



NEWSLETTER
FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN SANDWICH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Volume 44 Number 8

**Farewell to Rev. Baldwin, and
 Welcome to Rev. Cabbage**

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**Don't Miss Rally Sunday
 September 11th, with one
 service at 9:30 am, and
 Evensong at 5:00 pm**

Rally Sunday, September 11th,
 One Worship Service, 9:30 A.M.
 Sign up for classes, groups, and ac-
 tivities!

Evensong Service, September
 11th, 5:00 P.M.
 There will be an Evensong Worship in
 the sanctuary in remembrance
 of those who died in the terrorist at-
 tracts, September 11, 2011. This
 Evensong will be a service of prayers,
 song, and meditation.

Farewell to Rev. Baldwin

September 11th will be Rev.
 Baldwin's last Sunday with us before
 he starts a new ministry with the
 South Dartmouth UCC church. Please
 join us after the 9:30 service to wish
 him well in his next endeavor.
 Donations of refreshments are wel-
 come.



**Rev. Cabbage Begins
 October 1st**

Rev. Cabbage will begin her minis-
 try with us on October 1st, with her first
 Sunday worship service on **October
 2nd**.

Please join us in giving her a warm
 welcome after each service on October
 2nd.

Don't forget to wear your nametag!
 We have over 300 attendees on many
 Sundays. Please be considerate of Anne
 and of each other by wearing nametags
 on Sundays. If you do not have one, you
 may sign up outside the church office,
 and it will be made for you.

Getting To Know Us

Shortly after Anne's arrival, we will
 offer a series of home gatherings at
 which Anne and Tammie can get to
 know us – and we them – in a more in-
 formal setting.

We anticipate a couple of these get-
 togethers per week on various days or
 evenings. Times will vary with atten-
 dance at a maximum 14 per gather-
 ing. Signups will begin in mid-
 September during social hours following
 worship and by e-mail. More informa-
 tion will appear in Sunday bulletins and
 the next *Spire*.

If you would like to host such a
 gathering, please contact Mary Alice
 Stahleker at csmabs@comcast.net or
 508 833-8945.



Lift your Voices (or bells, guitars, drums, etc.) and Join the Music Ministry

First Church Music Directors Sarah McQuarrie and Ron Sherwin announce the beginning of a new musical season here at First Church! If you have ever thought about joining one of our ensembles, now is the time! Below is a list of rehearsal times and descriptions of each of the ensembles. If you have questions about the Rejoice Ringers (the youth bell choir), please contact Joan Gregory. If you have questions about any of the other ensembles, please contact Sarah McQuarrie at smcquarrie@bridgew.edu or Ronald Sherwin at rsherwin@annamaria.edu

Thank you!

- **Spirit Singers** Begin Wednesday, August 31st 5:30
- **First Church Bells** Begin Thursday, September 1st 6:00
- **First Church Choir** Begin Thursday, September 1st 7:00
~The rest of the ensembles will begin after Rally Sunday ~
- **Junior Choir** Begin Wednesday, September 14th 5:00-5:30 (note change in time)
- **IG Bells** Begin Wednesday, September 14th 6:30
- **Rejoice Ringers** Begin Thursday, September 15th 5:00

Ensemble Descriptions

Spirit Singers: The Spirit Singers are a dynamic and spiritual group whose main responsibility is to provide anthems and other service music as needed for the 9:00 Sunday morning service. The group rehearses on Wednesdays at 5:30 and sings almost every week at the Sunday service. Music performed ranges from contemporary Christian songs, to gospel music and spirituals, and to modern settings of traditional sacred songs and hymns, all accompanied by piano and sometimes Praise Band. The Spirit Singers also frequently participate in all-church choir pieces which are performed during special services, and/or both 9:00 and 11:00 Sunday services. **We are currently in need of singers!!!!**

Junior Choir: The Junior Choir is a relatively new ensemble made up of children of all ages and all ability levels. The group rehearses every Wednesday from 5:00-5:30 and sings about once a month at either the 9:00 or 11:00 service. The Junior Choir also participates in special services and combined choral works with the adult choir. Children ages four to twelve are welcome. (Older children are also welcome, but may choose to instead sing in Spirits or First Church Choir.)

