank all of you for  
providing so much help during this time of  
frustration and hardship for us. You have  
gone a long way to renew our trust in other's  
kindness.  
So, please stand tall for you have extended  
your hands in compassion for those in need.  
You have followed our Lord's words with  
heartfelt love!!  
Again, thank you for helping answer our  
prayers to our Lord.  
God Bless You!*

### **From the Choir Room**

*Hymn of the month: "Because He Lives"*

(A brief history on the people whose walk of faith led them to write our favorite hymns.)

Because He Lives was written in 1971 by William & Gloria Gaither. The national turmoil at that time discouraged them, leaving them to wonder what their children would face in 15 or 20 years.

Praying on it, they came to realize that courage doesn't come from a stable world, but from the truth of the resurrection.

A few weeks after the birth of their second child 'Because He Lives', "was born in our hearts and poured from our souls."

Verse two reads:

"How sweet to hold our newborn baby and feel the pride and joy he gives; but greater still, the calm assurance - this child can face uncertain days because He lives"

And the well known chorus: (we've sung as a prayer response)

"Because He lives, I can face tomorrow, Because He lives, all fear is gone. Because I know He holds the future and life is worth living, just because He lives!"

### **Musical Highlights for November:**

*Beside the Quiet Waters; Looking for the Light; Can You Hear the Christmas Bells?*

Beside the quiet waters will be sung on Nov. 12th. The text is based on Psalm 23. It is in four parts and has a gentle, tender quality about it. The melody is in quite a low register; so the sopranos tell me every time we take it out!!! Looking for the Light (to be sung Nov. 26) is one of our favorites. This is a fun, up-tempo, jazzy piece we sing in four parts. It's an advent anthem as it speaks of "looking for the light, waiting in the darkness, trusting in the promise of the Savior to come"

Joyful Noyse will sing "Can You Hear the Christmas Bells?" Nov. 26.

This is a four part adult anthem I've arranged for the youth. It is spirited with a rock 'n' roll feel that is fun for the kids to sing, and fun for us to listen to!

### **Of Note:**

- Krzysztof Gadawski will be playing violin for us on December 10th during worship.
- Look for news of the Music Ministry on our website! A brief paragraph describing what we're about, our Music Ministry Mission Statement and news of the Cantata under "special events" will be posted courtesy of Nick Stockhaus. Thanks Nick!
- The Christmas Cantata will be presented on December 17th, in 3 parts this year!

### **Joyful Noyse Rehearsal Schedule**

11/5	11:15 am rehearsal
11/12	11:15 am rehearsal
11/19	11:15 am rehearsal
11/26	9:15 am rehearsal 'Come Light of the World'
12/2	11:15 am rehearsal
12/10	11:15 am rehearsal
12/17	11:15 am rehearsal
12/24	9:15 am rehearsal 'Light One Candle Christmas Eve' 5:00 pm service 'Light One Candle' & 'Come Light of the World' (No rehearsal before the 5 pm service)



**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED**  
**Mini Church Fair December 9th**

We are asking donations of handcrafted holiday or gift items to sell at Holiday Boutique. Gifts for teachers and for office grabs were well received last year. Your donations may be dropped off at the church during office hours or on Friday December 8th from 5 - 8 pm. We are also looking for gently used items or things new that you have thought of "re-gifting". Examples of what we sold last year are vases, unused candles, jewelry and holiday decorations.

**The committee has the right to decide what to display.**

New this year; if you have a number of handcrafted items or a large item such as a quilt you wish to put on "consignment" with us, please contact Cindy Dube, 508-832-6646. We will also be accepting antiques to be sold on "consignment" as well. 25% of what is sold will be given to the Women's Fellowship.

We also need people who are willing to bake muffins, Christmas cookies and Denver Omelets (a simple recipe will be given to you). Contact Pat Bukoski or Marion Woodcock if you can help.

Workers will be needed on December 9th in the kitchen and the Holiday Boutique.

This event is in conjunction with the Holiday House Tour sponsored by the Historical Society and should be a festive holiday happening.

**Please support it in any way you can.**

**Thank you from the Women of the Church!**

*Holiday  
Crafts*



CRAFT NIGHT for HOLIDAY  
 BOUTIQUE  
 ONE TIME ONLY  
 THURSDAY NOVEMBER 30th  
 6:30 PM  
 Upstairs across from ladies room.

Sign-up in Fellowship hall  
 or call Shirley 832-6635 or Cindy 832-6646

**From the Secretary**

As many of you have already heard, it was with a very sad heart that I had to resign from my position here at First Congregational Church. It was not an easy decision but one that was made out of necessity.

I had two wonderful years here and I thank all of you for making me feel so welcome and cared for. You continually showered me with praise and encouragement.

As I have already told many of you, this is not goodbye but just a transition from secretary to church friend. I will still participate in the church activities and look forward to being in this new role.

God bless,

Tammy



Dear Friend: *Reverend Knox*



The United Church of Christ marks its 50th anniversary in 2007. General Synod will highlight our year-long celebration, as thousands of UCC members and friends descend upon Hartford, Conn., from June 22-26 to work and worship, pray and play, all to the glory of God who has so richly blessed our church.

