

FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

Herald of Good TIDINGS



2005

Next Church Supper
October 15
at 5:00 PM

The Annual Meeting is very early this year, Saturday, January 14th. Therefore, we are asking that all reports of officers and committees be submitted before Christmas. The All Committee Meeting will be on Monday, January 16, 2006. We thank you for your support. All submissions made on disk or via e-mail are greatly appreciated.

The carillon machine (bells) will again be playing. We are looking for two people who are willing to oversee the playing of the carillon and change the tapes on a weekly basis. If you are interested, please contact the church office at 508-832-2845.

"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!'"

It is the times of trial that test our faith, and reveal whether we are really the people of faith we portray ourselves to be. *"Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in faith. Test yourselves."* (II Corinthians 13:5)

Jesus was tested and endured trial and hardship. Most Christians before us endured trial and tribulation. Why should we expect our lives to be easy and comfortable? Why should we blame God for the difficulties that confront us? All that we would shun, Jesus lifts up in the Beatitudes, *"Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven."* (Matthew 5:12)

We look at all the natural disasters; we look at all the wars, and the military actions and ponder about God's place in this. Is God managing all this? Is God powerless to change things?

God did not intend for our lives to be lives of ease and comfort. We are here to serve one another, to make critical choices about eternal life and to learn important lessons. Earth was not to be our own private padded cell. So let's practice rigorously the faith we have to the honor and glory of God.

God Bless,
Rev. Dr. Kenneth E Knox
Pastor

Fishing on Sunday

A village pastor, known for his weakness for trout, preached against fishing on Sunday.

The next day one of his members presented him with a fine string of fish and said, hesitatingly, "I guess I ought to tell you, parson, that those trout were caught on Sunday." The minister hesitated, gazed appreciatively at the speckled trout, and then said piously as he reached for his gift, "The fish aren't to blame for that."



"Here We Grow!" Preschool

With the first month of school over and most of the crying stopped, we look forward to the upcoming busy months.

Here We Grow's enrollment stands at 112 children with fourteen openings—so if you know of anyone with a three or four year old, send them our way.

At parent orientation the teachers and parents had a chance to meet each other and spend time in the classrooms. That night was well attended with about 75 parents showing up.

The second week of September the preschoolers had a tour of the entire building to help them realize how large a building it is and also to familiarize them that this is also a church and it should be respected as such.

On October 6-7 we're off to Tougas Farm for a fun-filled pumpkin and apple picking day.

Topping off October, we will be having our first fundraiser, Hebert Candy bars. If you love chocolate, stop in the office for one or two or three bars, at \$1.00 each.

The staff and I are anxiously and nervously awaiting our visit from NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children). We have been preparing *Here We Grow!* for NAEYC's visit over the past three years and we are confident we are ready—we will keep you informed on the visit and how *Here We Grow!* does.

As always, you're welcome to stop in and see what *Here We Grow!* is all about. Until next month, enjoy the beautiful colors of fall.

-Dawn Murphy
Here We Grow! Preschool
Director



**Congratulation to Kristin Stacey
and Matthew Bjork on their
wedding which took place on
Saturday, September 17, 2005.**

Blood Drive
October 17, 2005
Auburn Senior Center
4 Goddard Drive, Auburn
3:00 PM—8:00 PM
508-792-5923 ext. 130
Isada Martignetti

*The Office will be closed on
October 10th in observance
of Columbus Day.*



Thank You—To Wayne Prouty and Dave Sampson for cleaning, scraping and painting the doors and windows around the church. Also, thank you to Wil Johnson for keeping the grounds looking so nice. For all you do to keep things looking good and running smoothly, we want you to know we appreciate you!



Where Jesus Lives

"Tomorrow morning," the surgeon began, "I'll open up your heart..."

"You'll find Jesus there," the boy interrupted.

The surgeon looked up, annoyed "I'll cut your heart open," he continued, to see how much damage has been done..."

"But when you open up my heart, you'll find Jesus in there," said the boy.

The surgeon looked to the parents, who sat quietly.

"When I see how much damage has been done, I'll sew your heart and chest back up, and I'll plan what to do next."

