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# *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,*

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## **Hello ... and Goodbye**

I will only be here long enough for us to get to know each other and then will be gone. Thus the title!

*Reflections from your Interim Pastor, Reverend Mark Seifried*

It's an honor for me to be serving First Congregational Church of Auburn, UCC. You'll be learning plenty about me in coming weeks and months. The humbling thing about being a preacher is that we wear our hearts on our sleeves. Actually, we talk so much that it doesn't take long for the congregation to understand who we are, what we believe and how well we will integrate into the community. I pray that our time together is fruitful and filled with joy.

One of the things I've learned as an *intentional* interim pastor is that I have to approach each congregation as if I were completely ignorant. Worship in Auburn is going to feel somewhat foreign to me. So are church meetings, church suppers, Sunday School and the way the staff works together. As the Body of Christ, this body is unique. I am going to ask a lot of questions early in my ministry. Like a physician, I get the most information by asking questions and by feeling my way around the body (figuratively, of course!). Like a physician who takes the Hippocratic Oath, I make every attempt to do no harm.

That said, some may perceive me as a potential threat because I am “a foreigner.” I probably will speak in a dialect that you haven't heard a lot in church. I believe in plain speaking. It's probably not going to surprise you that I was born and raised in Missouri, the “Show Me State” and home of Harry Truman. My very presence and manner will surprise some ... “He doesn't look or act anything like a preacher – at least not any I've known.” That's fine by me. If I do offend you, please let me know directly. All concerns are valid.

I can't tell you what to expect from me except that I will be faithful to my call to serve as a minister with the church of Jesus Christ. I will take risks from the pulpit and elsewhere for the sake of the gospel. I will do my best to share with you the joy I have for ministry. I will love you. I will work collegially with church leaders and include as many people in decision making as possible. I will celebrate your gifts. I will be childlike when I am able and serious when I must. I will split my tithe with this congregation, my home church and other settings of the UCC. I will invite you into the fullness of our unique and blessed life in the Congregational tradition of the United Church of Christ, bearing in mind that Congregationalism looks different in every church because the communities are unique. I will pray for our shared ministry daily and will expect the same from you.

We will accomplish as much or as little as we will to accomplish, meaning if church leaders want this to be a time of transformation, it will be. If it is the will of the church to remain just as it has been, it will remain relatively unchanged. An interim pastor does not join the church s/he serves – which means I have less real power than members of the church. I don't have a vote, but every member of the church does.

I hope to meet most of the congregation over the next few weeks. Send me e-mails (seifried@charter.net) or give me a call (508-852-0961). Ministry is about building relationships – to the glory of God. I pray that we will be blessed as we do just that. We'll know each other quite well by the time it's time to say “goodbye.”

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to retire and a time to start again ... It is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil! (Paraphrase from Ecclesiastes 3)*

September Birthdays include:

Jacob McPherson - September 14th

Laura DuHamel - September 19th

Happy Birthday!

Also, belated birthday wishes go out to Alice Carlson who celebrated her special day on August 23rd. Happy Belated Birthday, Alice!



**Birthdays  
& Anniversaries**

On September 14th Lori & Nick Stockhaus will be celebrating their 17th wedding anniversary - Congratulations!



Our next church supper is planned for Saturday, September 20th, at 5:00 p.m.

Adults \$10 Children \$5

**Hope to see you there!**

Servers: Individual Volunteers are needed

**Please note the date change: our 7th Annual Golf Tournament has been changed to October 18th at 1 p.m. (Please see enclosed flyer for more details.)**

**Also enclosed is a church survey from the Pastoral Search Committee. Please complete it and return**

**by Oct. 5th.** If mailing it be sure to put it to the attention of the PSC. You may also drop it in the designated box during coffee hour or simply give it to any Deacon or PSC member.



Thank you!

Dear Avis and Fellow Parishioners,

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff and most especially the children and families we serve, thank you for your generous donation to the "First Day" program. Children in grades 1 - 12 will return to school with brand new backpacks, school supplies, a new outfit and shoes thanks to the generosity of people like you and the success of the First Day Program.

Thank you so much for your continued support. You have made a difference in the quality of lives for these children.

Sincerely,

Sally D. D'Arcangelo

Executive Director

Auburn Youth and Family Services, Inc.

### **First Congregational Church Bowling League**

The Church bowling league is in need of 2 to 3 full-time bowlers for the fall bowling league. The league will be starting up Friday, September 5th.

