



The Messenger

Volume 21, Issue 10

Summer 2013

First Congregational
Church of Falmouth

“God Is Still Speaking” is the provocative and profound slogan at the center of the marketing campaign used by the United Church of Christ. The use of the ironic word “still,” suggests we may have stopped recognizing God’s active role in our lives while also suggesting there is indeed a church where the recognition of God’s presence in the world is central to its purpose. I for one have little doubt regarding the evidence of God’s participation in the lives of God’s creations. I can “see” that the Holy Spirit occupies the seemingly empty space between two people, and God’s love is all around us.



So, having duly recognized the purpose and effectiveness of the “God is Still Speaking” campaign, I must say if I were given the opportunity, I would change the slogan ever so slightly. Instead of “Still Speaking”, I would focus the campaign’s assurance upon the idea that “God Is Still Listening.” When I consider the insecurity of our human condition, I believe we need to know now more than ever that God hears our prayers and we don’t have to be afraid of being alone.

One reason my “God Is Still Listening” slogan would not be nearly as effective (from the perspective of the United Church of Christ) is that it contains no mandate regarding one’s need to attend church. Prayer, like God, is portable. You can (and should) pray in your home, in your car, at work, at school, alone or in groups. All you need is the desire, hope, and faith that someone is listening.

I hope you know at the First Congregational Church there are people who are listening. We are here to listen to your shouts of triumph, and we are here to share your tears of frustration and pain. And if and when you ask to pray, we will be here to reach out across the Holy Spirit, take your hand, and together with you, share in the promise of God’s love and grace.

Be faithful, Jonathan

As a postscript to my cover article, I want to share some of the things I have learned about the community of the First Congregational Church this year.

- We celebrate one another.
- We share our trust with one another,
- We believe our compassionate response to the needs of our world and community is central to our identity as Christians.
- We support and empower one another through all of the circumstances of our lives.
- There is no other place I would rather be!

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The
first
duty
of
love
is
to
listen.

Paul Tillich



SPOT-LIGHT ON...



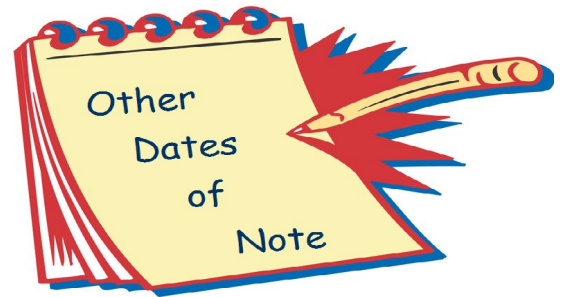
SUMMER!!!!!!

We're "Open" Sundays...

*All Sunday in June ~ 10:00 a.m.
June 9—Staff Appreciation*

*In July & August
Worship begins at 9:00 a.m.*

*September 1
Worship returns to 10:00 a.m.*



June 8—Cleanup day (see article next page!)

June 10—Hyannis Sound begins weekly concerts (through August 19)

June 17—Summer office hours begin 9-12, M-F

June 22—Youth selling parking spaces for "Arts Alive!"

July 10—Youth selling parking spaces for Street Fair

August 12—Regular office hours return

August 15—Our church hosts "Falmouth Eats Together"

ATTENTION!!!!!!

It's time again to think of the availability of Sunday morning child care in our church during the summer months. We need two adults (no married couples) to be in Room 10 downstairs for childcare each Sunday, all summer. We anticipate a growth in attendance of couples with young children who would welcome this service. When you sign up, it is necessary that you remain in Room 10 during the entire church service, due to possible late arrivals. We need to provide childcare in order to keep our wonderful church inviting for our members, visitors, and potential new members. We need YOUR help for it to happen! The dates to be covered are: June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 (9:40 a.m. arrival); July 7, 14, 21, 28, August 4, 11, 18, 25 (8:40 a.m. arrival); September 1 (9:40 arrival).

Please sign up at the Opportunity Table or email Lisa McGillicuddy at cedirector@firstcongfalmouth.org or lmcgillicuddy60@hotmail.com or call JoA Ann Coleman at 508-563-5574.

