



The Messenger

Volume 21, Issue 8

May 2013

First Congregational
Church of Falmouth

As the natural world bursts forth into spring with new life and color, so too is the First Congregational Church of Falmouth bursting with enthusiasm and excitement as we embrace new opportunities to freshen our presence in the world, both virtually and literally. Our congregation is blessed to have talented members who are committed to making our church the finest expression of our faith, devotion, and outreach. This month, I am proud to be a champion of these efforts.

Six months ago, our church moderator and webmaster, Tom Ryan, convened a committee of folks who were asked to evaluate our "Firstcongfalmouth.org" website with the goal of designing a new site that would be simple to use, elegant in design, and easy to update and maintain. Though we recognized the exceptional work that Tom has done with our current website, he and I felt it was time for us to refresh our internet presence.

Once we considered the intended purposes of our website, the committee created a laundry list of features and content we wanted to have included on the site and a list of suggestions regarding the page's layout and design. Luckily, one of our committee members, Jennifer Edwards, was able to gather our myriad ideas and create a website that perfectly captures the vision of the committee while celebrating the wonderful life of our church. Please take a moment and visit our new website at Firstcongregationalfalmouth.org and I guarantee you will smile!

While some of our people have been building a new home for our church online, some of our people have been rebuilding an old home for our church across the driveway. The renovation of the Swift/Bodfish House is now fully underway, and our own Walter Slaboden is orchestrating a remarkable ballet of schedule requirements, sub contractors, and heavy equipment. Along the way, Walter and his crew have discovered some unexpected challenges and architectural oddities (like a 15' deep fieldstone-lined hole once used to store the Swift family silver!), but they are unflappable, determined, and optimistic about the project.

The renovation of our historic parsonage is one more opportunity for us to express our presence to the world. It is a blessing to be the stewards of one of the most beautiful church premises on Cape Cod, and considering Cape Cod is one the most beautiful places on earth, I believe our church home is a treasure. The least we can do to express our gratitude for what we have been entrusted is to share it.

Accordingly, the Swift/Bodfish House Capital Campaign Committee has been commissioned by the Church Council to create opportunities for the members of our congregation and the members of our community to participate in this project. And yes, part of what I mean by "participate" is "help pay for," but the Capital Campaign aspires to be more than only fundraising. The committee is approaching this project as an opportunity for all of us to rediscover the remarkable history of the house, to celebrate the importance the First Congregational Church has always had in the town of Falmouth, and to generate some buzz in our community about the exciting things happening here.

These are thrilling times for our church. No matter which way you look, forward to our future or back toward our past, we have plenty to be thankful for. Thank you for letting me serve by your side.



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Peace, Jonathan



SPOT-LIGHT ON...



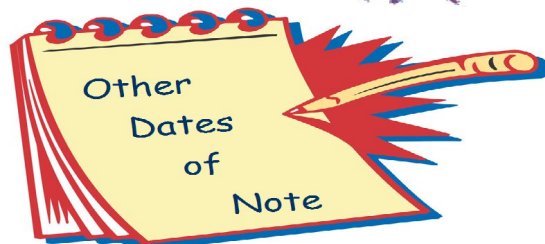
We're "Open" Sundays...

*Sunday, May 5
Confirmation Sunday*

*Sunday, May 12
BlanketPlus Sunday
Horizons Folk Ensemble will play*

*Sunday, May 19
Children/Youth Sunday
8:30—Pancake Breakfast
Last day of Sunday School
3:00—Maine "Steiners" concert
(see article next page)*

*Sunday, May 26
David Powers—Guest Minister*



- Friday, May 3
1PM—Wollam Memorial
- Saturday, May 4
RUMMAGE SALE 9-2
4PM—Braconier Memorial
6PM—Confirmation dinner
- Monday, May 6
7PM—Jr. High Youth Grp
- Tuesday, May 7
7PM—Brd of Christian Ed
- Wednesday, May 8
11AM—Wednesday Circle
7PM— Deacons
7PM—Brd Christian Out
- Wednesday, May 15
7PM—Church Council
- Friday, May 17
6PM—Couples' Club
- Monday, May 20
12PM—Messenger Deadline
Summer Issue!
7PM—Sr. High Youth Grp
- Monday, May 27
Holiday—Church closed!

The Men of Maine Return!