If you are interested, please contact Nick or Lori Stockhaus at 508-865-6439 for more details.

### **The Pumpkins Are Coming!**

**When:** Saturday, October 11th at 1 p.m. until Friday, October 31st at dusk

**Where:** Pumpkin Patch First Congregational Church 128 Central Street, Auburn, MA

**Why:** Fundraiser

**Needed:** Volunteers (**please see enclosed insert**)

If you enjoy visiting with people this is for you! All that is asked of you is to collect the money from selling pumpkins, gourds and fall decorations. There is a sign-up sheet enclosed in this month's *Tidings*. Once you have decided when you can help, just fill it out and drop it in the collection plate, or call us. Thanks!

Shirley Hill ~ (508) 832-6335  
Diane Moore ~ (508) 832-8078  
Jen Bohn ~ (508) 832-0428

Since the last printing of the *Tidings* in June, we have experienced several losses in our church family. Please keep the following families in your prayers:

### **Marjorie L. (Hall) Rannikko**

Marjorie L. (Hall) Rannikko, 77 of Auburn passed away peacefully on May 28, 2008 in the Life Care Center of Auburn, after a battle with cancer. She was surrounded by her loving family and friends. She was also predeceased by her son, David John Rannikko. She is survived by her 8 children: 4 daughters: Susan J. Kelley, Lois J. Hill, Jayne E. Sarkisian and her husband James, Debra L. Morrissey and her husband Brian; her 4 sons: Robert A. and his wife Shelley, William J, John A. and Cheryl, James W. and his wife Kellie. Mrs. Rannikko also leaves 2 brothers; Warren M. Hall (wife Carol, deceased), Alfred A. Hall and his wife Patricia, and 1 sister, Marilyn J. Cole and her husband David. She also leaves 21 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews, and numerous close friends. Marjorie lived in Auburn nearly all her life where she raised her 9 children. Her funeral was held here at our church on June 2nd.

### **Carl T. Eklund**

Carl T. Eklund, 86, of Auburn died Wednesday, June 18th in UMass Memorial Hospital after a short illness. At his passing Carl left his wife, Dorothy (Dottie) and 2 sons, Donald Eklund and Jon Eklund; several nieces and nephews and 2 Godchildren, Shari and Eric. Carl was born in Auburn and lived here his whole life. He was a proud Army veteran of World War II, serving in the 4th Army Division in Europe. He received a Purple Heart Medal. His funeral service was held on Saturday, June 21st, at Britton Wallace Funeral Home. Burial with Military Honors was at Hillside Cemetery, Auburn.

### **Ruth M. (Wahlstrom) Norwood**

Ruth (Wahlstrom) Norwood of Worcester, MA died on Saturday, June 21st after a long illness. She leaves her son, Robert C. Norwood and his wife Susan, 2 daughters, Debra L. Nordberg and her husband, Paul and Nancy A. Gray and her husband Gregory. She also leaves 7 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister, Jean Berthiaume and her husband Richard. Ruth's husband of 63 years, Robert E. Norwood died in April of 2007. Ruth and Robert were residents of Auburn for 48 years and attended our church. A funeral service was held on June 25th at Britton-Wallace Funeral Home.

### **Richard F. Murray**

Please keep Bob and Carole Murray and family in your thoughts and prayers due to the passing of Bob's brother, Richard Murray, on Wednesday, June 25th. Richard leaves his children - 2 sons, Richard Murray and his wife Mary, and Kevin Morin, and a daughter, Brenda Berard; 5 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. A funeral Mass was held on June 30th at St. Joseph's Church in Auburn.

### **Dorothy Eklund**

Dorothy M. (Jamieson) Eklund, 76, of Auburn died Monday, August 11th in her home, after an illness. Her husband of 52 years, Carl T. Eklund, died on June 18th. She leaves 2 sons, Donald C. Eklund of Wellesley and Jon T. Eklund of Auburn; her sister, Alice K. Carlson of Auburn and a granddaughter, Niki Eklund. She was predeceased by her brother Robert G. Jamieson, Jr. and her sister, Barbara Ann Jamieson. She's the daughter of the late Robert G. and Marie (Nichols) Jamieson and has lived in Auburn most of her life. Dottie was a 70 year member of our church, where she was active with the young members of the congregation. A funeral service was held at Britton Wallace Funeral Home on Friday, August 15th. Memorial contributions may be made to the First Congregational Church of Auburn Renovation Fund, 128 Central St., Auburn, MA 01501.