We hope you and members of your congregation plan to join us.

There will be preachers to inspire us, music that will touch our hearts, presentations to engage our intellect, workshops, drama, dance, history lessons and family fun. We are inviting you to bring four or more members from your church so that, together, we might experience the fullness of the United Church of Christ.

Look for more information at [ucc.org/synod](http://ucc.org/synod). It promises to be an amazing time.

God bless,

*Edith*

Edith A. Guffey

Associate General Minister

*We'd love to have you and members of First Congregational UCC be with us.  
Edith*

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



## Youth on a Mission

YOM along with this years confirmation class are having a busy fall and there's no end in sight. No rest for the weary.

On Monday Oct 9<sup>th</sup> YOM helped to split and stack A LOT of wood. We will be finishing up on Saturday November 4<sup>th</sup> and hope to have 4 – 5 cords of wood to auction off in a silent bid. Bid sheets will be available shortly. A HUGE thanks goes to Bob Murray, Dave Sampson and Wayne Prouty for your generous donation of time, equipment and trees!

YOM has agreed to take over the "Make your own Gingerbread House" from "Here We Grow". The festivities will take place on Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup> with seating at 9:30am, 11:00am, and 12:30pm. Sign up sheets will be available with the secretary and/or in fellowship hall. Reservations **MUST** be made in advance. \$8 for first house, \$5 for each additional family member. This **FUN**draiser depends on donations of supplies so I have included some of the things on our wish list.

LARGE marshmallows  
Jelly Beans  
Gummy bears  
Chocolate chips  
Hershey kisses  
Fruit loop cereal  
M&M peanut  
White frosting  
Stick pretzels  
Large styrofoam plates  
Sandwich bags  
Large storage bags

Bags of small marshmallows (white or colored)  
Boxes of small candy canes  
Peppermint candies/ starlight mints  
Batting (snow)  
Gum drops  
Chex cereal  
M&M plain  
Smarties  
Individually wrapped licorice  
Glue sticks  
Graham crackers  
Hot chocolate mix



Please see Jennifer Bohn with your donations or leave them in the Junior High room. We are **truly** grateful for any help you can offer.

Thanks and God Bless,

Jennifer & Randy Bohn

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted on the apple tray:

"Take only ONE. God is watching."

Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies.

A child had written a note, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."

Here We Grow PreschoolFall Greetings from *Here We Grow* Preschool

With the month of November already here, the staff and children are preparing for the busy holiday season.

During the month of October, the children had a visit from Captain Jeff Mitchell of the Auburn Fire Department. Our three-year-olds each had the opportunity to sit in the Fire Truck, while our four-year-olds were shown all the equipment Captain Mitchell would wear

and use in the event of a real fire. He also spoke to the children about fire safety, fire and smoke alarms, and the importance of a safe place to meet if there was a fire at their home. Thank You to Captain Jeff.

Parent Curriculum Night was held on Monday, October 23. The parents enjoyed time in their child's classroom while the teachers were able to tell them about *Here We Grows'* curriculum, the areas of a classroom and what the children may learn while in these areas, and the variety of activities held throughout the day. All and all, the night was to inform parents why and what we do at *Here We Grow*.

Once again we had beautiful weather and a great time at Tougas Family Farm. The children had a wagon ride, picked and ate apples, and found a pumpkin from the pumpkin patch. We had almost as many chaperones as we did children.

With *Here We Grows'* first fundraiser over, (yummy candy bars), we are now into our second one. They say, "variety is the spice of life". Variety it is. If anyone needs anything from 1. Avon, 2. Longaberger, or 3. Tastefully Simple, we have it. Stop in the office if you would like to order something from any of the above. Everything will be here in time for Christmas.

Highlights for the month of November are:

1. HWG will be hosting training for area preschools and day cares.
2. Second fundraiser throughout the month.
3. Thanksgiving Feast Days on November 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>.
4. CPR for *Here We Grow* staff.

Until next month, enjoy the beautiful weather.

Dawn Murphy

Director *Here we Grow* Preschool



**New Found Lake  
Hebron, NH**  
[www.campbera.org](http://www.campbera.org)

It's time to register for another weekend at Camp Berea in New Hampshire. We'll have a fun-filled weekend with our Christian brothers and sisters as we strengthen our bond with God. There will be a strong spirituality to this trip and we will get to enjoy some of the outdoor activities of winter such as snow tubing, boarding, ice skating, paintball, and more! Talk to Jen & Randy Bohn if you have any questions 508-832-0428.

**WHEN:** Friday, February 9th to Sunday February 11th

**WHERE:** CAMP BERE A, HEBRON, NH

**WHO:** Any youth 14 through Senior level in High School

**HOW MUCH:** \$115 includes food, fun and lodging! Paintball is extra for anyone who is interested.

**If you're interested, Jen must have a completed form and your \$55 deposit ASAP!**

We need parent chaperones. Let us know if you would like to be a chaperone.

Applications are in Fellowship Hall or see Jen Bohn.

*TIDINGS is a monthly  
publication of*

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

Phone: (508)832-2845

*Web: auburnfirstucc.org*



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

November 2006						
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
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26	27	28	29	30		