



# The Messenger

Volume 21, Issue 7

April 2013

First Congregational Church of Falmouth



As we move into spring, it's difficult not to think of the wonders of our existence and God's love for us. ⇨The cosmos contains approximately 50,000,000,000 (50 billion) galaxies. There are between 100,000,000,000 (100 billion) and 1,000,000,000,000 (1 trillion) stars in a normal galaxy.

In the book of Job, God reminds us that this creation is a big place. He asks Job, have you ever made a planet? ⇨The planet Saturn has a density lower than water. So, if placed in water it would float... Porcupines also float in water.

God asks Job, have you ever made a whale? ⇨The blue whale can produce sounds as loud as 188 decibels. This is the loudest sound produced by a living animal and has been heard as far away as 530 miles.

God reminds Job that all things, both great and small come from God. ⇨Flea's can jump 130 times higher than their own height. In human terms this is equal to a 6ft. person jumping 780 ft. into the air.

So who are we, who are made just lower than angels, that God loves us? It is very endearing to be told you are 1 in a 1,000,000, until you do the math and realize that means there are 6, 707 people in this world who are exactly like you. Almost 7 billion people on this little blue planet. Where do we fit in? Where do you fit in? Where do I fit in?

⇨7 billion people, eh? A typical bed usually houses over 6 billion dust mites. ⇨Rats multiply so quickly that in 18 months, two rats could have over 1 million descendents. ⇨It takes only 12 or 13 days for a Virginia opossum to gestate a baby.

Creation really is amazing. The complexity of it all... it defies description. But it deserves celebration for it is wonderfully made. ⇨ A woodpecker can peck twenty times a second. ⇨A grizzly bear can run as fast as the average horse. ⇨A chameleon's tongue is twice the length of its body!

This creation is awesome, and you and I are blessed to be a part of it. For we have been made both great and small. ⇨ The longest cells in the human body are the motor neurons. They can be up to 4.5 feet long and run from the lower back to the big toe. ⇨The smallest bone in the human body is the stirrup bone located in the middle ear. It is approximately this big (put finger and thumb together).

And we are wonderfully made. ⇨The human eye blinks an average of 4,200,000 times a year. ⇨As an adult, you have more than 20 square feet of skin on your body--about the same square footage as a blanket for a queen-sized bed.

Why does God love us? The answer is because we love God's creation, and we thank God for it. Everyday. So get out there and enjoy the wonder of it all.

⇨ The average person walks the equivalent of twice around the world in a lifetime.

⇨ 50,000 of the cells in your body will die and be replaced with new cells; all while you are reading this sentence!

⇨ This life is a blessing.

Pastor Jonathan

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SPOT-  
LIGHT  
ON...



*We're "Open" Sundays...*

*April 7*

*Scholarship Sunday  
Sacrament of Holy Communion*

*April 14*

*No Sunday School*

*April 21*

*No Sunday School  
Sacrament of Baptism*

*April 28*

*Church Neighborhoods Lunch  
Please RSVP to church  
Faith-in-Youth Event*



Saturday, April 6

Bret Carlson Memorial—  
1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 9

Book Discussion—7PM

Wednesday, April 10

Wednesday Morning Circle

Wednesday, April 17

Church Council—7PM

Saturday, April 20

"Coffee & Conversation"  
9:30 AM

Monday, April 22

Donations begin arriving  
for the Rummage Sale

Wednesday, April 24

Women in Spirit & Service  
7PM



Are you brand new to the First Congregational Church and interested in finding out more about this place? Have you been attending FCC for awhile and feel it might be time to take a step deeper into your church community? If this describes you, and you are interested in finding out more about the faith, history, tradition, and people at the center of FCC, then you should attend our "New Members' Coffee & Conversation" gathering

on Saturday, April 20, from 9:30-11:00 a.m. This orientation is intended to be an opportunity to meet with Jonathan and find out about this wonderful church. Though we hope you will be decided to join with us more fully by becoming a member of the First Congregational Church, attending this session includes no obligation or expectation regarding membership. Please contact Evelyn Johnson at 508-495-9582 if you are interested in attending.