*"I am the resurrection and the Life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies." John 11:25*



Welcome back from summer vacations. Hope everyone had a safe and healthy summer.

September is Fruit and Veggie - More Matters Month, National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month, National Infant Mortality Month, National Yoga Month, Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, Sports and Eye Safety Month, Healthy Aging Month, National Cholesterol Education Month, National Pediculosis Prevention Month/Head Lice Prevention Month, Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, Reyes Syndrome Awareness Month, and Whole Grains Month. September 7-13 is National Suicide Prevention Week, the 13th is National Celiac Disease Awareness Day, the 15th -23rd is Reyes Syndrome Awareness Week. The 16th is Get Ready Day, the 21 -27th is National Rehabilitation Awareness Celebration. September 21st is World Alzheimer's Day, the 28th -Oct. 4th is Hearing Aid Awareness Week, and the 28th is World Heart Day.

I have purchased an 8 week program through The International Parish Nurses called "Get My People Going." I will have more information coming in the next *Tidings*. It is something that everyone could participate in and hopefully gain from it. You do it with a partner and you pick some things that you'd like to change, like eat healthier, visit someone more often or give someone a call more often, lose weight, stop a habit, be more aware of others, etc. There are charts to keep track on for the eight weeks.

As of this writing, I have about 10 walkers in the closet. Please tell friends about the equipment. I don't want it to just sit there!

Once again, Lori Stockhaus and I will be walking 26 ½ miles on September 21st as part of the Jimmy Fund Cancer Walk. There will be a sign-up sheet at coffee hour if anyone would like to sponsor us.

God Bless!  
Deborah Pranaitis, Parish Nurse

### Youth On a Mission

Our trip to Asheville, NC was a huge success on so many levels. You can certainly be proud of the group of young people that represented our church down south the week of July 19 – 27. We were able to do so much for Earl and Debbie Watford and they in turn, without even realizing it, gave so much back to us. We will be meeting with Pastor Mark, our new interim, so that we can make arrangements to present our experience to the church VERY soon. We want to thank EVERYONE who has supported us over this past year both financially and spiritually.

***ALL YOM MEMBERS THAT WERE PART OF THE ASHEVILLE, NC TRIP are required to be in church and then stay for a meeting on Sunday Sept 7. Please bring any photos you have from the trip. I would like to try to put together a power point presentation for the church.***

Anyone who is interested in joining Youth On a Mission or finding out more about us should come to our kick off meeting on Sunday September 28 immediately following the regular church service. We meet in the Green Room just outside of fellowship hall.

We're going to be starting right away with fundraising for next year's trip. Keep your eyes open for your favorites: Joe Corbi's pizza and cookie dough, and Ever -So-Humble pies coming this fall to a coffee hour near you! Joe Corbi's will be available probably late September. We'll take orders for Ever-So-Humble pies at the end of October to be sure and have them in for Thanksgiving.

God Bless!

Jennifer & Randy Bohn



### August Tidings from **Here We Grow** Preschool

On September 2, 2009 **Here We Grow** Preschool will be opening the school for the 20<sup>th</sup> year. WOW! The Department of Early Education and Care has raised our enrollment to 134 children with the addition of a 4<sup>th</sup> classroom. I am writing this on the last day of summer camp which was on June 27<sup>th</sup>. At this time we have only 3 openings in the four year old classes. All three year old classes are filled with a wait list of 10 children in the morning and the afternoon. I feel confident that we will be filled when we open in September.

As you know, Anne Coyne retired from HWG and is looking for a full time, year round job. We have hired a few new people to help out this school year. In room 1 is Michelle Mulcahy & Sherri Leonard, room 2 is Gina Murphy, Jean Marhefka or Robin Mancini, room 3 is Debra Nelson and Karen Banks, and the new room is #4 with Helen Ethier as the teacher. We will be sharing this room with the Sunday school for their classes on Sundays. Thanks to Dave Sampson and Wayne Prouty for preparing the room for HWG. It looks great.

The end of the '07-'08 school year was difficult for many of our families. Some of these friends have been with us for 6 and 7 years, and now we have seen their babies graduate. We wish them all well, and asked them to keep sending their friends our way. Many, if not all, feel that **Here We Grow** Preschool is the best program around. They are our best form of advertisement.

