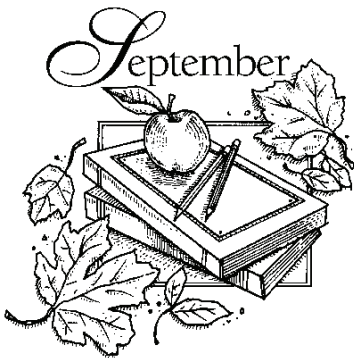


FIRST  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH

# *Herald of Good* TIDINGS



**2005**

Next Church Supper  
September 24th  
at 5:00 PM

*“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!’”*

In January, our church will be 230 years old. That is quite a heritage for us. As we move towards that occasion, we call on everyone who considers First Congregational Church to be their home of faith, to get involved in one or more ways in the coming year. Your absence changes the climate of the church and affects everyone else. It is not only a personal matter. Read of all the ministry and program opportunities in this issue of the Tidings. Include yourself and be a part of our community of faith. God deserves your participation. You need to grow your faith and we need your support. See you soon!

God Bless,  
Rev. Dr. Kenneth E Knox  
Pastor

## Minister of Christian Education

Are you the camping-out type? I like to camp and we had the opportunity as a family to spend five nights in a tent this summer! We had a large enough tent, air mattresses and a fan so we were rather comfortable, almost like home! It was fun, but it was good to get home. I am not sure I would have wanted to spend another week straight tenting. I am sure I would not want to live in a tent all the time, especially in really bad weather (which we were lucky enough to avoid). Many of the Bible people were tent dwellers, and I got to thinking about Abraham and Paul, the tent makers (Acts 18:3).

Some time ago, missionary Don Hillis spoke about tent dwellers. He said that living in a tent means that you are always and immediately available. It means that you are mobile – you aren't so tied down that you're not ready to answer God's call. It also means that as a rule, you're living frugally. You don't think about luxuries and necessities.

I am definitely not a literal tent dweller and I am sure you aren't either, but are we spiritual tent dwellers? Are we ready to go where God leads without hesitation like Abraham and Paul? I Samuel 3:10 says "Speak, for your servant hears", I pray that we will all respond in a positive way when God speaks to us this season.

We are still in need of a few Sunday School Teachers! We have great kids, great curriculum and we want to work out a great schedule with you so that you are only "on duty" two Sundays a month. Please contact me, or Judi Taft if you are willing to answer God's call to this important ministry.

Happy Tenting!

Barb Jernigan



### *Here We Grow! Preschool*

Another summer has come and gone and it is time for “*Here We Grow!*” Preschool to begin its 17th year as an outreach program of the First Congregational Church of Auburn. As of the end of July, enrollment stands at (68) four year olds and (55) three year olds eagerly awaiting the first day of school. We have just two spots available for four year olds in the afternoon class and one spot for a three year old, also in the afternoon class. Our first day of class will be Wednesday, August 31 for four year olds and September 1 for our three’s.

“*Here We Grow!*” staff for the school year of ‘05-‘06 will be Room 1 Michelle Mulcahy, Debra Nelson and newcomer Karen Banks. Room 2 will be Anne Coyne and Helen Ethier, and Room 3 will be Pamela Mitchell, Christine Messier, and Robin Mancini. Also joining the “*Here We Grow!*” staff is Lori Stockhaus who will be floating on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

I welcome both Lori and Karen to a staff of hardworking dedicated teachers and to a wonderful enriching preschool program.

With the “*Here We Grow!*” classrooms cleaned, the staff will be setting up the rooms in preparation for the new school year. As always, I’m ending with an open invitation to all church members to stop in and see what Here We Grow! Does each day. I feel it is something you would be proud of. Until next month, enjoy the rest of the summer!

Respectfully,

Dawn Murphy,  
Director of “*Here We Grow!*” Preschool

#### American Cancer Society's Relay for Life of Auburn

For the second year, on September 9 and 10, at the Auburn Recreation Center (ARC) track, Auburn residents, friends and families will spend eighteen hours to raise money to support the Cancer society's programs of research, education, advocacy and patient services.

There are many ways in which Auburn citizens and businesses can support this endeavor; either by forming their own teams, donating money or food for participants, helping with entertainment for children and adults or just showing up for a couple of hours to set up or take down equipment before or after the event.