Many of you will remember the concert given by the touring chorus of the University of Maine just a few weeks ago. We are fortunate to be able to announce the return of nine members of the male members of that group, singing under the name "University of Maine Steiners" on Sunday, May 19, at 3:00 p.m.

Steiners refers to the Stein Song introduced by Rudy Vallee and adopted as the school song of the university. They are the university's premier a cappella group and will be touring New England.

There will be no admission fee; there will be a free-will contribution suggested to benefit the chorus.

Come and enjoy!



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

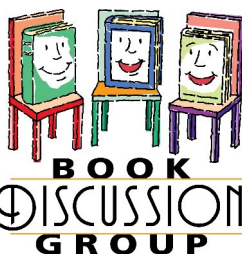
Newton, MA, from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Anyone interested in attending is asked to call Martha in the church office at 508-548-3700. Attendees meet at the church and car pool to Newton. Drivers are always needed.

In Memoriam

Nathaniel Corwin
Carleton Handy
John Wollam

Couples' Club

Couples' Club will meet on Friday, May 17, at 6:00 p.m. for another delicious casserole dinner. Following the meal, Rev. Jonathan Drury will present the program "Up Close and Personal," a chance to learn some new information about our minister. All members of the church are welcome to attend, but please sign up by May 12 at the Opportunity Table in the lobby of Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$5 per couple, plus a donation of casserole, salad, or dessert.



The church book discussion group will meet on Monday, May 13, at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Bette West, 42 East Drive. We will discuss the book *Fatal Decision—Edith Cavell, WWI Nurse*. The books author, Terri Arthur, will join the group to discuss her research into the life of this English nurse who was tried and executed by the Germans for saving over 1,000 British soldiers in Brussels during the war. The group is open to all, but be sure to call Bette at 508-457-9860 if you plan to attend.

Women's Union

The Wednesday Morning Circle will meet on Wednesday, May 8, 11 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. After our business meeting, we will car pool to Marilyn Sanborn's home for lunch and a program. Bring a sandwich; we will be treated to dessert and coffee. The program will be share with us what you have read lately. Marilyn and Diana Geigis will share with us a few reviews of books they have read, then ask others in the group to share a book that they particularly liked. You may bring the book along with you if you wish.

Our April meeting was attended by over 70 ladies. The lunch and program were enjoyed by all.

We have received almost \$1300 in contributions to the Nan Geertz Memorial Scholarship in April. If you still wish to contribute, make your check payable to the First Congregational Church and write "Geertz" in the memo portion of the check. The scholarship(s) will be awarded on Sunday, May 19.





It's HERE!!!! Saturday, May 4 9AM ~ 2PM

Yes, the Annual Rummage Sale is FINALLY here!!!! Donations will be accepted until 4PM on Wednesday, May 1. While set up will have started on April 24 (which is prior to the printing of this newsletter), we still need volunteers as we will work straight through to May 3 getting everything ready for the morning of the 4th! The big board on the Opportunity Table has a sheet for every area in the sale, so check it out and write your name somewhere! Join us, it really IS quite fun, especially the camaraderie of working together! If you can't make it as a volunteer, be sure not to miss the sale itself. Have a wonderful time as you look at everything, and remember....the thing that someone doesn't want becomes someone else's treasure! Stop for lunch as Lois and her crew will serve you anything on the menu!



Good treasure hunting!

PLEASE Take a Look...!

Our church's current website is over ten years old now and we've decided it's time for a face-lift! Over the last several months our Website Team, led by Tom Ryan, has been working on a new design that takes advantage of the newer technologies now available; the result is a modern site that provides very comprehensive information for both members and visitors and is attractive and easier to use. The site is now available on a test basis and we'd like your feedback before it becomes our "official" home on the Internet, sometime in May or early June. The new website was designed by Jennifer Edwards, church member and owner of Media Solutions-Falmouth, with the help of committee members Don Abt, Ben Carnevale, Joe Jarjoura, Lisa McGillicuddy and Rev. Jonathan Drury. This team has made a great effort to include a wealth of information as well as several photo galleries that represent the various facets of our growing Church community. Forms for Youth & Children will now be downloadable for added convenience, you can listen to a clip of the new church orchestra, and you will be able to follow the progression of the Manse Renovation Project. There is also a Mobile version of our site available for your smartphones.