"But you'll find Jesus in my heart. The Bible says He lives there. The hymns all say He lives there. You'll find Him in my heart."

The surgeon had had enough. "I'll tell you what I'll find in your heart. I'll find damaged muscle, low blood supply, and weakened vessels. And I'll find out if I can make you well."

"You'll find Jesus there too. He lives there."

The surgeon left.

The surgeon sat in his office, recording his notes from the surgery, "...damaged aorta, damaged pulmonary vein, widespread muscle degeneration. No hope for transplant, no hope for cure. Therapy: painkillers and bed rest. Prognosis:", " here he paused, "death within one year"

He stopped the recorder, but there was more to be said. "Why?"

he asked aloud. "Why did You do this? You've put him here; You've put him in this pain; and You've cursed him to an early death. Why?"

The Lord answered and said, "The boy, My lamb, was not meant for your flock for long, for he is a part of My flock, and will forever be. Here, in My flock, he will feel no pain, and will be comforted as you cannot imagine. His parents will one day join him here, and they will know peace, and My flock will continue to grow."

The surgeon's tears were hot, but his anger was hotter. "You created that boy, and You created that heart. He'll be dead in months. Why?"

The Lord answered, "The boy, My lamb, shall return to My flock, for He has done his duty: I did not put My lamb with your flock to lose him, but to retrieve another lost lamb."

The surgeon wept. The surgeon sat beside the boy's bed; the boy's parents sat across from him. The boy awoke and whispered, "Did you cut open my heart?"

"Yes," said the surgeon.

"What did you find?" asked the boy.

"I found Jesus there," said the surgeon.

Taken from the internet – Author unknown



Stewardship... A Way of Life

Back in June, the Stewardship Committee sent a copy of *The Treasure Principal* out to each of our Church's pledging members and more. This was our gift to each of you. We hope that you have read this book and have come to realize the benefits which can be yours when you share your treasures with God through your Church. We have all heard the verse "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). Are you a cheerful giver?

Randy Alcorn so aptly writes about the joys of giving. "Our instincts are to give to those who will give us something in return", he writes. How true that statement is!! Have you ever given ...just for the sake of giving? What a wonderful feeling that can be!! We are promised that the benefits of our present giving will come to us in Heaven. Are you prepared to give of your earthly treasures in order to realize the true treasure which awaits you in Heaven?

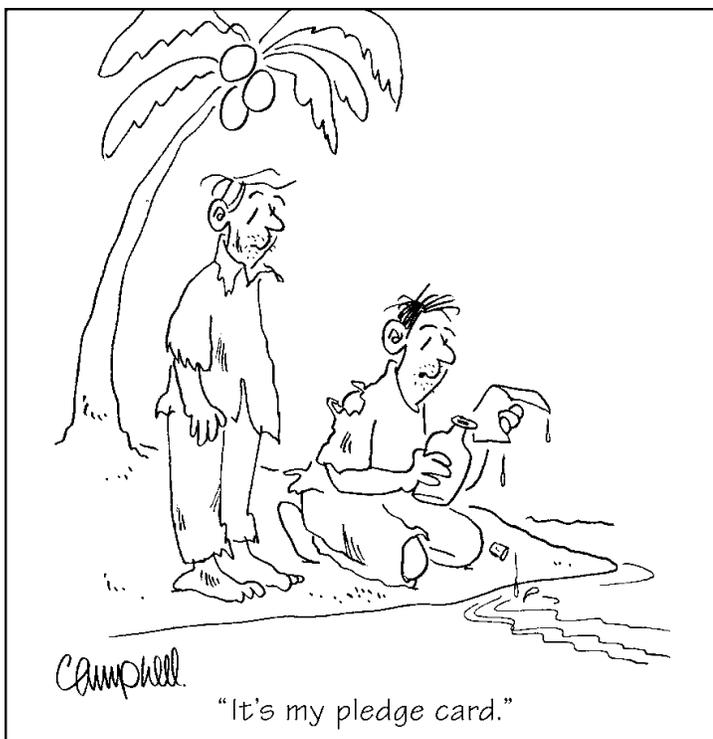
Please keep in mind the words of Randy Alcorn in his book *The Treasure Principal* as you consider your pledge for the upcoming year. We urge you to embrace Christ's invitation: "Give and it will be given to you" (Luke 6:38).