Thank you for your continuing help and support!
Jo Ann Coleman



*Saturday, June 8
9AM ~ 12PM*

*Weeding, edging, mulching,
planting*

*Come help us spruce up our
grounds for the summer.
All ages welcome!*

Bring your tools!

From the Trustees

While it is almost summer, the youth in our church will not be spending all of it sitting idly at the beach. They have planned not one, not two, but THREE fundraisers here at the church to raise money for two different, very important causes!

First, on **Sunday, June 2, from 12:30—2:30 p.m.** in our parking lot, they will hold a car wash to benefit the Swift-Bodfish House Renovation Project. A suggested donation of \$5 will get you a super-clean car and benefit the church all in one fell swoop! If you can't be here right at 12:30, stay long enough for coffee hour, grab a bite for lunch, come back with a dirty car and leave with it shining like a diamond!

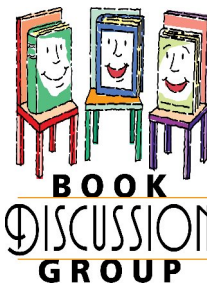
Then, on **Saturday, June 22**, they will sell parking spaces for the Arts Alive! activities in downtown Falmouth. For a donation of \$10, park your car in a secure lot, stroll to enjoy all the offerings at the festival and return knowing your donation is going to benefit the renovation project.

Finally, on **Wednesday, July 10, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** they will once again sell parking places during the Falmouth Street Fair. This \$10 donation will benefit youth projects in the church, particularly the annual trip to Heifer International's Overlook Farm in Western Massachusetts.

Don't miss these "can't miss" opportunities to support the kids in our church!

Couples' Club

All couples of the church are invited to attend our informal meetings. This summer we will meet on Monday, July 8 at 6:00 in the church hall to enjoy dinner and then attend the Hyannis Sound concert in the sanctuary. Sign up on the clipboard on the Opportunity Table to bring a salad or dessert; clam chowder will be provided. Cost is \$5 per couple for the dinner and \$10 per person if you plan to stay to attend the concert. The Hyannis Sound is an a cappella college men's singing group of 10 who sing a variety of music: folk, old favorites, pop, etc. Our group has enjoyed their performances in the past.



**BOOK
DISCUSSION
GROUP**

Our discussion group meets the second Tuesday of the month from 7-9 p.m. in members' homes. All members of the church are welcome to attend one of more of the meetings, but please call the hostess at least two days before the meeting to let her know you will attend. Our plans for the summer are:

Tuesday, June 11 at the home of Sue Anttila (508-548-2962) reading *Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker* by Jennifer Chiaverini. Tuesday, July 9 at the home of Linda Church (508)495-1308 reading *The Aviator's Wife*, novel of the life of Anne Morrow Lindberg by Melanie Benjamin. For more information about the group, contact Bette West at 508-457-9860.



**Summer Youth
Fundraisers**



Sunday School Crier

by Dan Silver

They grow up so fast

Congratulations to graduating seniors Henry Abrams and Elisabeth Bowerman. Each received a much-deserved

*They grow up so fast—
Part Deux*

Congratulations to the families of Madi Andrade, Rachel Gilbert & Sam Walker, and to the young people themselves, for having been officially confirmed in the church on May 12. It is a credit to everyone who has been fortunate to play even the smallest of roles in their spiritual journeys.

Dennis McGillicuddy has led the class and deserves praise of the highest order as he brings a wealth of knowledge and perspective to the class as he helps them define their personal beliefs.

*Yet, some NEVER
grow up...*

Jonathan and Dan continued their “Monday, Fun-Day” series of youth events on Monday nights. These events consist of fun play and honest talk sprinkled with a healthy dose of Pastor-chip cookies — which are really just chocolate chip cookies made by Jonathan, but fill the church with an unmistakable aroma of warmth and welcome! The events have been so much fun, they will be back in the fall and doubled in number!

Mark your calendars!!

1st & 3rd Mondays of the month: Youth in grades 6-8 are welcome from 7—8:30 p.m.

2nd & 4th Mondays of the month: Youth in grades 9-12 are welcome from 7-8:30 p.m.