Please consider how you may help in some small way. If you have questions, please feel free to call co-chairman Al Narris at 508 832-3570 or [alnarris@charter.net](mailto:alnarris@charter.net).

**“First Day”**

As you may have read in the Auburn News, the **“First Day”** program is starting. This project, started by Bill and Liz Gibbons in conjunction with Auburn Youth and Family Services and school principals, provides children in need with school supplies, back packs and a new outfit to start back to school with.

It has been highly successful in the past due to the generosity of donors, and we are again calling on them this year as the need is as great as ever.

If you care to donate, you may purchase school supplies or a back pack or a gift certificate. If you wish to donate money, checks should be mailed out to Auburn Youth and Family Services. If you have questions, Avis Britton would be happy to help you.

**Jimmy Fund Walk**

Just a reminder that **Lori Stockhaus** is doing the **Jimmy Fund walk** September 18 again this year. This will be her fourth year in memory of her mom. It raises money for the research of cancer. She will be walking 26.5 miles, which is the Boston Marathon route. She starts at 7am and finish about 4:30pm. If you'd like to sponsor her it would be greatly appreciated, if not just a little prayer to help her make it through the day would be good too!

**August 25 at 7 P.M.—Building Use Meeting** - There are many groups that use this church as a meeting place. It is very difficult to maintain an accurate awareness of who is in the building and when. If you use the building for anything other than Sunday worship, please consider attending this meeting. If the office is not aware that you are using the building, they can not tell other people that the space is not available. We have had several occasions this year when that was a problem. It affects the church and it's staff when we have no knowledge of your activities. The heat has been left on. Lights have been left on. We have had to organize special cleaning as a result of some activities not being properly cleaned. Please consider attending this meeting. Thank You.



**Rally Day** will be September 11th. Rally Day is the beginning of Sunday School. Please allow extra time for registration.

Also on September 11th at 7 PM, there will be a **Confirmation Class Overview** meeting for parents and students.

Hadwen Park Congregational,  
 United Church of Christ  
 www.hadwenparkchurch.org  
 6 Clover Street  
 Worcester, Massachusetts 01603

You are cordially invited to Worship and an Open House  
 to celebrate the renovation of our sanctuary and pipe organ.

Sunday, September 11, 2005  
 Two forty five in the afternoon

Tours of the building and a collation will follow.



### Stewardship...A Way of Life

Talents... The good Lord gave us all the talents we need to succeed in Life....to succeed in our secular lives, as well as the talents we need to succeed in our Spiritual Lives. The Church is only as successful as those who are willing to share their God-given talents. There are tasks aplenty for all who want to help. Won't you consider how you can share your talents with your Church Family? As Sam Elder counseled in the June Stewardship mailing, "If you would only start.....never again would you doubt your ability for Churchwork." Collectively, we all have the talents to make our Church successful....let us help you figure out where you can fit in.

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,  
 Kenneth Holstrom

For  
 freedom  
 Christ  
 has  
 set us  
 free.



Galatians 5:1

**One Way Jam  
2005**

*Come out and see 4 great Christian  
Rock bands on one stage!*

N.B.J. RAGING GRACE  
 ELIJAH  
 POINTE BLANK - truth be told

**"Play Skillfully With A Loud Noise!"  
Psalms 33:3**

**Saturday - August 27th  
Noon to 6:00**

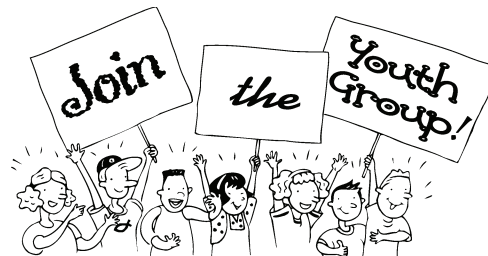
**1st Congregational Church  
of North Brookfield**

*(Call 413-436-7329 or 774-200-1553 for information and directions)*



## Youth on a Mission

Have you heard about Youth on a Mission and wanted to check it out? Were you a past member of Youth on a Mission and you're thinking about coming back? Well **NOW** is the perfect opportunity for both.



Youth on a Mission is a youth group for ANYONE in ninth grade and up. They do not have to be a member of First Congregational Church, so feel free to bring a friend. We're looking for fresh faces and new ideas. In the past we've focused on fundraising for our summer mission trip but this year we'd really like to put more of the focus on just plain having fun too. We need YOU in order to do that.