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. We look forward to hearing from you.

In His Love,

The Stewardship Committee

John Rockwood (Chair), Michael & Michele Schillinger, Al Boucher, Todd & Donna Dube, Kenneth Holstrom



Current Fund Raiser

We have registered with **Current**—often known for their check printing services—for a fundraiser to benefit the roof. They have a catalog and a website where you can purchase fun and creative items from candle holders and knick-knacks to greeting cards and wrapping paper. We have catalogs in Fellowship Hall for you to look through or if you are computer savvy, you can shop online at <http://www.currentfun.com/> - just follow the prompts to select **The First Congregational Church of Auburn** during checkout. Fifty percent goes directly to the Church. If ordering from the catalog, all catalog orders need to be in by November 6th for a late November delivery and to eliminate shipping costs. All checks should be made out to The First Congregational Church. You can continue to order online indefinitely but you will be charged shipping & handling. Any questions, please call 508-832-2845 during business hours. Or contact Linda Graham at 508-832-9507.

Thank you for your support!



WHAT (WHO)
REALLY
COUNTS?

The following is the philosophy of Charles Schultz, the creator of the "Peanuts" comic strip. You don't have to actually answer the questions — just read straight through, and you'll get the point.

1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
2. Name the last five Heisman trophy winners.
3. Name the last five winners of the Miss America contest.
4. Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize.
5. Name the last half dozen Academy Award winner for best actor and actress.
6. Name the last decade's worth of World Series winners.

HOW DID YOU DO?...

The point is, none of us remember the headliners of yesterday. These are no second-rate achievers. They are the best in their fields. But the applause dies. Awards tarnish. Achievements are forgotten. Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.

Here's another quiz. See how you do on this one:

1. List a few teachers who aided your journey through school.
2. Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time.
3. Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.
4. Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special.
5. Think of five people you enjoy spending time with.

The lesson: The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, or the most awards. They are the ones that care.

"Don't worry about the world coming to an end today. It's already tomorrow in Australia." (Charles Schultz)

I just wanted you to know that you make a difference in my life!

Barb
Jernigan



October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Healthy Lung Month, National Dental Hygiene Month, National Lupus Awareness Month, National Physical Therapy Month, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Month, Halloween Safety Month, "Talk About Prescriptions" Month, Clean Air Month, and Let's Talk Month- Advocates for Youth.

On October 6th from 7:00-8:30PM, the Auburn Consortium will be sponsoring "Healthy Living through the Ages". This is a town wide program to help educate the population about healthy eating and living to stop the obesity epidemic in our country. The first part will be at The First Congregational Church and it will focus on children. All are welcome. There will be a nutritionist and someone to teach some helpful exercises. A representative from W.I.C. will be there with lots of free information. Refreshments (healthy ones) will be served. The second part will be held at Pakachoag Church in February 2006, and the focus will be adults. The third and final part will focus on Seniors and will be held at the Senior Center in May 2006.

It's time to start thinking Flu Season! You should be checking with your Primary Care Physician about whether or not you should get the flu shot. I will have information about where you can get them. Also, hand washing is the BEST way to prevent the spread of germs. Let's hope for a healthy fall and winter season.

I'm in the process of setting up a babysitting course. I will have more information in the bulletins or you can e-mail me or call the church office.

I'd also like to update the CPR lists that are posted with the first aid kits. Please let me know if you are certified in case there is ever an emergency.

Please take a look at the information on the health table in Fellowship Hall. Help yourself to any brochures that are there.

-Debbie Pranaitis, *Parish Nurse*



Simon Evening of Giving

There will be a special evening of shopping at the Auburn Mall on Sunday, November 20th from 6:30 to 9:30PM. Admission to the Mall is by ticket only and tickets are sold only by participating non-profit organizations as a fundraising event. Tickets are now on sale in the church office or at Coffee Hours. Tickets are \$10.00 each. \$3.00 of this goes to the Simon Youth Foundation, the remaining \$7.00 will go into the Roof Fund.