First Church Choir: The First Church Choir is an ensemble that has strong roots in our church's tradition along with the enthusiasm to explore diverse styles and genres. The main responsibility of this group is to provide weekly anthems and service music at the 11:00 Sunday morning service. Music performed ranges from traditional hymns, selections from Masterworks, Spirituals, and classically-based contemporary anthems. The group also frequently participates in all-church choir pieces which are performed during special services, and/or both 9:00 and 11:00 Sunday services. **This fall we are planning a joint performance of the Mozart Coronation Mass with area high schools and community groups.** Extra rehearsals and concert times will be provided ASAP.

First Church Bells: The First Church Bell Choir is composed of dedicated and experienced bell ringers who play a challenging and demanding repertoire. They rehearse on Thursdays at 6:00 and frequently participate in the 9:00 and 11:00 Sunday services. The bell choir has played at community events including charity fundraisers, regional bell festivals, and the Christmas in Sandwich Bell Concerts. Although all the bell positions are currently filled, please let the music directors know if you are interested in playing with FC Bells in the future.

Intergenerational Bells: The Intergenerational Bell Choir (known as the IG Bells) is comprised of ringers of many ages and levels. The group rehearses on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 and plays at both 9:00 and 11:00 Sunday services and performs at the Christmas in Sandwich Bell Concert. IG Bells is a friendly, pressure-free environment conducive to learning and growing as a bell ringer. *continued...*

Music, continued

Praise Band: The Praise Band is an integral part of the 9:00 Sunday service, performing the Gathering Music and Closing Music, helping with the accompaniment and leading of the congregational songs, and on occasion accompanies the Spirit Singers. The group is prominently lay-led with the participation of the music directors. Rehearsal times are to be determined.

Classical Guitar Concert Featuring the Acclaimed Katona Twins Comes to First Church

Sunday, October 9, 2011

Columbus Day Weekend

3:00 pm



The Katona Twins are a celebrated Hungarian guitar duo, featuring Peter and Zoltán Katona, identical twins. They have performed at prestigious venues and at major music festivals around the world. Their performances and recordings have been widely reviewed by the music press and they have been described as "the classical world's best-known guitar duo".

The Katonas' repertoire includes classical music, tango and Spanish guitar.

"The brilliant Katona Twins... Formidable virtuoso technique, their performances could hardly be bettered for charm, zest, wit and colouristic flair."

Daily Telegraph

<http://www.katonatwins.com/index.html>

You may visit the website link above to listen to their music.

Sponsored by First Church and The Boston
Classical Guitar Society

Retirement News

Using the proverbial 'good news, bad news' analogy, we are all saddened by the prospect of having **Joanne Bauckman**, First Church's Administrative Manager for the past 26 years, retire from her job. However, we are delighted to hear that she is looking forward to retirement, spending time with her family and investigating other interests. Joanne has been one of the important pillars at First Church and we have appreciated her length of time with us as well as her significant contributions. Joanne has always been a very personable employee with whom members of the congregation have felt truly comfortable and she has always exhibited a positive attitude. Please extend your thanks to Joanne and wish her well in her well-earned retirement.

Joanne has asked to retire the end of September, but she is willing to be available during the month of October to assist with transition.

Administrative Assistant Wanted

With Joanne Bauckman having announced her retirement, First Church is seeking a new Administrative Assistant. This part-time (30 hours/week Sept – June, 15 hours/week July - August) administrative person would act as receptionist, handle phones, maintain the church calendar, schedule activities, update all church computer files, including membership, update our website, and produce the weekly bulletin and monthly Spire. Computer experience is required.

Candidates should excel in organizational and communication skills and be able to work cooperatively with all staff and our diverse membership. Candidates will be interviewed after the first week of September, with final interviews to be held once our new pastor, The Reverend Anne Cabbage, has arrived on October 1. A projected start date would be the second week in October.

If you know of someone who would be a good candidate for this position, please request that person to forward a resume to:

First Church of Christ, Human Resources, PO
Box 810, Sandwich, MA 02563



Christian Education News

Rally Sunday, September 11th : One Service 9:30

Sign up for classes, groups and activities

Church School Classes Begin On September 18th

Godly Play **3, 4 & 5 year olds; as well as 1st grade** (note: 1st graders will have the option of switching out of Godly Play & into the rotation classes at the beginning of the 2nd rotation (Oct. 16th or at the beginning of any other rotation throughout the year)

This year's rotation theme **Test of Faith** – *“Throughout the scriptures, people faced challenges to their faith. From Jonah, Ruth, Daniel to you and me, there are times when we do well and live in ways that are pleasing to God. At other times we find ourselves in need of God's grace because we have missed the mark. Through the stories of faith, we learn that God's grace is always extended to us.”*

Our first rotation *Jonah* will be experienced by **grades 3 – 6**. Other rotations selected for this year are: *Ruth, Christmas Dreams, Daniel, The Rich Young Man, Garden of Gethsemane, and Pentecost*.