We really hope you find the new website easy to use and filled with relevant and interesting facts about our Church. You can access the site by entering www.firstcongregationalfalmouth.org/ in your browser's address bar. So have a look and tell us what you think – email your feedback to us at feedback@firstcongafalmouth.org. If at any time you would like to remove your name or a particular photo from the site for privacy reasons, please let us know. In addition, if you have taken a great picture that you would like to submit, you can do that by sending it to the email address listed above.

Music Notes

"Tra la, it's May, the lusty month of May..." so goes the famous song from *Camelot*. May is a lusty month; it brings showers that bloom the flowers, sunshine to brighten our days, and the anticipation of summer activities, vacation time, family visits, beach time, and baseball. May is also the month when some of our musical activities begin to wind down. The Children's Choir will sing for the last time on Children/Youth Sunday. They will begin regular rehearsals after Rally Day in September. The Senior Choir, however, will continue on through the summer, but with a different rehearsal schedule.

On May 5 the Senior Choir will provide music for the monthly communion service. May 12 will see the Horizons Folk Group providing and leading the music for worship. As mentioned above, the Children's Choir will sing on May 19, and on May 26, the Senior Choir will sing the anthem *Armor of God* by John Ness Beck as one of the music selections.

In June, the Senior Choir will continue regular Thursday rehearsal for a couple of weeks as they prepare anthems for Sunday morning services, which will begin at 9:00 a.m. on June 30. If you'd like to sing during the summer, stop in at our Thursday rehearsals to learn the anthems. They will be fairly simple and fun to sing.

I hope to see new faces as we move into our summer season. If I don't see you in rehearsal, I'll... See Ya in church, Howard

Sunday School Crier

by Dan Silver

Faith-In-YOUth Rocks Falmouth

Pastor Jonathan, myself, and the FCC youth in grades 6-12 welcomed their friends from six other Upper Cape UCC churches on Sunday, April 28, and it was a huge success in so many ways. First, attendance was solid for the second, in what will become a quarterly, event on the Upper Cape UCC calendar, but the first since last fall due to the snow that is now just a memory!

Second, and more importantly to all of us, the kids had an incredible opportunity to meet like-minded kids of the same or similar age group. The socialization aspect of the event is given much more than lip service. Companionship is at the heart of the event, but the kids were treated to a program that focused on what constitutes a healthy relationship between and among teens.

The kids in attendance represented their home church and the UCC very well. Please look for information on the next, yet-to-be scheduled Faith In YOUth program. I predict that these will become a staple on our youths' yearly calendar.

Easter Rewind

I would be remiss in failing to fully acknowledge the March 31 Easter service put on by Pastor Jonathan which featured brilliant participation by many of the children of FCC. Corinne McGillicuddy sparkled in her role of Mary Magdalene; otherwise, Bobbie Miner and yours truly would have run away with Tony Award nominations for portraying Mary, the mother of Jesus, and Simon Peter, respectively.

Pastor Jonathan did a great job reading the part of Jesus, our Savior. He then delivered an all-time great Children's message which drove home the reasons that we all gather on Sundays to worship as such a loving community.

Youth Group breaks indoor barrier

For three years, the 4th-6th grade Youth Group participants have made but one seemingly simple request — to go outside during at least part of one of our meetings. Regardless of the reasons for not doing so (hey, no sense pointing fingers when the author of this piece is in the only direction in which fingers can be pointed), Youth Group has been an indoor event. Well, a new era has begun!

The April Youth Group meeting featured BINGO indoors, of course), but the whole event began outside on the playground! Pastor Jonathan led what seemed to be more than 50 iterations of a game that used to be called "tag," but now contains reference to indoor plumbing (which is ironic, because I am pretty sure that, at the time of this writing, Jonathan's future home at the manse has the indoor plumbing prominently displaced on Main Street). The kids loved it. IN all seriousness, to see the look on the kids' faces and to hear the roars of laughter was quite a special experience.

May's Youth Group will feature another chunk of time spent on God's playground.

May Dates!

Sunday, May ~ 4:30—6:00 p.m.
Youth Group (Grades 4-6)

Monday, May 6 ~ 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Senior High Youth Group (Grades 9-12)

Monday, May 20 ~ 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Junior High Youth Group (Grades 6-9)



We'd like you to meet...



Dear Members of the First Congregational Church in Falmouth,

I am pleased to introduce the members of the Swift/ Bodfish House Capital Campaign Committee: Levi Adams, Julie Bristol, Katie Dreyer, John Honey, Rich Miner, Hal Petersen, Marge Rugen, Sue Simchock, Tom Stone, and our pastor, Jonathan Drury. This group represents each of the major church committees along with the addition of two at-large members.