Throughout the evening special sales will take place, there will most likely be some form of entertainment, and there will be door prize drawings in which you automatically are entered in by purchasing a ticket and need not be present to win.

Why not plan a 'Girls Night Out' and purchase a ticket soon? The holidays will be here before we know it!

-Cindy Dube

Tidings articles
are due on
October 20th
or Sooner!!!

MINIATURE GOLF TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Sixty-four golfers ranging in age from 3 1/2 to 85, participated in the first ever, but not the last, Mini Golf Tournament held on Saturday, September 17th at Crystal Caves Mini Golf here in Auburn. God blessed us once again with no rain. All who played agreed that it was great fun and look forward to participating again next year. After golf, everyone returned to the church for a delicious breakfast prepared by Bill Storie, Jennifer Bohn and Rev. Knox. Prizes were awarded and the coveted "Committee Cup" was presented to the Deacon's Team.

Thank you to all who participated and to the committees that formed teams. As silly as it seemed the "Committee Cup" added some fun and friendly competition to the day.

Thank you also to all our Hole Sponsors and to BJ's for their generous donation of pastries.

I am happy to report we were able to raise \$1,143.00 for our Roof Fund.

God bless you all,

Cindy Dube



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR HOLE SPONSORS

Appletree Fabrics
 A.P.S. Automotive
 Auburn Sewing Center
 B&D Supply, Todd Dube
 Central Mass Orthodontics, Dr. Lisa Giarrusso
 Colony Farms Produce and Fish
 Colony Wine and Spirits
 Dream Nails by Denise
 The Gardener, Joe Pranaitis
 Here We Grow Preschool
 Heritage Coffee Shop
 Dr. Francis Kach, DDS
 Kay-Gee Signs
 Little Diggers Construction, Mark Mahlert
 NEWGEM Builders, Paul Gemme
 Northeast Insurance Agency
 TriEmerald Landscaping, Scott Johnson
 Stephen Welch, A.B.O.C., Optician Glasses and Hearing Aids.

THANK YOU TO OUR INDIVIDUAL SPONSORS

Joan and Gordon Battye
 The Dube Grandchildren
 The Gemme Kids
 Paul and Linda Gemme
 Sherry Halloran
 Bob Johnson
 Carl and Lorain Johnson
 Ellie Lowell and Mittens
 Paul and Louise Powers
 The Sampson Family
 Lori and Nick Stockhaus

Library Tidings

By Gloria Whitehead

Could you feel the elation in church on Sunday, the 18th of September, when Cindy Dube announced the success of the miniature golf tournament the day before? Well, the library had a modified version of this when we received generous gifts of current and appealing books this month. They came from Bob and Dorothy Koopman, Janice Moore (mother of Becky Johnson) and Gloria Beauregard (Sue Klauke's mother) and will be listed in the Tidings as they're put into circulation.

Pastor Ken's sermon title on August 28th was The Bible—My Road to God. Take a moment, sometime to look at the selection you have in category #12 (Bibles) on the lower shelves of the center unit in the Adult Library. A few are on display as well and the children's Library has a varied selection, along with related material, for all ages.

Did your eye catch either Hope Through Heartsong's or Journey Through Heartsong's written by Mattie J.T. Stepanek (11 year old deceased M.S. victim) to whom Jen Bohn referred in her outstanding synopsis of Youth on a Mission's trip to Virginia? Mattie's insightful works and lifestyle reflects the theme, It's Not About Me, which the youth adopted.

The Religious Education Board and the Library Committee enjoyed meeting in September when we exchanged ways in which we could combine our objectives for the children.

The Stewardship Committee has given the Library two copies of The Treasure Principle—discovering the secret of joyful giving. They do not have a sign out card but may be borrowed. Just speak to a librarian.

When looking for new LARGE PRINT books, God's Politics was suggested and we understand that the minister of Worcester's First Baptist Church found it good reading. *Jim Wallis*, the author, argues that America's separation of church and state does not require banishing moral and religious values from the public square. Conversely, it's these things upon which the very survival of our nation's social fabric depends to shape our politics. Since when did the pursuit and promotion of a progressive agenda concerning economic security, health and education mean that you had to put God aside? He's neither a Democrat or a Republican! - The LARGE PRINT makes this book a good read for everyone regarding a current event facing our nation today.