Our **2nd graders** will be engaged in Communion Education moving towards receiving Communion for the first time on **October 2nd**, World Communion Sunday. Letters have gone out to the parents of our 2nd graders; if you have not received one and want your child to participate in Communion Education please be in touch with Nancy Lawrence at education@firstchurchsandwich.org

The **7th/8th graders** will be using a *Young Teen* curriculum – *Living the Good News*, an ecumenical curriculum based on the Revised Common Lectionary.

The **9th/10th grade** class will begin with a book study; in conjunction with Confirmation preparation.

A letter will go out soon to potential **Confirmands** (10th graders). A meeting will take place sometime in the late fall, once Rev. Anne Cabbage is with us; Confirmation classes will begin in January.

Youth Groups

Junior & Senior High: (Junior High group 6,7,8 grade) (Senior High 9 – 12)

Beach Barbeque Sept. 18th at 4:00-6:00PM East Sandwich Beach – in case of rain, meet at the church. Hot dogs & drinks provided – please bring something to share: chips, salad, dessert. Drop-off & pick-up at East Sandwich Beach.

Middler Youth Group - 4th & 5th graders
Sunday, Sept. 25th 5:00 – 6:30 Pasta dinner & games.



Highlights from Vacation Bible School,
continued next page





Christian Education News

Christian Ed, continued

THANKS to those who tended our **Infant Care Room** this summer: Sherri Williams, Jan Kasper, Laurie Ray; Terri Lippman & Andrea Blanchard; Bill & Ellen Belcher; Pat Marshall, Kim Butz; Paula McQuaid & Betsy Pottey; Janet, Alex & Hannah Wright, Patti Gill.

Journey to India Successful

A big Thank You to all who made our *Journey to India* Vacation Bible School such a success.

Martine Canning, VBS Director; Janet Wright provided snacks and introduced Indian foods; Melinda Lasit led us in music with choreographing assistance by Hannah Wright & Skyler Lasit; Meghan Carmichael led yoga & games along Michael Froman, Bryce Canning, Sam Moroney; Wendy Kiedeisch was our Craft leader with assistance from Katelyn Dyer & Lianna Mitchell, samples created by Sydney Kiedeisch; Bible Stories were shared each day in an ever-changing dramatic environment by Alexandra Wright & Amanda Ross.

Adults leaders for our Cottage family groupings: Melinda Lasit, Vicky Dauphinais, Jackie Bova, Robin Dyer, Patti Gill and Nancy Lawrence. Teens assisting with Cottage families: Zachary Dauphinais, Ashley & Jessica Fagnant, Meaghan & Grace Moran and Kate Sullivan. Laurie Ray assisted on opening day with registration and popped in wherever needed at the beginning of the week.

Sherri Williams (with Kim Butz filling in one day) led Outreach and taught us each day about a different mission in India: TEN (The Emancipation Network), Family Village Farm, Deep Griha (lighthouse) Society, Mungeli Hospital, and locally the Sandwich Food

Pantry. The 54 children brought in an offering each day, as well as canned goods which were taken to the Sandwich Food Pantry. At the end of the week the children voted that the \$210.00 collected should go to TEN.

Thanks also to Heidi Hardaker who cut our quilt squares, and then, after the children decorated those squares on Monday, put two quilts together (by Wednesday!!!) – those quilts will be also be sent to India.

See the website for more photos from Vacation Bible School:

http://www.firstchurchsandwich.org/Photo_Gallery.html





Your Outreach Corner

Feed First Church while Feeding our Environment-- Let's go Green!

Merchant Square Liquors by Citizens Bank in Sandwich has a full redemption center. All proceeds from any recycling delivered to the store by a First Church member will go to First Church.

Steps:

1) Collect your recyclable glass, bottles or cans and take them to Merchant Square Liquors. Free large bags are available to use to collect recyclables at home. All items must be Massachusetts cans and all glass bottles must be rinsed and in a box.