The Capital Campaign will officially begin Sunday, April 28th. Our hope and intention is to organize a variety of fun and creative opportunities to invite our congregation and our community to participate in this historic renovation project. A brochure is being produced for the campaign that will include some of the remarkable history of the home and its owners and we will be scheduling a number of open houses for both our church and our community following the completion of the project.

The Swift/ Bodfish House is a wonderful treasure the First Congregational Church has been blessed with. As we look forward to some of the exciting new possibilities for the future of our church, it is an excellent time for us to enthusiastically reconsider one of the gifts of our past. We encourage you to generously support this project as we prepare for the great things to come.

Sincerely, Katie Dreyer

Update for April...

The work on the church manse has been moving forward with demolition and construction work. With the assistance of our architects, Keenan + Kenny and Walter Slaboden, whose company, Home Services Company, is contracted to provide the construction work, we were able to receive the approval of the Falmouth Historic Commission on April 2 to proceed with several parts of the project that required their approval and to received approval of several changes that will not be done in this construction phase, but we may want to consider doing at a later time. Much of the demolition work required this approval before we could proceed. A new back door, which is being moved westward in order to enlarge the kitchen, and exterior light fixtures were a part of the Historic Commission approval.

The most noticeable step will be the demolition and reconstruction of the back wall of the manse in order to provide a very large structural beam in the ceiling in the kitchen area and to raise the roof in the kitchen to make it consistent in height to the rest of the house. Work will also begin on all interior spaces and construction materials have begun to arrive on site. The kitchen design will be finalized soon and orders placed for cabinetry and fixtures.

Sallie Giffen

Board of Deacons

March was a very busy month in the life of our church. Easter week is a wonderful time, but requires a lot of work on the part of our Minister and the Board of Deacons with the Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and two Easter Sunday services. I want to thank Jonathan and the Deacons for their efforts in this regard.

The Confirmation Class has been working hard under the leadership of Dennis McGillicuddy and they will be confirmed as members of the church on Sunday, May 5. The Deacons will host a dinner for the class, their families and mentors on Saturday evening, May 4. This is always a rewarding event as the Confirmands share their statement of faith that they have prepared during the year.

The Horizons Folk Group will provide the music during worship on Sunday, May 12. We will celebrate Children/ Youth Sunday on May 19.

The Sunday worship service will be an hour earlier on Sundays during July and August, beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 30. This will allow families to attend church and still enjoy a full day of summer activities on Cape Cod.

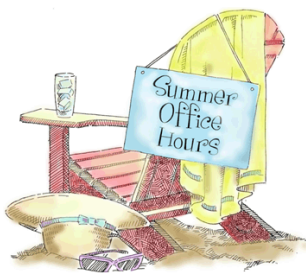
Please make use of the Sunday volunteer sign up board outside the church office. It makes our life a lot easier!

John Honey



Summer Worship Time Change

For the months of July and August, our Sunday morning service of worship will move to 9:00 a.m. We hope this earlier time will encourage more of our members and families to attend worship and still allow them to have a full day of family activities. The service will last approximately 45 minutes and feature a simpler “summer-friendly” format. We will continue to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion on the first Sundays of July and August.



With the summer comes a slightly quieter time in the church office, so, for eight weeks the church office is open only 20 hours per week. This year, those eight weeks will run from Monday, June 17 through Friday, August 9. Summer hours are 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Monday through Friday. Should you have a pastoral emer-

gency at a time the office is closed, please leave a message on the answering machine — it is monitored regularly when the office is not open. Pastor Jonathan will be spending some of his weekdays at his family’s summer home, but he will preach each Sunday and will be available for pastoral emergencies.

Falmouth Eats Together

The Falmouth Service Center has begun a wonderful program titled “Falmouth Eats Together.” Each event is hosted by a local church, the Service Center brings in the food, and EVERYONE joins together over a meal. On Thursday, August 15, our church will host this wonderful event in place of the summer BBQ. Stay tuned to Sunday bulletins for more information. This event is open to everyone in the Falmouth Community and it is free of charge.

Staff Appreciation

June 9 has been designated “Staff Appreciation Sunday” by the Deacons and Board of Trustees. Yes, we’ve even managed to convince Martha to attend the Sunday worship service, but we had to promise her that she wouldn’t have to do ANYTHING connected with her job!