*In Memoriam*

D. Bret Carlson

## A Worthy Cause!



Did you know that Christina Bowen, Katie Dreyer, Lisa Edmonds and Jennifer Edwards are participating in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer? (In case you don't know, they all have children in the Sunday School and help teach. Jennifer is on the new website committee and Katie is on the Board of Christian Education and helps with the Christmas Fair!)

The Walk is May 18 & 19 in Boston and is a 39-mile, 2-day walk! They are each committed to raising \$1800 for a total of \$7,200. Can you help them reach their goals and thus help women receive much-needed treatment?

The ladies will set up a table in Fellowship Hall during coffee hours in April to collect donations for the walk and answer any questions. Checks should be made out to "Avon Breast Cancer Walk" (Please, do NOT make them out to the church!!!!) and the ladies will divide all donations equally. Thank you in advance for any donation you can give!



Plans are being made for the annual Massachusetts Prostate Cancer Symposium to take place on Friday, May 17, at the Newton Marriott, Newton, MA,

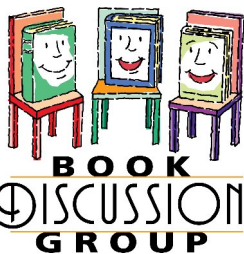
from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Anyone interested in attending is asked to call Martha in the church office at 508-548-3700. Attendees meet at the church and car pool to Newton. Drivers are always needed.

## Couples' Club

Couples' Club will sponsor a Theater Party to see *The Music Man*, presented by the Falmouth Theatre Guild on Friday, May 3, 7:30 p.m. Professor Harold Hill will arrive in River City to bring chaos into the lives of Marian the Librarian and Winthrop. Enjoy songs such as *76 Trombones*, *Till There Was You* and *Goodnight My Someone*.



Tickets are only \$15 per person. Reserved seats will be assigned in the order in which checks are received. All church members are welcome to sign up on the Opportunity Table, but checks, payable to "Falmouth Theatre Guild" are DUE BY APRIL 21. Give or mail check to Bette West, 42 East Harbor Dr., E. Falmouth, MA 02536. Tickets will be distributed in the theater lobby between 7 and 7:15 on the 3rd. Questions??? Call Bette at 508-457-9860.



The Book Discussion Group will meet Tuesday, April 9, from 7-9 p.m. at the home of Grace Day. The book to be discussed is *Tigers in Red Weather* by Liza Klausmann—a novel about two women and a murder on Martha's Vineyard. If you plan to attend, please call the hostess or sign up on the Opportunity Table. We welcome new members to the group either to discuss this specific book or to attend our meetings, held on the second Tuesday of the month, on a regular basis. For more information, call Bette West, 508-457-9860.

## Women's Union

Our April 10 meeting will begin at 12 noon in Fellowship Hall. Once again it will be our pleasure to host the women of the Waquoit and Mashpee Congregational Churches for lunch and a program. A sign-up sheet will be on the Opportunity Table in the lobby of Fellowship Hall for your reservation. The program, entitled "Sea and sand from the Sky," will be presented by Margot Cheel, an aerial photographer, and promises stunning photos. Margot is a member of the Society of Media Photographers (ASMP) and the 99's International Pilot's Organization. Copies of her book will be available for purchase.



Be sure to see the article on page 7 about the annual Rummage Sale! Having been postponed due to winter storm "Nemo," the Rev. Nan Geertz Memorial Scholarship Sunday will take place on Sunday, April 7. We ask the support of our church members in this annual appeal to the fund so that it will continue to grow and support the youth of our church. Scholarships to qualifying graduating seniors will be awarded on Children/Youth Sunday, May 19.



# Sunday School Crier

by Dan Silver

## *Calling All Youth!!!!*

Jonathan & Dan continue to host fun youth events (is there any other kind?) on the first Monday (6th-8th grades) and third Monday (9th-12th grades) of each month. The meetings run from 7-8:30 p.m. at the church and feature games, discussion, and the best chocolate chip cookies this side of the Atlantic! Attendance has been steady, but, like most activities in life, the more the merrier!

The plan is to increase the number of events from one per age group (per month) to two, which will begin in the fall. To that end, we hope all parents will plan accordingly once the fall schedule “ramps up” with school, sports, and other activities and encourage their youth to make attendance a priority. If a scheduling conflict still exists, please feel free to contact Jonathan and/or Dan so that we can accommodate as many kids as possible.