Our first meeting will be Rally Day Sunday September 11th during coffee hour. We will meet (upstairs) in the junior high classroom. Grab a snack and come on in and don't forget to bring a friend!

## Confirm '06

Confirmation class is open to all high school students who wish to consider becoming a church member. It is a 26 week course (Sept.—April) covering five major subjects: God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Bible and Church. It is important to participate fully with strong parental support. The first meeting is Sunday, September 11 at 7:00 P.M. Parents and confirmands should attend. Please call the church office (508-832-2845) if you wish to participate so we have sufficient materials available.

## Interfaith Housing Network

It was another successful and very rewarding week housing families that have found themselves without a home. The meals were all great and much appreciated by everyone. Those of us from the church who stayed overnight spent the night in the conference room upstairs. Thanks to everyone who gave their time, love and talents to make the families feel so welcome.

A special thank you to the churches very special Boy Scout troop who made the church feel like a home, thank you! We could not have done so well without you.

In addition to the food and supplies donated by volunteers, we were also very fortunate to have donations from Walmart, Shaw's and BJ's which let us purchase the remaining food and supplies that were needed.

The families were treated to haircuts and styles, compliments of Donna from Corner Cuts, across the street from the church.

Thank you again!!!!  
Diane Moore  
May Stone



September is Healthy Aging Month, National Cholesterol Education Month, Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month, Leukemia and Lymphoma Awareness Month, National Food Safety Month, National 5-A-Day Month, Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, and National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month. September 20th is Take a Loved One to the Doctor Day. I will have information on these subjects on my health table in Fellowship Hall.

I am working with the Auburn Consortium to help with the National Obesity Epidemic. We will have information available soon. Obesity can lead to serious health issues. This information will be available throughout the town and I will also have it available to you. The Consortium is going to target the schools first. There are too many overweight children. They need to be educated about healthy choices.

I recently saw an article about buying drugs from Canada. It said that they are not always the full strength that they claim to be. This is also true of the meds that are available via the internet. Be careful. Don't take meds without your doctors advice. The Auburn Nurses have grant money to help educate the public about taking meds correctly. I will try to have someone come to speak to us.

Debbie Pranaitis  
Parish Nurse

**Christian One-Liners**

Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited - until you try to sit in their pews.

Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisers.

It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.

When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.

**Coffee Hour Hosts**

Sept. 4	Volunteers Needed
Sept. 11	Board of Christian Ed
Sept. 18 & 25	Trustees
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

### From the Board of Trustees

August has been a busy month for the board of Trustees as we have been finalizing the plans to re-shingle the entire church roof. On August 22, the Trustees met to select a contractor for this work. This project will begin in October. As of August 22, we have received \$2,700 in roof donations towards the additional \$35,000 needed for the roof project. The entire project will cost \$60,000 to complete. The end result will be a 50 year roof that should give us years of trouble free maintenance. If you are planning on donating to the roof fund, please do so soon, so that we can reduce the amount of money that the church needs to borrow to complete this project.



Thank You and God Bless!

### Parking Reminder

Very soon the Trustees will be re-painting all the lines in the parking lot. As a reminder, the handicap spaces are for those people with handicap placards, or for those people that have difficulties walking. All other parking is on a first come, first served basis with the exception of funerals. Please do not block any marked fire lanes. Thank you for your understanding.



8/8/05

*Members and Family,*

*Thank you for your many cards, notes, visits & especially your prayers during my recent illness and surgery. We have been blessed with good news as a result. Although recovery seems long & slow, I hope to be back to church in the fall.*

*Sincerely,  
Carole Murray*

## Library Tidings

By Gloria Whitehead

*Norman Gatreau's* books Sea Room and Island of First Light are on the move. These are the only two books that the author, who lives in Wakefield, MA, has written. Bob Koopman enjoyed Island of First Light so much that he wrote to *Mr. Gatreau* urging him to keep writing. Someone at Tatnuck Booksellers also wrote the author to say he'd be waiting for his next book. Good Testimonials? Category 1.

Pat Bukoski found From Sea to Shinning Sea, a treasury of American folklore, and folksongs, to be an interesting capture of the many cultures that blended to create the U.S.A. The catastrophies, challenges, ghost stories and much more, paint a sweeping portrait of our nation. It's beautifully illustrated by 11 Caldecott Medal and 4 Caldecott Honor Book artists. You'll find this book in Category 16 when it's not on display.