All end-of-year field trips went well as did all 4 graduations. The young fours had a day graduation with a make-your own sundae party. The 3 year olds had a short, but sweet day graduation and then were entertained by Fran the Magician, (he was great). The 4's going to kindergarten in the fall had 2 night graduations. They were spectacular. So we made it through another successful year, thank GOD.

It will be difficult coming back without the support and wisdom of Rev. Knox. He was one of our greatest supporters. We do have a great support system with members of the **Here We Grow** Board. Church representatives are: Dave Sampson, Shirley Hill, Wayne Prouty & Carole Sampson. Parent representatives are: Stephen Brodner, Marc Messina, Kelley Willard, & Michelle Fuller.

I am excited to see the new sanctuary. When I left for the summer, things were still in an upheaval. I'm sure it is going to turn out beautiful.

Until the fall, have a great summer.

Dawn Murphy  
**Here We Grow** Director

## LEDGER

1773-1786

A few years ago I read and copied a ledger that was stored in the town hall basement. I don't believe this book has been read in the last two hundred years. It is a complete record of the step-by-step decisions made by our men in building our meetinghouse and forming our town.

The following is the third in a series of excerpts from these writings.

George DuHamel and Paula Lubin, Church Historians

We the Subscribers Inhabitants of the Town of Worcester, Leicester, Oxford and Sutton. Living with the S' in the aforegoing order of the great and General Court for the joining with a Precinct made out of Said Towns hereby Signify to your Honor our desire to belong to Said Worcester. I have warn'd all the freeholders and other inhabitants living within the precinct within mentioned Qualified to vote according to law to meet at the time and place for the purpose within mentioned by posting up a true and attested Copy of the Warrant at the House of David Gleson in Said Precinct.

*Thomas Drury*

At a meeting of the freeholders and other inhabitants living in the precinct made out of the Towns of Worcester, Sutton, Oxford and Leicester in the County of Worcester the twenty seventh Day of July A.D. 1773 three o'clock afternoon at the House of Mr. Thomas Drury Junr. in Worcester by virtue of warrant from John Chandler Esq. one of the majestrys Justice of the Peace for Said County being duly sworn.

*John Chandler*

Esq. Moderator

Attest. Jacobs Stevens, Precinct Clerk

Precinct Committee to call meetings to manage the affairs of Said Precinct

Comfort Rice

Alexander Nichols

Benj. Carter

John Hart

James Hart

Jonathan Stone Treasurer

Comfort Rice

Alexander Nichols

Benj. Carter Assessors

John Hart

James Hart

Thomas Baird Jun. Collector of Taxes

Worcester

To Mr. Thomas Drury one of the Petitioners for calling the first meeting in a precinct made out of Worcester, Sutton, Oxford and Leicester in the County of Worcester.

Greetings.

Whereas David Baneroft, Benjamin Carter, John Hart, Samuel Eddy and Thomas Drury five of the persons, set of in a Precinct made of the towns aforesaid have requested me to issue any Warrant for the calling a meeting of Said Precinct to be held on Tuesday the twenty Seventh Day of July instant at three o'clock afternoon at the House of Mr. Thomas Drury Jr. in said Precinct to, act on the following Articles (viz)

1) To choose a Moderator

2) To choose a Precinct Clerk also a Precinct Committee to call meetings for the future also a Precinct Treasurer, Assessors & Collector of Taxes.

These are therefore to require you the aforesaid Thomas Drury to warn and give notice to all the freeholders and other Inhabitants of Said Precinct Qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet and assemble at time and place and for the purpose above mentioned by posting up a true and attested copy of this warrant in some publick place or places within S'd Precinct fourteen days before Said meeting - Hereof fail not and make due return hereof & of your doings herein. Given under the hands and seal at Worcester, the fifth Day of July An Dom 1773 & in the thirteenth year of our Majesty Reign.

*John Chandler*

Justice of the Peace

Worcester, Sa. August the 27, 1773 in Obedience to the within Warrant, I have notified and worn the votebal inhabitance of Said parish to meet at the time and plais to act on Said articals.