Also, the latest Harry Potter book has been added to the series.

The Library Committee:

Gloria Whitehead
Charlotte Steffen
Dorothy Eklund
Jean McPherson
Deb Pranaitis
Connie Whitehead Hanks
Florence LaPlante

A dog had followed his owner to school. His owner was a fourth grader at a public elementary school. However, when the bell rang, the dog sidled inside the building and made it all the way to the child's classroom before a teacher noticed and shoo'ed him outside, closing the door behind him. The dog sat down, whimpered and stared at the closed doors. Then God appeared beside the dog, patted his head, and said, "Don't feel bad fella'....they won't let ME in either."

ROOF UPDATE

Please be aware that starting the first week of October, the entire church roof and steeple will be re-shingled. The work is expected to take a minimum of 2 weeks, depending on weather conditions. It is expected that some entrances to the building and some parking areas will be closed from time to time to give the workers access to the roof. We will make every effort to notify affected groups ahead of time of any changes, and will post signs around the building detailing what areas will be closed. We apologize for any inconvenience that this may cause and thank you for your understanding.

Board of Trustees



Hurricane Update

In response to the recent hurricane devastation in our country, The First Congregational Church is taking monetary donations to be sent to Church World Service. Here is an excerpt from their website:



The best way to help people affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita is a cash donation. CWS is supporting immediate needs and organizing for long-term recovery, working within affected communities to meet the unmet needs of the most vulnerable. CWS has provided more than \$1.23 million in material assistance (blankets, recovery kits, medicines, etc.) to affected areas thus far, and will be providing vital assistance as families and communities work to put their lives back together again. Your help is urgently needed to support this work.

Log in to www.ucc.org or www.churchworldservice.org for more information or call the Disaster Hotline at 1-800-456-1310.

If you would like to make a donation to the relief efforts through Church World Service please make a check out to:
First Congregational Church
Memo: Emergency USA

Any questions, please call the church office Monday-Friday 8:30 Am to 2:30 PM.
 508-832-2845



"Love your Neighbor as Yourself."

Mark 12:31

| Coffee Hour Hosts | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Oct. 2 & 9 | Memorial/Historians |
| Oct. 16 & 23 | Stewardship |
| Oct. 30 & Nov 6 | Prudential |
| Nov. 13 & 20 | Financial Secretaries/Treasurers |
| Nov. 27 & Dec. 4 | Music |
| Dec. 11 & 18 | Nominating/Scholarship |
| Dec 25 | No Coffee Hour |
| Jan. 1 | Trustees |
| Jan 8 & 15 | Deacons |
| Jan. 22 | Outreach |



...to Gloria Rose on the passing of her much loved sister, Shirley G. Rose, 79, on September 3rd, 2005.

...to Russell Romkey and his family on the loss of his sister, Jeanne R. Wilson, 81, of Sterling. She passed away on August 24th amidst her loving family.

...to the family and friends of Marion Malone on her passing Monday, September 26, 2005 while convalescing after a car accident. She had been surrounded by family and friends and was doing well, making plans for moving to her new home, when God called her to His home. A Memorial Service is being planned for a later date.



October 30, 2005

We are **considering** a trip to "THE NUTCRACKER" on Sunday, December 4 leaving at 1:30pm for a 5:30pm performance. Price has not been ascertained yet. If you are interested, please sign up in Fellowship Hall to help us determine the amount of that interest. We will share further information as it develops.

Boston Ballet's THE NUTCRACKER
 Music: Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky
 Choreography: Mikko Nissinen



2005 Harvest Festival
 October 1 — 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 October 2 — 12 - 4 p.m.

Enjoy a hayride to the pumpkin patch to pick your own pumpkins. Great foods will be available, including harvest corn chowder, pesto pizza and sausage grinders. Visit our gift shop, featuring crafts from around the world. Activities for the children include face painting, a hay maze and crafts. \$5/car parking fee. (A fee will also be charged for food, pumpkins and the children's activities.)



