



The Messenger

Volume 20, Issue 10

June, July & August 2010

First Congregational
Church of Falmouth



*June 21
through
August 9*

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*Church Office
Summer Hours
June 21 ~ August 13
Monday ~ Friday
9 a.m. to Noon*

Special dates of interest:

- *Sunday, June 6—
Children's Day*
- *Sunday, June 13—
Sacrament of Holy
Communion*

In case of a pastoral emergency during non-office hours, please call the church office and follow the instructions on the answering machine. Thank you.



A Moment with our Senior Minister

From time to time all of us have occasion to visit friends or loved ones in the hospital. At such times it's very important that we contribute to their well-being, not undermine it. Here are some hospital visiting guidelines I've compiled which I strive to follow myself. I offer them to be helpful. Most of these points are obvious, but often enough they are overlooked.

1. Bring hope, not discouragement. Don't focus on problems, at home or elsewhere, over which the patient has no control while hospitalized. Avoid reacting negatively to the sight of the patient's injuries or conveying your own anxieties about the patient's condition.
2. Don't visit when you or a close family member is ill with a cold. If such a visit is absolutely necessary and a telephone call will not suffice, obtain a mask from the nurse's station.
3. Never undermine a patient's faith in his/her doctor!.Such faith can be a crucial factor in the patient's recover.
4. Don't attempt to diagnose or prescribe for the patient's condition. Don't assume that the patient's medical problem is identical to a problem you or someone else once had.
5. Don't stay too long. Be quick to pick up cues that a patient is tired. Patients sometimes feel obligated to entertain visitors when they really should be resting.
6. Don't be afraid of quiet spaces in your visit. Even if you say very little, just being present with the patient means a lot.
7. Don't appear to be keeping secrets from the patient. Talking with doctors or nurses just out of earshot of the patient can raise needless fears in the patient.
8. Respect the patient's privacy. Don't barge through closed doors or curtains. And don't assume that you are entitled to a description of the patient's medical problem. If the patient wishes to tell you, the patient will. Often it's enough to ascertain how the patient is feeling that particular day you are visiting.
9. Don't eat the patient's food or smuggle in "goodies" without permission. Some patients, as part of their treatment, need to have their diet monitored quite closely.



10. Be sensitive to the rights of other patients. When visiting in a semi-private room, don't fail to acknowledge the other patient's presence, if only with a few words and a smile. And strive not to be a burden to other patients.
11. Position yourself carefully. When the patient is bed-ridden, sit or stand where the patient can easily see you and avoid placing yourself in front of the bright glare of a window.
12. Be prepared in a quiet moment to share a brief prayer with the patient. Listen for clues that the patient would find this meaningful. Sharing a simple prayer or even reciting the Lord's Prayer together can help patients draw strength from their faith and find a wider, spiritual context in which to view their concerns.

Jesus did much during his earthly ministry to care for the needs of the sick. Also, Jesus taught us that as we visit and care for the sick, we are essentially visiting and caring for Christ himself. "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." [Matthew 25:40]

Let's do our best to make our hospital visits as helpful and caring as possible!

Now, as we move into summer, may it be for all of us, a blessed season of rest, spiritual refreshment, renewal of ties with family members and friends, and heightened appreciation for the natural world all around us which God has created.

Yours In Christ's Service,

Choir Notes

Summer is coming but I'm still wearing fall clothes; at least I haven't had to drag out the flannel shirts. Summer bring a lot of changes. Rehearsals for all our choirs end in June and the Children of the Lord Choir sings on Children's Day. In June, the Music Committee sponsors a recognition dinner for all members of our Music Ministry. Even though Thursday rehearsals end in June, we still sing on Sundays throughout the summer. Many people who visit in the summer, including the visiting ministers, appreciate having a choir to help lead the worship service and the hymns. Visitors have often commented on how nice it was to have the choir sing and how they wish their church choir would do the same. If there is a newcomer in the church, I try to say hello and ask where they are from and if they sing. If they are a church choir member somewhere else, they are always happy to talk about something that they've sung or to ask if I know a certain song. From past personal experience, I've found that the little acknowledgement from a member to a visitor goes a long way toward making their religious experience a little better.

When I was on vacation in Vermont last September, I made it to a Sunday

service at the West Brattleboro Congregational Church. It was a small church of about 150 active members. At the beginning of the service, when we shared the moment of peace, every one of the 35 people in attendance came over to say hello. At the end, one of the church ladies came to ask me about someone she knew on Cape Cod and another invited me to have a pastry at the coffee hour. It was a very welcoming feeling and it made me realize how important it is to greet visitors from out-of-town. In past summers we've had visitors who not only came to church, but joined the choir for the Sunday that they were here. It is always a blessing to have the extra singers with us in the summer.