Friends are not only invited, they are encouraged to come to enjoy the youth gatherings which are led by spiritual men but which are accessible to all faith backgrounds.

But when Milli-Vanilli does it, we are so mad...

Lisa McGillicuddy has led a cast and crew in creating an incredible video “lip dub” of a popular hit song (as opposed to an UNpopular hit song?). The video will make its much-anticipated YouTube debut on August 15. The kids all sang, danced, and pretended to be the lead vocalist in the song.

While the video will be blast to watch, it is the fact that the whole church came together over the course of a number of weeks to work on and/or support the kids’ efforts, and that is to be applauded.

*Remember the car wash
Sunday, June 2
12:30—2:30 p.m.*

Sunday School year-end Thanks You’s

Lisa McGillicuddy—our program is thriving under your direction.

Joe Jarjoura—you are such a hard-working man who deserves, yet never seeks, our gratitude

Andrea Norris—your efforts are incredible and seemingly never-ending.

Carol Andersen—the little ones thrive in your care.

Sarah Newton—thank you for helping me this year in the Teen Room.

Katie Dryer—you are always bringing fresh energy to our group.

Bette West and John Farrington—your impact has been great already!

Martine Bindler-Desbiens—you have served so faithfully on the BCE and your enthusiasm never wanes.

Music Notes

As I was driving into town today, I was overwhelmed by the beauty of the greening trees. Each one has its own degree of greenish hue; some are lighter, some are darker; some are yellow and other tend more towards blue. I reflected on how much we are like those trees. Each of us has a different personality, a different set of beliefs or of lifestyle, and yet we are at the same time united as a congregation as well as a nation. In choirs we are united in a common cause: the cause to make music. Many voices coming together, each one with a different level of skill or voice range, yet, when pulling together, we make beautiful music. This summer we will continue to make music on Sundays.

Rehearsal will be held at 8:15 a.m. and our new shorter summer service will begin at 9:00 a.m. The music is easy and singable and we will sing only one anthem each week. There is also the possibility that the FCC Orchestra or members of that group will play for one or two services in lieu of the choir. If you've never sung in the choir or only have time to do so in the summer, we welcome you to our music-making organization with open hearts.

I recently read about an organ teacher who has noticed an upswing in the number of young musicians who have developed an interest in learning to play the pipe organ. We have several young people in our church who are developing into skilled pianist. I'd like to recommend that they consider also learning to play the organ. I've been asked many times by pastors and leaders of other churches if I know of anyone who could play the organ or piano. Competent organists are a sought-after commodity because there are so few currently available. The pipe organ is a magnificent instrument to play and is equally thrilling to hear, which is why it is called the king of instruments. Learning to play the organ can give a musician life-long opportunities in the music field as either a full or part-time musician. A lifetime of service to the church as a singer or player can be a very rewarding experience. If this sounds like a recruiting request, you are right. As our current aging generation of church musicians leave us, who will replace them in our choirs and at our organ consoles? Think about it and if you are someone who thinks you might like to know more about the organ, we can point you in the right direction.

I hope to see more new faces in the choir this summer. If not, I know "I'll see ya in church." Howard



We're almost half-way there!

Once permits were received, the project has moved rapidly. The most noticeable signs of progress are the new rear exterior walls, new bulkhead, and the raised roof in the back to provide a consistent ceiling height for the kitchen. It was voted to install central air conditioning throughout the house for the benefit of both the house and the family. It appears that its cost can be absorbed within the existing budget, thus its approval. The exterior windows for the entire house have arrived, with the plan being to finish the exterior painting of the windows prior to their installation.

The Capital Campaign is now in full swing with pledges and gifts arriving regularly. The committee works weekly planning additional fundraisers to reduce the amount we will need to borrow for the project. Pledge cards have been sent to all members and friends on the church's mailing list and brochures have been prepared with the intent that the community-at-large will become interested and involved with the project.



LOOKING

AHEAD... *Save These Dates in September!*

Sept. 8 ~ Rally Sunday

Sept. 15 ~ Jazz Sunday

*Sept. 22 ~ Coast Guard
Glee Club concert*

Sept. 29 ~ Outreach Sunday

Board of Christian Outreach

A big thank you to all those who supported the One Great Hour of Sharing offering in March—total giving was a very generous \$1,569.60! As of this printing, giving for the BlanketPlus program is at \$776.