As an aside, Jonathan has shown himself to be adept at every aspect of church ministry, but his extensive background in youth programming makes him an absolute gem. I promise you that he is a once-in-a-lifetime asset to youth and any time your kids spend in his presence will benefit them 10-fold (mathematical estimate is a product of research by Dan, Lou, and a circus monkey). Simply, we all can use a Jonathan in our lives, and we are lucky to have him!

## *Thanks, Doc!*

On behalf of everybody with a heartbeat, I offer a genuine “Thank you!” and “Job well done!” to Dr. Dennis McGillicuddy for his presentation during the ongoing Faith and Science program. The story was powerful, amazing, and inspiring, with an assist from Greer Gilbert.

## *Wreck-it-Dan*

After a less-than-stellar choice of movie for the December Youth Group meeting, movie night rebounded in a big way in March with a showing of *Wreck It Ralph*. The film was entertaining, the pizza and chicken wings were tasty, and, as usual the children were fantastic. April will feature a game night with all kinds of board games and a group-wide game of Bingo, thanks to the coolest Bingo set on the planet, led by the McGillicuddy family.

I would like to thank all of the kids in the Youth Group who have taken Jonathan up on his request to bring a friend to our meetings. We have met a number of great kids from outside our church community. To that end, we will ask each guest to fill out some very basic contact information in the event there is a need to contact a parent or guardian during the meeting time (for instance, if another hideous movie selection takes place...). We thank everyone in advance for their cooperation in this endeavor!

## *Faith-in-Youth*

Although Mother Nature might view this as a challenge, we have rescheduled the “Faith-in-Youth” event (previously planned for February) to April 28, which we sheepishly hope is late enough in the spring to eliminate snow as an obstacle to the great fun.

We will host this event — which features 6th –12th graders from six Upper Cape UCC churches gathering for a late afternoon of games, food and reflection, all in proper proportions to produce an enriching experience for kids of a wide range of ages. In the future, this event will happen several times during the school year and is truly a powerful meeting of the future UCC leaders.

## Music Notes

“April is in my mistress’ face,” is the title of an old English madrigal which sings of spring and flowers and beauty. Spring is now upon us and, after the unpleasant weather of the winter, the sunshine day will hopefully be more plentiful. I think we all hope for that.

On April 7 the Senior Choir will sing *Beautiful Savior* by Lee as the Communion anthem. On April 14 the Bell Choir will play the prelude and an anthem on chimes; the Senior Choir will sing *Thou Art Worthy*. As we move into spring, the Bell Choir will cease rehearsal for the current year after April 11 and will resume in the fall.

A special thank you goes out to everyone who made the recent visit by the University of Maine Singer so successful. One of the young ladies at my table complimented us on the food saying it was the best they’d had and certainly the most they had ever seen! The concert was incredible as well. Thank you to Rob & Robin Bowerman for arranging the group’s visit!

As a final note this month, I ask you to indulge me in a bit of self-promotion. I have recently published an e-book on Amazon Kindle. Titled *Soldiers Only Cry When We’re Alone*, it is a transcription of my father’s letter from World War II. It tells the day-to-day story of training and military experiences from the day he was inducted in 1943 until he was discharged in 1946. Right now it is only available in e-book format on Kindle, I-Pad, I-Phone or PC if you have the appropriate apps. I hope to have it available later in the year in print form.

See ya in church, Howard

*May is coming, so you KNOW what that means...*

*It’s Rummage Sale Time!!!!*

Items for the Saturday, May 4 sale may begin arriving at the church on Sunday, April 21 with a deadline of Wednesday, May 1, 4:00 p.m. Bring your sorted donations to the lower lobby of Fellowship Hall and place them in the designated areas. Volunteers are always needed and welcome, so look over the list below, find a booth that might interest you, and give the chairperson a call!

**Ladies Clothing — Barbara Douglas (540-8815) or Booje Calfee (540-1221)**

**Men’s Clothing — Taska Hener (457-9149)**

All clothing should be in good, clean and wearable condition, on hangars and marked for size.

**Jewelry — Jackie Nuccio (540-5488)** Please bring jewelry to the office.

**Books — Martine & Wil Bindler-Desbiens (548-3295)** Please, no magazines, Reader’s Digest condensed books or encyclopedias.