October 23, 2005. Registration is at 1:00 PM at Auburn Youth and Family Services. The walk begins at 1:15 PM - See Barbara Jernigan for more details. Packets are available in Fellowship Hall.

**In order to see the rainbow,
 you must first endure some rain.**



From the Choir Room

We are all overjoyed in the choir to add two new members to our group. Welcome two new members to our group. Welcome to Debbie Mahlert and Linda Mahlert!

On October 23, the choir will be presenting a new anthem "On Eagles Wings". This anthem is not newly written but this version will be the first time we've done it. The text is based on Psalm 91 and is often sung in the Catholic Church. As everyone is familiar with it, I'm sure it will be enjoyed by all.

"Canon of Praise" will be sung October 9th and is also familiar to most of us. This anthem is based on Pachelbels Canon. It is arranged into two parts with the piano accompaniment carrying the 'Pachelbels' melody. This is a calming, peaceful work which (for a change) features the alto section.

On October 30, we will present 'Be Not Afraid' which was new to us last year. Unlike Pachelbels, which speaks to us primarily through the beauty of the music, "Be Not Afraid" speaks to us through the text. It is based on Isaiah 43:1-7 "Be not afraid, I've called you by name. My love for you is everlasting, my love for you shall have no end".

Blessings,

Heather Moore—Minister of Music

"...we shout that the world may hear, we sing a joyful song." (Psalm 27:1-4)

Jimmy Fund Walk

Again this year, Deb Pranaitis and Lori Stockhaus took part in the Jimmy Fund Walk on September 18th. They walked the whole 26.5 miles of the Boston Marathon route. Deb was able to raise over \$500 and Lori raised over \$800. She does this in memory of her mom every year that she is able to. Both girls were walking a little slower on Monday morning—but both of them are doing well. They want to thank all who sponsored them, and everyone who supported them. Your encouragement makes this worth while and they are already talking about next year!!!

Thank You!

Joyful Noyse Schedule

- 9/18 11 AM Rehearsal
- 9/25 9 AM Rehearsal
"Keeping My Eyes on You"
"Seek Ye First"
- 10/2 11 AM Rehearsal
- 10/9 11 AM Rehearsal
- 10/16 11 AM Rehearsal
- 10/23 9 AM Rehearsal
"We are Singing, for the Lord is our Light"
"Ask and Seek and Knock"
- 10/30 11 AM Rehearsal
- 11/6 11 AM Rehearsal
- 11/13 11 AM Rehearsal
- 11/20 11 AM Rehearsal
- 11/27 9 AM Rehearsal
"Shout to the North"
- 12/4 11 AM Rehearsal
- 12/11 11 AM Rehearsal
- 12/18 9 AM Rehearsal
"Hear the Good News"
"Come, Light of the World!"
- 12/24 5:00 PM service Christmas Eve
"Hear the Good News"
"Come, Light of the World"

Let's All Celebrate with Florence

As most of you know, Florence LaPlante will soon be moving to Florida. A definite date has not been set for her to leave, but it is expected to be November 1st. On October 23rd at 4:00 pm there will be a gathering to honor her. A light dinner will be served and a time to share "Florence Stories" if you wish.

Tickets can be purchased from Nick & Lori Stockhaus or Steve & Shirley Hill. The cost will be \$14.00. Children under 10 years old will be free. This fee will also include a gift for Florence to be presented that evening. She is very limited on how much "stuff" she can take with her, so no other gifts please.

All tickets need to be purchased before October 9th. Anyone who wishes to contribute to her gift, but will not be able to attend, can mail a check to Lori Stockhaus at her home address of 36 Linda Ave., Millbury, MA 01527. The checks should be made out to Lori not the church.

If the only reason you would be unable to attend is you will need a ride, we can arrange transportation for you.

Any questions or concerns, please call Steve and Shirley at 508-832-6335 or Lori and Nick at 508-865-6439. This is a very small event for a wonderful woman that has done so very much for this church. Please help make it a success!!



*TIDINGS is a monthly
publication of*

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

Phone: (508)832-2845
Fax: (508)721-2539
Web: auburnfirststucc.org



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