Dr. Mr Jacobs Stevens, Parish Clerk

August ye 17, 1773 a legal meeting/

1 choes Mr. David Baneroft moderator for Said meeting

2 voted to begin preaching as soon as maybe, 3 voted to choes a committee to provide preaching, 4 voted to choes five, chos mr. Johnathan Stone, Alexander Nichols, Benjamin Carter, Andrew Crowl, David Baneroft. Article 3 voted to buld a meeting hous, voted to choes a committee to Draw plans, voted to choes seven, chose Mr. Charles Richardson, Oliver Curtis, Jonathan Phillips, Anthony Carter, John Crowl, Samuel Eddy, Peter Hardy. Voted to agourn this meeting to the last day of the month at one of the clock. Upon Agournment August ye 17, 1773 voted to expect a report of the committy for bulding a meeting hous 50 by 40 and 24 feat post. Voted to choes a Committee to lot out the timber and see the Same to the spot. Voted to choes five first mr. Charles Richardson. John Crowl, Jonathan Stone, Samuel Eddy, Peter Boyden.

A committee.

The aforegoing vots passed at Said meeting

Attest. Darius Baneroft, Moderator



## Managing through Change.... **MISSION: POSSIBLE**

We hope you are enjoying your summer!

As we stated in the June *Tidings*, over the next few months, through the *Tidings* as well as weekly bulletins, the Stewardship Committee will be taking you on a journey through the individual ministries of First Congregational Church of Auburn. We do this in an effort to remind us all why we are here.

We face many challenges ahead. Being constant in our Faith and serving others through our ministries is one way in helping us to keep in step with our Lord.

Despite the physical turmoil within the Church building, Interfaith Hospitality once again, with the support of various members of our church and other congregations around us, hosted families during the week of July 13. This clearly shows us the MISSION is POSSIBLE!!!

Thirty one congregations define the network of churches participating in this mission. Many share the commitment with additional congregations providing meals and shelter for one week and in some instances two weeks a year. Here at the First Congregational Church, we recognize the ecumenical collaboration as an essential component with volunteers from this Congregation, St. Joseph's Church, North American Martyrs and the Greenville Baptist Church. Over these past years, the faces have blended as have many of the names but through this congregation's generosity the Interfaith mission prevails. It serves as a beacon of safety and hope for countless families participating in the Interfaith Hospitality Network.

Many thanks go out to the many that have helped to make this year's journey with the homeless as successful as years past. Our hope is that through this mission we have shared our Faith with those we have served and have given them the understanding that whatever their circumstance, God is there to protect and provide.

Keep this prayer in your hearts and minds through the upcoming months:

Loving Creator, the challenges before us seem enormous as we strive to serve you. Please be with those we have served through Interfaith Hospitality and help them to know and remember that we all can courageously meet every test through Christ our Lord. Amen.

In His Love,

Your Stewardship Committee:

Michele Schillinger (Chair), Todd Dube, Mike Dube, Steve & Sandy Landry, Ron Klaucke

The past several months reinforce the strength and resiliency of this Congregation. The Board of Deacons' primary focus was to insure the pulpit would be filled and services would be appropriately scheduled each Sunday. Although this was our responsibility, the members of the Congregation came forward without hesitation to assume this responsibility collectively. The unity and desire to serve was wonderful. This transitional ministry by the laity was reflective and spoke of biblical interpretations and metaphorical references as well as every day examples of our Christian beliefs. We left each service with a sense of "different yet insightful thoughts" and knew we had been part of the first phase of change here at the First Congregational Church.

Our sincere thank you to Jen Bohn, to the children and the Board of Christian Education with Shirley Hill and Mike Schillinger, Allison Hill, Steve Hill, Ron Klaucke, Cliff Peterson, Bill Storie and Don Temple.

"Whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord...since you know that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you serve the Lord Christ." Colossians 3:23 -24 (NRSV)

BOARD OF DEACONS



## Library Tidings by Gloria Whitehead

What a gleaming and divine fresh start for our fall of 2008. The numbers and hours that were spent by various church members in seeing this transformation accomplished are unbelievable and a tribute of dedication to their God and their church. The Library Committee, along with countless others, extends a huge thank you to them.

Another thank you goes to our readers who took up to 15 books home for the summer. It's been such a read-iculous venture that, under various circumstances, we'll be happy to arrange for multiple borrowing for other times during the year: for example, during the colder, wintry season which might be confining. We're serious - please test the opportunity.

To introduce you to *One Man's America* by George Will we're trying a new approach. There are nine chapters with anywhere from two to twenty-five subtitles under each chapter. We're going to list a couple from the mass under every chapter. Get the gist? Besides having a glimpse at a few of the topics, each is only about three to four pages long. A fascinating, informative and diversified book, it's perfect when reading time is in brief allotments.