2) Let Merchant Square Liquors know this is for First Church Sandwich. The full 5 cents will be credited to our Church. Merchant Square Liquors makes an additional two cents for this process of redemption and recycling.

3) A check submitted to First Church for total funds will be distributed every two months.

Please contact an Outreach member for further questions. This is the first step in our Green initiative but how exciting that we can bring some additional income to First Church!

Covenant for Foster Care Works with a Family in Forestdale

Your church liaison committee to our *Covenant for Foster Care* is happy to report we have been assigned a new family in Forestdale who could use some help. The children involved are teenagers and we are finding opportunities to help in new and different ways.

Already one of the young adults who is interested in food prep, assisted at a church pancake breakfast and the yard sale. She was warmly received.

Beginning in September we expect to offer more assistance to the family. We are asking for your continued blessings and assistance.

The Liaison Committee: Virginia Lewis, Sue Anderson, Dolores Westfield

Are you ready for the Mission Trip 2012?

On Sunday **September 25th**, both services will have a Mission/ Outreach focus. There will be pictures and stories from the group who went to New Orleans for a Cape mission trip last February. After this Sunday of excitement, we hope to plan a trip for **April 2012** with input from our new pastor, Ann.

Watch for information regarding ways you can help in Western MA, Monson area post tornadoes. We hope to have a short fall trip for families to assist in that area.

Week of Sept 19th- volunteers needed to assist with the mailing of the NIN offering envelopes. Contact the church office, Cheryl Hemen or Courtney Craig.

October 2- Neighbors in Need offering. This offering supports ministries of justice and compassion in the US and elsewhere through the UCC. One third of this offering supports the council on American Indian Ministry. Two thirds of the offering is used to support the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries. Watch for a mailing with more information that will come to your home. **"Imagining Another World Is Possible."**

Rally Day Sunday Sept 11- sign up to help with various Outreach/ justice projects

Mission:1 November 1-11- a series of events and gatherings to help feed the hungry. See UCC.org

Thank you's

- Thank you from MACUCC- for \$1636.00 for the great response from First Church to assist with the tornado relief efforts from Springfield to Charlton.
- From the MA Conference for the offering to assist with victims of Japan's Tsunami. The special offering at Sandwich was \$461.00. Letter will be on the bulletin board.
- 2nd letter thanking First Church for an additional \$25.00 for the above offering.

continued

Outreach, continued

- To Janice Wheeler, Outreach committee and all others who helped with the 4th of July Strawberry Festival. The profit realized was \$1376.00. This was the highest total ever raised. Some of this profit was used to purchase corkboard for the classroom at the RFK Youth Center in Yarmouth.

Highlights: Volunteer Ministries of The United Church of Christ.**Will You Serve?**

"Through the act of foot washing, Jesus makes clear God's call to serve others. We are invited to ministries of service that reflect God's love by responding to the needs of the world and involving ourselves in efforts to challenge injustices." (from the Volunteer ministries brochure of the UCC)

Partners In Service

Partners are adults, age 19 to 89, who serve in diverse settings throughout the US from a month to a year or more.

Volunteers serve in:

Camps/conference settings, Disaster Recovery Ministries, Community Organizing, Direct social service with homeless populations, Direct social service in poverty contexts, Housing ministries, Mental Health ministries, and Youth settings

Applications for fulltime placements are available at www.ucc.org/volunteer

Companion Communities-NEW

UCC congregations in various areas of the US host volunteers serving in local agencies involved in direct social services and justice ministries.

Mission Trips In The US

Groups and families serve for a week or weekend with host sites that accompany people in need.

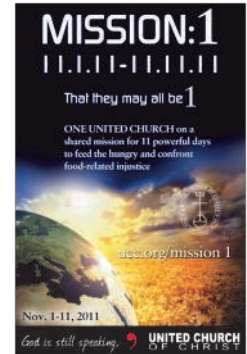
Service Learning Mission Trips, Disaster Recovery Mission Trips, Immersion Mission Trips (cultural or economic settings), F.A.S.T.-Faithful Advocates Serving Together- a summer mission trip in the Appalachians

Service Projects

The UCC hosts events each year at General Synod, Youth events, etc. These events team up volunteers with other organizations in a community providing services.

Your gifts to OCWM, OGHS and Wider Church Ministries support these**This is MISSION: 1**

- In 11 days, the United Church of Christ will collect more than 1 MILLION ITEMS OF HEALTHY FOOD and other household items for local food banks and outreach services.