Recent disbursements have been to the Massachusetts Council of Churches, Salvation Army, Basic Support to the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC, and the minister's Confidential Assistance Fund.

As a note of interest to the congregation, Outreach receives many thank you notes from the organizations we support. We would like to share with you one particularly-thoughtful note, handwritten by Brenda Swain, Director of the Falmouth Service Center. She writes, "the ongoing partnership we experience with your church community is truly a blessing...Thank you for these generous funds and also your dozens of loyal and active volunteers!" Brenda will be speaking to us on Outreach Sunday, September 29.

The Children's Clothing Project is very successful this year and, because of increased interest from the Falmouth community, Outreach has decided to extend its services all through the summer. Thus, we are seeking volunteers to help on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of June, July and August. Please consider signing up on the Opportunity Table. It is a fun and rewarding activity to do together!

Save the Date: Cape Cod's Housing Assistance Corporation will have its annual "Housing with Love Walk" on Sunday, July 21, beginning at 11:00 a.m at the Falmouth Village Green. Join the HAC Walk Team after church that morning to raise funds to help nearly 10,000 Cape Codders with their housing needs each year. The walk is 3.5 miles. One can sign up at www.WalkforHAC.org or call 508-771-5400, ext. 270.

Church Council

Having been called to order by moderator Tom Ryan and led in prayer by our minister, Jonathan Drury, the Council gave its attention first to his report. In it, Jonathan described the month now past as having been a very busy time. Indeed, from his point of view, it was a time which reflected the healthy vitality of the church's congregation. He took particular note of the reception of new members, the confirmation of three of our young people, a successful Rummage Sale, and the progress of the Capital Fund Drive. The committee organizing the drive has received a total of 41 pledges totaling \$61,000. A brochure describing the project has been prepared and will be circulated not only among our church members, but also in the community-at-large. In his report, Jonathan took special note of Adelaide Cummings, whose 99th birthday will be the occasion for a special party at the West Falmouth Library.

Looking ahead in regard to the manse renovation, the group responsible for its oversight has made the decision to have central air conditioning installed. While obviously serving to keep it more comfortable in the summer, the air conditioning will serve the well-being of the house itself throughout the year. Although a definite date was not established, dedication of the manse will likely occur in September.

One date which was agree upon was a "Clean up Day" on June 8, when the grounds of the church property will be picked up and made more presentable. Volunteers are needed. Another date to remember is August 15 when our church will be host site for the Falmouth Service Center's program, "Falmouth Eats Together."

Our treasurer reported that the pledged program support was 4% better for the month of April than our budget anticipated. Income from the Faxon fund was on target. As of this date, no borrowing has been required to meet the cost of the manse renovation. Other reports were presented to the Council by the Deacons, the church delegates, the Reception Committee, Nominating, Women's Union, Sunday School, and Outreach Committees.

The Deacons reported that during July and August, the morning service will be at 9:00 a.m. Taking note of the confirmation of three persons, they spoke in particular of the excellent work Dennis McGillicuddy has done in teaching that group each year. Concern as to getting ushers for morning service was expressed and the need for members to keep the church office informed as to members who would welcome visitors. This year, the Women's Union awarded scholarships to Elisabeth Bowerman and Henry Abrams. The Sunday School held their annual pancake breakfast on May 19 and are also the happy recipients of two sofas from Kathie & Day Mount. The Children's Clothing Project will operate through the summer this year.

H. Alfred Allenby

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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Everyone is Welcome!

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Sunday Schedule

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

Our Staff

Minister

Rev. Jonathan Drury
minister@firstcongfalmouth.org
Director of Christian Education
Lisa McGillicuddy
cedirector@firstcongfalmouth.org

Director of Youth Programs

Dan Silver
dksilver@comcast.net

Office Administrator

Martha Evans
info@firstcongfalmouth.org

Director of Music

Howard Whitmore
musicmas@firstcongfalmouth.org

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