**White Elephant — Sonya Wargo (508-596-9439)**

**Men’s Table — Jim Endress (495-0294)** Small appliances, tools, radios, bikes, vacuum cleaners. Please, no large furniture, TV’s or computers.

**Linens — Lee Turner (540-3263) and Louise Miller (**

Linens, blankets, bedspreads. Please mark size of each item.

**Plants — Fay Hamre (540-1430)** Flower, herb, vegetable plants, perennials, and shrubs. Label pots with name & color. Please, no house plants.

**Lunch — Lois Parker (548-2365)** Workers bring a brown-bag lunch for Friday; coffee & tea will be provided. Day of sale, select from a nice lunch. **Contributions of squares in 9X13 pans are needed!**

**Clean up — Bob Nickerson (bobnfc2@gmail.com)** “Fresh legs” are needed to take boxes to the portico entrance on Saturday following the sale and as help to put the rooms back in order.

**Please note:** We can’t accept children’s toys, but children’s books are welcome. Please check the church kitchen and lost & found—all items not “recovered” by May 1 will be included in the sale!!!





## *Church Council*

Opened with prayer by our minister, Jonathan Drury, the Council approved the minutes of two previous meetings and then turned to Jonathan for his report. He spoke of how pleased he was with the spirit and work he has experienced in the church. In particular, he took note of the success of the University of Maine Singers concert and all that was involved to make it a fine success. He also took note of the fact that a second Neighborhood gathering and luncheon had taken place.

Moving on to committee reports, Sue Patterson was introduced to the Council, in her new role as the church's assistant treasurer, by the chair of the Board of Trustees. Together they informed the Council that the loan for the work on the manse has been signed and the money is now available. Much of the demolition work has been done and construction will move forward in April. In the hope that not all of the loan will have to be utilized, a capital campaign gift committee is being formed. Moving forward, it will be committed to raising \$100,000.

The next item of business taken up was a discussion of moving the morning service of worship during the summer to 9:00 in the morning. Although there had been discussion with our organist and choral music director, the consensus of opinion was that a decision should be put off until the next meeting.

Sue Patterson was then called upon for the Treasurer's report. The Faxon Fund has added more funds to its value during the month of February. However, no funds were distributed from it in January or February. The year-to-date operating expenses of the church has yielded a deficit of \$20,776. Consequently, Boards and committees have been urged to postpone, unless absolutely necessary, any expenses they may have. Expenses incurred in the restoration of the manse are kept in a separate account.

On April 28 our church will be the host for five other Upper Cape UCC youth groups for a Faith-in-Youth program.

H. Alfred Allenby, Editor

## *Board of Christian Outreach*

Outreach Update: The Outreach Committee oversees our church's financial support of local, national, and international projects and programs. We seek to inspire the congregation by raising awareness and providing opportunities to serve those in need. We are guided by the vision to love and worship God and to love and serve others as Spirit-filled disciples of Christ.

Recent disbursements by the committee have been to: Celebrations (the alcohol-free after-prom party for Falmouth High school students); MACUCC Basic Support; Around the Table meals program; A Baby Center; Falmouth Service Center—matched this month in a matching grant program there; and Habitat for Humanity—building two residences in Falmouth this year. The committee continues to appreciate the pledges parishioners make each year to serve these and other worthy organizations and causes. As always, we invite members' input and opinions on future disbursements.

Save the date: Mother's Day offering for the Blanket-Plus program—May 12.

## *"Transitions"*

A 4-week discussion/support group, open to people of all faith traditions who are rebuilding from the end of an intimate relationship (separation, divorce), will run on Tuesdays from April 9 through April 30, 5:30—7:00 p.m. at the First Church of Christ, UCC, 136 Main St., Sandwich. An RSVP is needed by April 2 to 508-88-0434 or [c.ode@firstchurchsandwich.org](mailto:c.ode@firstchurchsandwich.org). There will be childcare as needed. The group will be facilitated by Jeff Gaudet, MSW, and Cathy Ode, Med in Counseling. You are invited to call with any questions or concerns.