- In 11 days, the United Church of Christ will make an extra-special push to gather on-line contributions of more than 111,111 DOLLARS for Neighbors in Need, offerings that will be shared for hunger action purposes with agencies of justice and compassion throughout the United States.
- In 11 days, the United Church of Christ will offer more than 11,111 LETTERS to Congress, asking our government to reform U.S. foreign assistance in a way that more effectively benefits hungry and poor people worldwide, helping to provide a major final push to Bread for the World's 2011 "Offering of Letters".

For 11 days in November, our UCC motto and Jesus' prayer "that they may all be 1" will become a focused, concerted mission emphasis across the whole United Church of Christ to educate ourselves and one another about food-related policy issues through sermons, seminars and conversations; to advocate on behalf of hungry people at home and around the world; to raise money for hunger-action purposes; and to share bread - and tuna, and peanut butter, and vegetables, and cereal - with our neighbors in need.

Outreach is looking for a couple of volunteers to assist in planning those 11 days. Call the church office or Cheryl Hempfen at 508 -591-7031 or email: cahempfen@comcast.net.



Small Group Ministries

Jubilee Book Study Group

The Jubilee group will meet on Tuesday, Sept. 6th at 7:00 upstairs in the Godly Play Room (another meeting is taking place in the Gates Room that evening). We will be discussing *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. If you interested in joining this book group that meets monthly (on the first Tuesday) contact Nancy Lawrence nancjl@comcast.net.

Circle News

Lunch at Antarctica!

Women of the Church Circle will be meeting for lunch on Thursday, **September 15**, at 12:00 noon in the Gates Room. Bring a sandwich or salad; beverages will be provided.

The day's program will present First Church member Dolores Westfield, who will share with us some stories, photos, and highlights of her recent trip to Antarctica. This is a unique opportunity to "explore" a vast continent on our earth that remains largely unknown to the general population. Did you ever wonder what it would be like to sleep on a glacier? Dolores will give us a first-hand report on her experience in doing just that, along with other fascinating anecdotes.

For further information, call Helene deRuiter, 508 833 1826.

As always, everyone is welcome to join us for lunch and the program.

Bev Hammel

Children in Church

A little boy was attending his first wedding. After the service, his cousin asked him, "How many women can a man marry?" "Sixteen," the boy responded. His cousin was amazed that he had an answer so quickly. "How do you know that?" "Easy," the little boy said. "All you have to do is add it up, like the pastor said, 4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer."

Thanks to Janet Cofran

Opportunities Abound!!

Do you find yourself wishing for a chance to DO SOMETHING? Have you been thinking you'd like to GET INVOLVED?? If so, at First Church you're in luck! Whether you've been thinking about jumping in all the way or just dipping your toe, there are wonderful opportunities to help out, meet new friends and make a difference. Have an area of interest or skill? Talk to us and we'll help you find a match. If you're ready or just curious, contact us: Virginia Lewis (508-888-0267), Walley King (nrcdirect@aol.com / 508-888-4664), Karen Ross (quidditch64@comcast.net / 774-413-9441) or come to Rally Sunday on September 11th.

DO SOMETHING! GET INVOLVED!
We'll all be better for it.

Visitors Care Group Looks for Chairperson

First Church Visitors Care group was formed to respond to needs of members of our church and their families who can use a friendly visit or a helping hand, perhaps a telephone call, a card, or a bouquet of flowers to let them know they are remembered by their church family. Another important aspect of this ministry is the group's regular visits to Cape Heritage, a nursing facility in Sandwich, on a monthly basis. These visits provide residents of the facility with the opportunity to attend a brief worship service which includes hymn singing, with First Church member Earl Marryat at the piano, a brief message, traditionally offered by a First Church pastor, and ending with punch and cookies provided by Cape Heritage. Judy Schott and Aggie Rosander have been dedicated co-chairs of this group of about 12-14 volunteers for the past year.

New chairpeople are currently being sought to lead this vital ministry. Relevant information about the organization, structure and responsibilities of the Visitors Committee is available to potential volunteers. For further information, contact Judy Schott, 508 888 0563, or Aggie Rosander, 508 888 4882.

Membership Committee Looks for First Friends

A new membership committee was formed this year under the new First Church by-laws, with the purpose of sponsoring new members, as well as reviewing attendance records and keeping in touch with current members. The membership committee also reviews the church website and works on publicity. Many thanks to David Hassler and Mary Alice Stahleker for offering to update the website. We are also looking forward to planning a new church directory at some point this year.