### Chapter 1 - People

John F. Kennedy's Thoughts on Death  
 Andrew Nesbitt: Seventy-nine Pound Master of Tourette Syndrome  
 Longfellow: A Forgotten Founder

### Chapter 2 - Paths to the Present

The Price of Misreading the Prairie Sky  
 F.D.R.'s Transformation of Liberalism  
 The Short, Unhappy Life of the Edsel

### Chapter 3 - Governing

Chicago's From the White City to the Green City  
 United 93: We've Got To Do It Ourselves  
 Nothing Changes Everything

### Chapter 4 - Sensibilities and Sensitivities

When Harry Remet Hanne  
 Dog Haven: Happy One Hundreth, Harley  
 Starbucks, Nail Salons and the Aesthetic Imperative

### Chapter 5 - Learning

Fascinating Contingencies  
 Teaching Minnows the Pleasure of Precision  
 AP Harry applies to College

### Chapter 6 - Games

Randy Shannon's Realism  
 Speaking SportsCenterese

### Chapter 7 - The Games

Jackie Robinson: The Possible and the Inevitable  
 Ted Williams: "I Can't Stand It, I'm So Good"  
 "Where Baseball?"

### Chapter 8 - Wondering

The Pope, the Neurosurgeon and the Ghost in the Machine  
 Wonder What We Are For? Wondering

### Chapter 9 - Matters of Life and Death

Golly, What Did Jon Do?  
 The Long Dying of Louise Will



There's so much in 369 pages: a panorama of people and life that creates America.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

We are nearing the completion of the sanctuary. ALLELUIA!! It has been a long road to travel but the journey will have been well worth it when the finishing touches are finalized. The newly renovated sanctuary is looking absolutely beautiful. Soon we will be able to celebrate and hold our first service there since we closed it off back in June. If all goes well that date will be September 14, 2008.

The professionals hired to complete their tasks performed dutifully. Some even went above and beyond their contractual obligations and still made sure we would meet the completion timeline. Most of the major work was completed by the following companies:

Julie Conte and Brit Savignac of CORPORATE DESIGN GROUP  
 Richard Culross and Everett Andrews of NINE POINTS WOODWORKING  
 Sally Bowditch of BOWDITCH AND MARINELLI PAINTERS  
 Steve Landry of LANDRY PLASTERING

Many thanks to these professionals for helping us make this project a reality. They kept us on time and within the budget.

Of course this effort did not come to fruition without numerous hours of hard work and dedication from many members of our church. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the following members of our church whose volunteer help with this project was invaluable:

RANDY BOHN	GORDON MAHLERT
MIKE AND CINDY DUBE	CRAIG PREMO
GEORGE DUHAMEL	ERNIE SMITH
CONNIE AND RON HANKS	CHARLOTTE STEFFEN
NAN JOHNSON	NICK STOCKHAUS
STAN AND SUE MACPHEE	GLORIA WHITEHEAD
DON AND MARION WOODCOCK	

There was a whirlwind of activity all summer long. Many people have come in and out during that time, so forgive us if we have failed to mention you here, by no means was that help unappreciated.

A project of this size does not come without cost. We would also like to thank sincerely the many in our congregation who have contributed financially to this investment in our future. Without your support this beautification would never have gotten off the ground!

Every construction project needs supervision and direction in order for the process to flow smoothly and proficiently. These people line up the labor and materials on the job in a timely fashion to ensure that the work is carried out according to plan and within the budget. We have been blessed to have amongst us four individuals who stepped up to the plate to take on this daunting and sometimes overwhelming task. Their hard work and dedicated commitment to this project saved us a tremendous amount of time and money. We owe countless thanks and a big "Bob Koopman hug" to the following individuals for their donation of time and talent to ensure the success of this project:

BOB MURRAY	Project Manager
DAVE SAMPSON	Site Coordinator
WAYNE PROUTY	Site Coordinator
BOB JOHNSON	Architectural Consultant

We are anxious to complete the job and celebrate a new beginning come September 14, 2008. When you see it for the first time we hope you will be pleased with the outcome. And although every detail that every individual wanted was not all incorporated, try to remember what it looked like back in June before we started. When you look at the beauty of the big picture it is a remarkable improvement over what used to be!