Jubilee by *Margaret Walker* was first placed in the library in 1969. It's an inch and a half thick and the sign out card (filled) is like a list of women in the church through the summer of 1988. However, there's a new sign out card and "this long absorbing book" is many things at once. It's a great Civil War novel based on the true life story of the author's great-grandmother. It's full of Civil War glamour and then it's collapse. But, it's most striking feature is that it's the first time this whole antebellum Civil War and Reconstruction story is told from the point of view of a Negro and written by a Negro woman.

With the humidity and heat, the Christmas books would probably have brought psychological relief. We kept so busy that we'll save the idea for another time.

You'll be thrilled, as we are, with the wonderful new cabinets Bob Johnson built for the right hand wall above the shelves in the Children's Library. A huge thank you to him AND to "Here We Grow"! For providing the finances for them. We're in the process of transferring books and supplies from the hall cabinets. By the time you receive this Tidings we should have 1776 by *David McCullough* available to borrow. It's considered by some to be a sequel to John Adams.

The Seven Days of Creation and Jesus and the Seven Dudes Who Did by *Mindy MacDonald* and Carole Murray's gift will be among the new children's books for various ages. They'll all be on display for borrowing! "Run away" with a book or be inspired by category #10 (Inspirational).

The Library Committee

**The Senior Choir would like to thank their anonymous benefactor for treating them to a lovely dinner out in June. To know that our efforts and dedication are appreciated is heartwarming to us.**

**So to our very generous friend we send our sincere thanks.**

**The Senior Choir**



### SUMMER SOLSTICE UPDATE

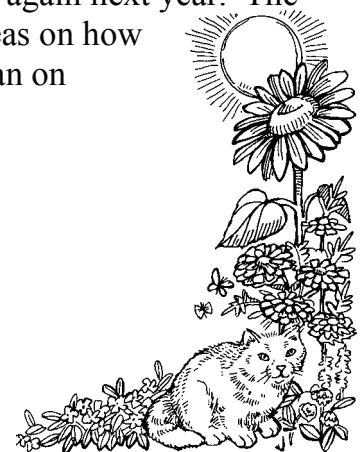
As the grass begins turning brown and the daylight is already visibly shorter, the Summer Solstice seems so long ago. It was wonderful to see so many church members and townspeople attend this event. I hope all who worked this event or attended it had as much fun as I did. I would like to thank all who helped in so many different ways and those who made donations of food, plants, start-up money and more. And a thank-you to all who supported it just by being there. Thanks, too, to those who participated in the art contest.

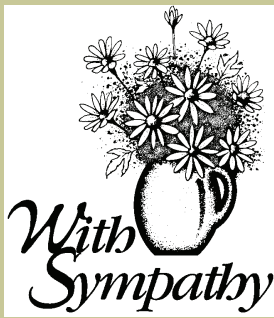
Although I can't name all who helped, I do want to mention some special people who were not afraid to take charge. These include Dave Sampson, Bob Murray and Bob Johnson for the delicious Chicken Barbeque. Sue Anderton and Dottie Ecklund for taking charge of the Book Sale. Sue Klauke for a record Plant Sale and the great job of labeling and organizing the plants, what great bargains for the home gardener! Cliff Peterson for bringing to us the wonderful sounds of live music through the good will of the Alethea Grotto Band. Linda Graham and Lori Stockhaus for our Bake Table. Bill Storie and Avis Britton for our Breakfast and Lunch Booth. Sue Eknanian for showing up unannounced at 7 a.m. and said she was there for the day to do whatever was needed and did she ever come in handy. What a great surprise! Judy Murphy who spent so many hours with me beforehand getting the games and crafts ready. Youth on a Mission for renting the Dunk Tank, what a hit that was! At times the line got quite long with people just waiting to get a shot at Jennifer or some other brave (and a bit crazy) soul who sat in for her. Thank-you so much Jennifer for spending such a cold day getting dunked. To Randy Bohn for being "on call" whenever I had a project I couldn't do alone, an "engineering" problem, or had no time to run an errand that needed to get done ASAP. Our children, children-in-law and grandchildren who "volunteered" to help, and to Mike for all his help and for putting up with me. And a special thank-you to Tammy Whittier, our church secretary, who got to know me real good, real fast and also came in on her day off to help out with whatever needed to be done.