One goal of the committee is to ensure that all new members receive a "First Friend" to help them feel comfortable after they join the church. If you would like to help a new member, please sign up on Rally Sunday, or speak with Althea Brabazon, Laurie Ray, or Mike Prevost. Other volunteer members of the committee are: Nancy Lawrence, Mary Alice Stahleker, Diane Ranney, Joe Butz, and Lisa Parenteau.

Sandwich Food Pantry Grateful for Volunteers

The Sandwich Food Pantry has been helping those in need for over 25 years in Sandwich. Clients who use the pantry are those people in between jobs, single parents with children, senior citizens with low incomes, and people with health problems. Luckily, members of First Church have been there as volunteers to make sure that those in need receive help.

The Food Pantry is grateful for the many volunteers from First Church: Sue Hart, Tom and Bev Hammel, Bill Belcher, Charlie Dundorf, and the volunteers who pick up food from Stop and Shop and Eastern Bank: Frank Moffit, Norm Hollis, Dick Hardaker, Bob Kreisinger, and Duane Hayes. Thank you to their spouses who frequently assist: Nancy Moffit, Marge Hollis, Heidi Hardaker, Dotty Kreisinger, and Hetty Hayes. Every volunteer makes a positive impact on our community!

Food donations are always needed, and can be left in the Gates Room food pantry container. Items such as jelly, juice, canned beans, canned vegetables, and soap are always needed.

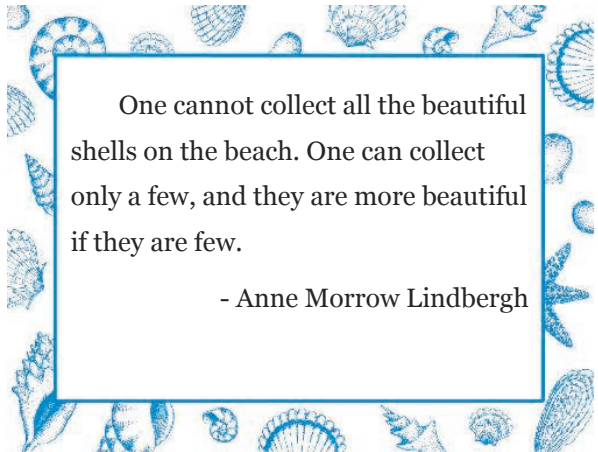
Laurie Ray

"Church Women United of Cape Cod" News

Church Women United of Cape Cod will hold its annual assembly on Friday, September 23 at the Federated Church, Hyannis. The assembly will begin at 9:00 am and include a general meeting and workshops; Bishop Gayle Harris of the Episcopal Church will be the guest speaker. The event will end at 2:30 pm. The workshops to be presented are St. Clare House, The Cape Cod Commission on the Status of Women, and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. Lunch, provided by the women's fellowship of the church, will include the famous Federated Church lobster rolls (or chicken salad). The registration fee is \$15. Registrations should be sent to Bev Hammel, 508 833 8942, PO Box 528, Sandwich 02563, or mmachh@verizon.net.

Other planned programs for the coming year are World Community Day, Friday November 4 at the United Methodist Church of Chatham; the Human Relations Celebration on February 2 at Our Lady of Victory Parish; World Day of Prayer services on Friday, March 2 at various locations; and May Friendship Day in the spring. CWU continues to sponsor the Youth Street Reach program and the Young Church Women United Retreat at Craigville as well as other outreach programs.

In May, **Bev Hammel** received the Valiant Woman Award in recognition of her service to Church Women United of Cape Cod. Bev has served as Sandwich Area Director and Vice President of the group and now serves as recording and membership secretary and Capewide coordinator of the World Day of Prayer services.



One cannot collect all the beautiful shells on the beach. One can collect only a few, and they are more beautiful if they are few.

- Anne Morrow Lindbergh

**SERRV- What is It? Come learn and be a partner in SERRV-ice!!**

An opportunity is available to become a part of an effort to change the world right here at First Church. SERRV, a 60 year old organization that assists craftsmen and women in 3rd world countries to market their unique crafts, has operated under the auspices of First Church's Outreach Committee for many years. . The SERRV sale was a favorite project of Nan Geertz and we have continued it in her honor. Our church has participated, on an annual basis, in the selection and sale of these crafts, which each year promise to be new and exciting. Proceeds from the sale enable crafters from these countries to feed and clothe their children, send them to school and become independent in their own right.