It is the hope and prayer of the Board of Trustees that the congregation will appreciate all the hard work and dedication put into the renovation of our sanctuary by so many of its members. We should all be proud of the result, for it is a reflection of the love that we all have for our sanctuary as a place to gather and worship our God together. We have set an example for the future generations of our church and provided a humble place of worship for their inheritance.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Gemme, Robert Murray, Robert Johnson, Dave Sampson, Kelly Fant, Bruce Martin, Wayne Prouty, Randy Bohn and Paul Kosky

### Choir News

Welcome back choirs! The First Church choir will begin rehearsals on September 2nd at 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. New members are always welcome! The choir will begin singing during the service on September 14th. Joyful Noyse will begin rehearsals on September 7th at 11:15 a.m. after the service. They will sing during the service on September 28th. New members are always welcome! (Look for the Joyful Noyse schedule in the September bulletins.)

The Praise Team will also be singing on September 28th. Rehearsals are flexible as schedules allow. New singers are welcome! You do NOT need to be part of an existing choir.

Coming up this September:

FUNDRAISING EVENT for the Music Ministry. This fundraiser will be held during coffee hour on September 28. Proceeds will go toward replenishing our music fund which we (happily!) depleted making our CD.

Fundraisers will include:

- 1) Bake Sale
- 2) First Church Choir CD - *Called to Discipleship* (not for sale, voluntary donation only)
- 3) First Congregational Church T- shirts
- 4) Music Tribute

Flyers will be in the bulletins on September 21st detailing the event.

For those of you who have purchased an anthem in tribute to your loved ones: please do not hesitate to ask for your anthem on a day that is special to you. That is what this is for! Three to four weeks notice would be appreciated, but if you forget, I will make every effort to make it work. Once an anthem has been donated, I make sure to schedule it at least once during the year, so you can be assured your anthem will be presented whether it's requested or not. We often repeat anthems during the year, so if you've already heard your anthem, but would like it again, this is possible too. Here is a current list of all those who have donated and your chosen anthem:

*Breath of Heaven* - Lori Stockhaus

*Child of God* - Heather Moore

*From the Day You Were Born* - Pam & Marty Tentor

*God Is There* - Barbara Allaire & Jo-Ann DeRosa

*Goin' Up to the Mountain* - The Mahlert Family

*Glorify the Name* - Allison Hill

*Here I Am Lord* - Joyce Ringgard

*Here I Am to Worship* - Carol Mangiacotti

*I Surrender, Lord* - Mona & Garry Mahlert

*Lead Us On, O Lord* - Deb Pranaitis

*Looking for the Light* - Pat Bukoski

*Lord, I Lift Your Name on High* - Tori & Cassie Stockhaus

*May You Have Peace* - Mike & Cindy Dube

*One Life* - Debbie & Mark Mahlert

*Thank You, Lord* - Avis Britton

*We Are One with You, O Lord* - anonymous

*We Will Rejoice* - Sam & Jean Benoit

On behalf of myself and all our volunteer musicians, we look forward to another year of wonderful music making.

“Sing to the Lord, you saints of his; praise his holy name” — Psalm 30:4 (NIV)

Heather Moore, Minister of Music

## Rally Day

Please join the Board of Christian Education in welcoming Jean McPherson as our new Director of Religious Education. Jean will be starting in September and her immediate focus will be toward Sunday School.

Rally Day for Sunday School for 2008 will be on Sunday Sept. 7 downstairs prior to service. Registration will start at 9:30 AM and takes a few minutes, so please allow for this additional time in planning your arrival that Sunday. Parents, be aware that this year we will be requiring that you participate in class a minimum of two times during the school year, once during the Fall/Winter term, and once during the Spring term. This is a small investment on your part and requires no teaching experience. Your level of participation during class is up to you. We have but a few devoted teachers this year and need the helping hands of others to make this an enjoyable and memorable year for all.

Class structure this year will be;  
 3 to 5 years old – Heather Zautner  
 Grades K to 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sandy Rhodes  
 Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> – Mike Schillinger  
 Grades 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> – Rich McPherson  
 Cradle Roll will also be offered as before.



We will be taking photos of all the students as well as the teachers on Rally Day so dress appropriately. We would also like to know about any allergies and any other special concerns for your child so please come prepared.

We are all looking forward to a great year full of growth, fun, and new relationships.

See you on Rally Day!

Mike Schillinger for the Board of Christian Education

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### September 2008

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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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