Summer might be a good time to visit the choir if you haven't done it before. The anthems are rehearsed on Sunday mornings at 8:45 a.m. The music is fairly easy and consists mostly of arrangements of old hymn tunes with an occasional round or canon thrown in. I'm happy to say our choir is a welcoming group of people and are always grateful for the added voices both in summer and throughout the church year. Why not give the choir a try this summer; it might spark a new interest for you that will continue for a long time.

See ya in church, Howard



The 13th Annual Massachusetts Prostate Cancer Symposium was attended by eight people from our congregation, five men and three women. It took place Saturday, May 8 at the Marriott Quincy Hotel. There were many interesting speakers. Leading physicians discussed the latest thinking and research on screening, prevention, imaging & treatment of prostate cancer. It was very informational. We are looking forward to next year's symposium. If you have any questions, call Walt Mitchell at 508-540-3287.

The Nanette E. Geertz Scholarship

May 2, 2010 was declared "Rev. Nanette E. Geertz Memorial Scholarship Sunday" in honor of the memory of "Rev. Nan" who served as Associate Minister from 2000 to her untimely death in 2005. During the past year, a scholarship fund was established in her name by the Women's Union. It is to be awarded to a graduating high school senior who is a confirmed member of our church and headed towards a post-secondary education, full or part-time, including vocational school. Awarding of this scholarship is based on good character and active church service; academics and financial need are not criteria. Folders with pertinent information will be available in the church office for all high school students.

Two members of the Scholarship Committee took part in the May 2 service. Norma Railey reminded the church family of its goals for the children through this scholarship and of its pledge to keep the fund a yearly opportunity. Martine Bindler-Desbiens gave the Children's Message, telling of Rev. Nan's hopes for their future as participants in the Church School and as they grow, in the life of the church.

At the close of her Service of Ordination on March 5, 2001, Nan gave the following benediction: "May our God who has known you since before you were born; may the Christ whose eyes have searched and known you; may the Holy Spirit that coaxes you and invites you into the singing of God's song, keep, guard and sustain you, now and forever. Amen."



Church School Crier

Children's Day!

Children's Day is upon us! June 6 will be the Church School Family Pancake Breakfast and Children's Day! All who are involved in the Church School are invited, with their families, to enjoy pancakes, bacon, and other breakfast treats at 9:00 a.m. We will then have a special service dedicated to the children which will include a photo montage of the Church School as well as Bibles being given out to the younger children.

Summer volunteers needed!

The nursery needs volunteers to staff it during the church services for the summer. If you are interested in helping a week, or two (or more!), you can sign up on the clipboard on the Opportunity Table. Please see JoAnn Coleman for more information.

Save these dates!

June TBA—Miniature golf and cookout for Youth Group families
Sunday, September 12—Rally Day 2010!

Looking forward...

Next year's rotations will include:

- ◆ Joseph in Egypt
- ◆ The Prodigal Son
- ◆ Follow the Star
- ◆ Zaccheus
- ◆ Easter Around the World
- ◆ Daniel

Which leads us to...

Teachers needed! There will be sign-up sheets so that everyone can sign up for all your favorite lessons for next year. Choose early so you can get the lessons that excite you the most! Our wish is that all Church School families are represented in at least two of the rotations. If we all work together, it lightens the load for the volunteers who put in time every rotation. Please see the Opportunity Table in the lobby of Fellowship Hall for complete information and sign-up sheets!

A note from Laura

As a final note to all the church members as well as the entire Church School family, I am sad to say that I will be leaving. I have accepted a position with the USDA office in Worcester. It has been a fantastic two years and I will truly miss this church and all of the people I have been involved with. I am sure that whomever takes my spot will love being here as well! Thank you for making me feel welcome and appreciated during my short time here.

Director of Christian Education,
Laura Abbott

Church Council

With a devotional period led by our Moderator, Jan Hull, the Church Council began its May meeting. First to offer his report was our minister, Doug Showalter. After reviewing plans for services in June, he reviewed with the Council a new plan for dealing with resolutions being presented at the State Conference annual meeting. Whereas congregations in the past were asked to take a position in regard to resolutions to be presented at the conference meeting, resolutions will now be presented to individual churches in time that they can have a year to study the resolution before taking a position. Going on, Doug informed the Council of the resignation of our Christian Education Director, Laura Abbott, who is moving on to a full-time position. As a consequence, the Council took the following action.

It accepted a basic description of a position to be called the "Youth Ministry Coordinator," and appointed as a search committee to fill this position, Lysbeth Abrams, Robin Bowerman, Kerri Evans, Bob Heller, Lise McGillicuddy, Doug Showalter, and one other person still to be named. It then went on to authorize the creation of a seven-member search committee for the Director of Christian Education position to be named by our moderator, Jan Hull, the chair of the Christian Education Committee, Lise McGillicuddy, and our minister, Doug Showalter. This committee will be instructed to consider first possible candidates from our church family before going further.