This will be an opportunity for us to thank those on our staff who make our church “go” day-in and day-out, 365 days a year! Don’t miss it!



And REALLY looking down the road...

Don’t get too complacent this summer, September will be here before you know it, and with that, comes many amazing events. Here’s just a “taste...”

Sunday, September 8 — Rally Sunday & 1st day of Sunday School

Sunday, September 15 — Jazz Sunday

Sunday, September 22 — The U.S. Coast Guard Glee Club will perform in our sanctuary at 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 29 — Outreach Sunday

As you can see, it will be an exciting start to our fall schedules **Mark your calendars now!**



Church Council

Called to order by Moderator Tom Ryan and then led in prayer by our minister, Jonathan Drury, the Church Council turned its attention to the new website of the church as designed by Jennifer Edwards, whose article about the web site will be found on page 4 of this issue of the *Messenger*. Rather than try to describe it to you, the reader, I would say it is a thorough, thoughtful, and attractive site. Check it out.

Jonathan reported that the month of March had been a busy time, particularly with the work on the web site. At the same time, thought and planning has begun for a capital fund drive to cover some of the cost associated with the renovation of the Swift/Bodfish house, the manse. Although some solicitation has begun, the drive officially begins on April 28. Jonathan also informed the Council that, after consulting with the appropriate committee, morning service of worship this summer will be at 9:00 a.m.

Next in the order of business was the report by our Treasurer, John Caspole. Although there was some improvement in pledge income, general operating expenses as a result of increased insurance premiums, snow removal, and heating costs resulted in a deficit. The year-to-date deficit is now \$11,455. Thanks to a Faxon Fund distribution, the cash liquidity of the general operating cash is now at \$31,440. On March 13, a bank line-of-credit with Eastern Bank was signed. However, as of March 31, no monies have been borrowed from it.

The various boards and committees present at the meeting presented their reports. From them there emerged these highlights. The Deacons anticipate a recognition of staff will occur on June 9. The Music Committee announced a May 19 concert by the "Maine Steiners," the male cappella touring group of the University of Maine Chorus. They also anticipate a visit from the United States Coast Guard Academy Glee Club on September 22. The Trustees reported that, as they have in the past, a group known as the Hyannis Sound will be performing in our sanctuary through the summer.

Looking ahead, November 3 has been chosen as Stewardship Sunday.
H. Alfred Allenby,
Editor

Board of Christian Outreach

The Committee has recently done disbursements to the following organizations: \$400 to the Back Bay Mission on the Gulf Coast — Olivia White gave us an overview of this UCC project during our September 2012 Outreach Sunday; \$200 to the East Falmouth Elementary School PTO Health Snack program; \$400 to A Baby Center; \$500 to Fairwinds Clubhouse; \$1000 to the Housing Assistance Corp.

Outreach is also gearing up for our annual Church World Service BlanketPlus offering which our church traditionally does on Mother's Day, this year on May 12. Congregations at home and around the world are helping impoverished communities with the basic tools they need to sustain themselves and their families. When disaster strikes, people are helped with blankets, food, shelter, and safe drinking water. As the recovery process unfolds, they are given tools, training, and other resources to help them rebuild.

As an example, CWS, in response to Hurricane Sandy, helped local agencies in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia with \$834,892 worth of blankets, hygiene kits, school kits, baby care kits, and emergency cleanup buckets.

This year there are plans for the children of the Sunday School to make Mother's Day cards that will be available, at no charge, following our church service on May 5 and/or May 12 in Fellowship Hall. The cards will be appropriate to give to someone you are honoring, stating that a gift has been given in their name for the purchase of blankets and tools for those in need. Additionally, members can contribute with the offering envelope found in this *Messenger* or in the May 12 bulletin. Envelopes will also be available on the Opportunity Table. Checks should be made payable to First Congregational Church with "CWS" in the memo line. Thank you.

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.

First Congregational Church of Falmouth
68 Main Street
Falmouth, MA 02540
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Everyone is Welcome!

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of Falmouth, UCC
68 Main Street
Falmouth, MA 02540
(508) 548-3700
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Sunday Schedule

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

Our Staff

Minister

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Organist

Pat Crews
organist@firstcongfalmouth.org

Sexton

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!

WWW.FIRSTCONGFALMOUTH.ORG