Not only did a lot of people have a good time, we were able to raise over \$3,500.00 dollars for our New Roof Fund.

I feel very fortunate that I was able to work on this project and have so much support from so many. I have been so blessed. I look forward to organizing this event again next year. The date has already been set. I would love to hear from anyone who has ideas on how to improve or expand on this year's event. Please call me or see me. Plan on being a part of Summer Solstice 2006 on June 17th.

Thank-you and God Bless  
Cindy Dube





Our sympathies to Kathy Coleman and her two sons Sean and Ryan on the passing of her husband, Kevin McDuffee on June 28th. He was 49.

And to the family of Howard Stone who died on August 19. May God's hand of comfort be with your family during this time of sadness.

Congratulations to Katie and Richard Clifford on the baptism of their son, Braden Patrick Clifford on August 14.

Congratulations to Sarah and Christian Kobel on the baptism of their daughter, Shea Marilyn Kobel on August 14.



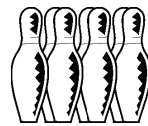
**52<sup>nd</sup> Labor Day Breakfast  
At Purgatory Chasm**

Monday September 5, 2005  
7:00am to 9:00am

Start off the Holiday with the legendary  
Congregational Church Breakfast  
including:  
*Pancakes, Ham, Eggs, Home fries,  
Orange Juice, Coffee*

*Adults \$7.00, Seniors and Children  
under 12 \$5.00, under 5 free*

Advanced tickets available 508.865.6914  
Rain Location: Church at Sutton  
Common



Church Bowling League

The church bowling league is starting on September 9th. We are still looking for 4 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



**SOMETHING NEW FOR EVERYONE!!!**

**1ST EVER MINIATURE GOLF TOURNAMENT**

To be held on Saturday September 17th at Crystal Caves. Shotgun start (for you non-golfers that means everyone starts at the same time) at 7:45 a.m. Registration starts at 7:15. Breakfast and prizes in Fellowship Hall following the tournament (about 9 a.m.) \$12.00 per person covers Greens Fee and breakfast. Limited to 72 golfers so register early. See Cindy Dube today to register your foursome or we can put you into a foursome if you are a lone golfer. Don't miss

out on this exciting new event.

Hole sponsors are now being sought. Businesses or individuals are welcome. A donation of \$25.00 gets you a sign advertising your business or your support all day long on the course.

If you feel you absolutely can not golf, breakfast is available for \$5.00.

All proceeds for this will benefit the NEW ROOF FUND.

Thank You  
Cindy Dube

**BEGINNER BASKETWEAVING CLASSES TO BE OFFERED**

Starting on September 7th and on each Wednesday evening (14th, 21st and 28th) from 6:30 to 9:30 in Fellowship Hall. Sign up for one or all 4 nights. Classes will be taught by Cindy Dube and all proceeds will benefit the New Roof Fund. Limited to 12 people. Sign-up sheets and sample baskets in Fellowship Hall.

Call Cindy at 832-6646 if you have any questions.



Class schedule:

September 7th Rectangular or square Bread Basket Cost \$15.00

September 14th Round basket Cost \$15.00

September 21st Market Basket Cost \$25.00

and

September 28th

This larger basket will take 2 nights to complete.

# The Bulletin Board

- August 25 Building Use Scheduling Meeting 7 PM Old Kitchen
- August 28 Stewardship 11 AM
- August 29 Church Council Meeting 7 PM
- August 31 BOCE 6:30 PM
- September 5 Outreach 7 PM
- September 8 Baptism Workshop 7 PM
- Girl Scout registration in F.H. 6-7 PM
- September 11 Rally Day - Sunday School begins
- Youth on a Mission 11AM
- Confirmation Class Overview 7 PM
- September 12 Deacons 7 PM
- Trustees 7 PM
- Here We Grow! Board 7 PM
- September 14 BOCE 6:30 PM
- September 18 Music 11 AM
- September 24 Church Supper 5 PM
- September 25 Stewardship 11 AM

This list **does not** include weekly reoccurring meetings. All meetings are listed on the calendar insert. Please notify the church secretary immediately if something is *not* listed on the calendar. 508-832-2845.

*TIDINGS is a monthly publication of*

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

Phone: (508)832-2845  
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Web: [auburnfirststucc.org](http://auburnfirststucc.org)



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