Moving on the rest of the evening's agenda, the Council learned of a pancake breakfast being planned for June 6 for the Church School, of a dinner on June 10 for the church choirs, and of a concert to be sung by Howard Whitmore on the afternoon of May 30. The Women's Union reported that they have begun planning for next year and that the Rummage Sale yielded an income of over \$6,000, of which \$1,000 will be added to the Nan Geertz Scholarship Fund. The Trustees report informed the Council that the "Extra Mile" campaign has added nearly \$8,000 to the budget and that the steeple has been painted. The Deacons, in their continuing consideration of our congregation becoming an Open and Affirming congregation, will be meeting June 8 with Chuck Wildman to learn of his experience with a church in Virginia which did this. Recognizing the need for more opportunities for our youth to serve the church, the Deacons have decided to increase the number of Junior Deacons to six. The Board also informed the Council that Meg Becker and Anne Dyer, whose service as teachers and mentors for confirmands has been greatly appreciated, will not be continuing in their role for the coming year. Drawing to a close, the Council learned that the Stewardship Committee will conduct an every member canvass this fall and that they will be consulting with the ad hoc committees on Church Life and Membership as to other possibilities of adding to the church's income.

Board of Deacons

We had the privilege to host a dinner for this year's five confirmands, their sponsors, and their families. They graduated from the Confirmation program and joined the church on Sunday, May 16. We welcome Henry Abrams, Elisabeth Bowerman, Isabella Phares, Cassandra Romkey, and Summer Tompkins as new members of our church. Before the dinner, each of them presented their Statement of Faith which they had prepared as part of the program. Each was very impressive and showed a great deal of thought. We are grateful to Meg Becker and Anne Dyer for their efforts for the better part of the last eight years in conducting this valuable program. We recently learned this was their last year of doing the confirmation program and we thank them for their efforts. Fay Hamre was in charge of the dinner; no one went away hungry.

Every five years, the Board of Deacons is responsible for producing a new pictorial directory. Marcia Young and Wil Bindler-Desbiens headed up the effort this year. We thank them and look forward to our new directory.

We have invited Rev. Chuck Wildman to attend our Deacons' meeting in June. Chuck is the former Senior Minister at a large UCC church in Northern Virginia serving the Washington, D.C. area. He is retired and recently moved to Oosterville. Chuck will be helping us plan activities for the next church year as we explore the possibility of becoming a fully Open and Affirming Church. Chuck was a guest minister last summer, Valentine's Day this year, and will be preaching again on July 18. I met Chuck through my work on the Barnstable Association's Church and Ministry Committee.

We were saddened with the sudden passing of Bob Gaynor. Bob was a member of this Board of four years. He was good friend of mine and Tom Haynes, with whom he worked for nearly ten years at General Electric. Our prayers will be with Paula and his family.

John Honey, Chair



Board of Trustees

Let me introduce myself — I'm Congo, the church mouse. I know what's going on around here. I've been pretty quiet up to now, but so many things are happening, I just have to speak.

Did you see that big contraption on the side of the church? I was so scared I ran back to my home. When I peeked out, I saw some men way up high painting the steeple and portico. I hope they don't have to paint it for a very long time because I heard Walt say that it was very expensive! We have to keep our church in tiptop shape since it is in the Historical District and with the Paul Revere bell and all.

I heard a church member suggest that we have hand sanitizers in the church and just three days later, Rick was installing them. Hey, that's good service. If you have a good idea, just pass it by one of the Trustees.

The Pre-school classroom and Church School halls were painted. I had to really stay out of the way since that is usually my bailiwick.

Sue Simchock is going to plant some flowers around the church. Call her at 495-1001 if you can help take care of them.

I heard that the "Extra Mile" fund is up to over \$7,000. That's pretty good, but not close to what we were hoping for. If you mark your extra money separately, Martha won't get it mixed up with your regular pledge. Please, make sure you pay your pledge even if you are on vacation. We want to be able to pay our bills.

See you in the fall. It's too hot for me to run around in the summer!

Church World Service

The Christian Outreach Committee would like to thank all those who generously contributed to the Blanket-Plus offering for the Church World Service's world-wide efforts to ease the suffering of people around the world and in the US. So far, a total of \$661.00 has been collected.

Yours, Congo, AKA Trustees

Online Messenger Supplement

Church Calendar:

Our Church Calendar, for our online readers, is now on our website where it is always up-to-date. [Click here](#) to access the calendar.

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Falmouth, MA 02540
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Summer

Everyone is Welcome!

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Sunday Schedule

10:00 a.m.
Worship Service
and Church School

Our Staff

Senior Minister

Rev. Dr. Doug Showalter
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Sexton

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Elected Officials of the Church

Moderator—Jan Hull
Clerk—Marilou Whitmore
Treasurer—Dick Meyer

Board/Committee Chairmen...

Trustees—Walter Slaboden
Deacons—John Honey
Christian Education—
Lise McGillicuddy
Christian Outreach—
Sue Anttila/Carole Lyons
Music—Karin Bohr
Stewardship—John Farrington
Nominating—Evelyn Johnson
Reception—Gretchen Partridge

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
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