## *A Quick Reminder...*

Parishioners are reminded that Pledge Statements for 2012 are still available on a table in Fellowship Hall. They will be available until Monday, April 15, at which time they will be destroyed. If you cannot get to the church and need your statement for tax purposes, please call the office and Martha will be happy to mail yours.

There are also still quite a few boxes of envelopes for 2013 in the hall. We're trying not to mail them as they are quite expensive to mail first class and there is no other cost-effective option. If you're not sure that you requested envelopes for 2013, just call Martha and she can tell you if there are some waiting for you!

## *Board of Trustees*

As most of you are aware, a special meeting was held after church on March 10 to approve a \$400,000 line-of-credit that is secured by the Faxon Fund. This money was necessary to insure that we will have adequate funds to bring the manse up to a standard that will be comfortable for the Drury family and our church will be proud to own for many years to come. After questions regarding the condition of the manse were answered, the vote passed overwhelmingly. Home Services Company, owned by Walter Slaboden, has already done the demolition and is contracted to do the project after the building permit is secured by April 10. If you have not reviewed the pictures of the manse after demolition, be sure to do so — you won't believe it! A capital campaign to repay a good portion of the loan is now underway. Please stay tuned as you will hear from our newly-formed Capital Campaign Committee very shortly.

Sue Simchock

## *Board of Deacons*

There are several members of our congregation who are no longer able to drive themselves to church worship services. We have discussed this issue at Deacons' meetings and considered a program to provide rides to church on Sunday mornings for those members. Martha has discussed such a program with our insurance broker to determine if the church could be liable in the event of an automobile accident. She has been informed that the church could be liable if IT matched a driver with a rider and asked the driver to "act as an agent of the church." However, if the church provides those needing a ride with a list of those willing to drive and the rider makes a personal arrangement with a driver, the church is not liable. Therefore, as a trial, we ask those members of the congregation who would be willing to drive other members to church to contact the church office. Martha will maintain a list of volunteers that she will share with those wishing a ride to church.

John Honey

## *Stewardship Committee*

While the world's 1.2 billion Catholics were celebrating the election of the latest Pope, America's Catholics continue to ignore the very precepts of that church. On issues of sexual relations, sexual orientation, women's rights, birth control, scientific inquiry and many others most American Catholics admit that their personal beliefs on these subjects are in direct opposition to their church. This is not meant as a judgment on American Catholics, but more to compare and contrast that structure with our own.

Unlike the Catholic Church and many Protestant denominations, we are not a hierarchical organization. Our church is run by its Lay Membership, they run the committees, control the budgets and decide who will minister to us. When Jonathan was chosen to be our new settled minister, I believe God's hand was involved in guiding him to our doorstep. But I am equally as happy that no bishop or senior official at the UCC simply appointed him to that post. Our association with the UCC, our Statement of Faith, our Sunday School curriculum; all these aspects of our church reflect what we as members of the church want. We teach that evolution is compatible with faith and we place no moral pre-conditions on Communion because those are the beliefs we hold.

The cost of having a church that is responsive to our view of Christianity is that it has to be financed by our membership. As the year goes on we will be asking a lot of our Congregation in that area. We will need funds to complete the Manse project, but those funds will have to come in addition to the annual pledge requests that support our operations and outreach activities.

We ask much, but provide so much more. We provide a community of faith in which your personal beliefs don't have to be left at the door and picked back up on your way home, but where they will be heard and, if enough people agree, adopted as part of our overall belief system.

Our church is truly our church in every way — with only God as our master.

Matt Keeling



## *Online Messenger Supplement*

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### *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.



First Congregational Church of Falmouth  
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*Everyone is Welcome!*

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(508) 548-3700  
(508) 548-3714 (fax)

### *Sunday Schedule*

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

### *Our Staff*

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Lou Cataldo

### *Elected Officials of the Church*

**Moderator**—Tom Ryan  
**Clerk**—Marcia Young  
**Treasurer**—John Caspole

#### **Board/Committee Chairmen...**

**Trustees**—Sue Simchock  
**Deacons**—John Honey  
**Christian Education**—  
Joe Jarjoura  
**Christian Outreach**—  
Bill Day  
**Music**—Ed Celette  
**Stewardship**—Matt Keeling  
**Nominating**—Anne Dyer/Lee  
Turner  
**Reception**—Jan Zlatev

*WE'RE ON THE WEB!*

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