After representing this special organization for nearly 20 years, the present organizers are looking for new helpers to train in its worthwhile and meaningful mission. We are looking for perhaps a team of two people who would spend time each fall choosing gifts from the unique SERRV catalog that they feel would appeal to church members for gifts at holiday time. Items are ordered online, and then inventoried against the order inventory lists upon arrival.

Further responsibility includes the sale itself, formerly held during the annual holiday fair, and currently being held on two Sundays in December (prior to Christmas); this requires the display set-up before the 9:30 a.m. service on those mornings, manning the sales booth between both services then cleaning up and packing away items in the basement SERRV cabinet. Outreach mem-

bers can be called on to help on the days of the sale.

Current co-chairs Judith Page and Carolyn Turkstra would be happy to train potential chairmen to take over in the next year or so. As much as these two dedicated workers have enjoyed this mission for the underprivileged of the world, they know it is important to allow others the opportunity for such a service; they promise you will not be disappointed!

The 2011 orders have been placed and received, so all that remains is to select the sale dates in December, and then to stage the display of items. Those who have purchased SERRV items in the past can testify to the unique beauty and intrinsic value of the handcrafted items from countries around the world, and many are loyal customers who look forward to the event every year.

Any interested parties are invited to come and help us with the sale in December be trained in the ordering process for 2012. Talk with Judith or Carolyn and learn what is involved. You will find your efforts rewarded in ways that outweigh your time and efforts. For further information, call or contact:

Judith Page 508 477-8067 wfhp@yahoo.com

Carolyn Turkstra 508 888-0556 matri-archt@hotmail.com

Thoughts from the Wednesday Prayer Group

They who are slow to anger are better than the mighty. And they who rule their spirits, [are better] than they who take a city.

Proverbs 16:32





Holiday Happenings Fair November 11th and 12th

Suddenly we find ourselves in the final days before the end of the summer, but at the same time we look forward to the new fall season for First Church with all its upcoming events and activities! Over the years, our annual November Fair has become our biggest church-wide fundraiser. For any new church members who are unfamiliar with this highlight in the church calendar, all 3 floors of our building become transformed into a beehive of activity. We **welcome and encourage** all in our church community to participate! Begin to consider ways in which you as an individual would be able to contribute to ensure the continued success of the event that around First Church has become known as "The Fair." Families as well as individuals are encouraged to participate; there's a spot for any and all willing hands. It is always a surprise to see how many talents are scattered throughout our membership; there is a spot for anyone who wants to be part of this special fellowship and fund-raising event.

Here are some possibilities:

- Join crafters and knitters by helping with already planned items or consider teaching the group a new craft. Contact Jan 420-3737
- Collect "regifting" items and upscale treasures.
- Procure a Silent Auction item...gift certificate, service or item of value
- Drop off books, cd's, dvd's, videos or jewelry by the back door at church.
- Plan to bake, and create delicacies for our Country Store.
- Call a co-chair and ask where you can pitch in. Contacts are: Wendy King, 508 888-4664 or Janis Wheeler, 508 563-2563
- **Set aside the dates of Nov. 11th and 12th** and tell your friends and neighbors!

Important details from our Specialty Areas

Silent Auction

It's never too early to start thinking about what you can donate to make this year's Holiday Happenings **Silent Auction** the best ever!!

Everyone has some object, talent or service that would be welcome by our church members or friends. You might have a vacation place or time

share unit that you are willing to share, tickets to the theater or a sporting event, or a piece of art or other handmade item. You may consider services such as painting a room, gardening or handyman work, cleaning, babysitting or transporting someone to the airport. Another option is making a dessert a month or cooking for a dinner party, or donating a handmade, one-of-a-kind item. You are only limited by your imagination, but, if nothing comes to mind, contact Clint Jones to solicit items or gift certificates from area merchants. Any questions, contact Ellen Belcher (505) 833-8540 or Susan Anderson (508) 477-6296.

Arts & Crafts

Please Come to the vestry craft group during September and October...10-3... any Thursday that you could make it. Help with already planned crafts or work on your own craft projects. Join for a morning, afternoon, or any portion of the day....all skill levels welcome....bring a lunch! September 1st we'll have a special brainstorming session 10-11 am to share new craft ideas or samples to copy. Your enthusiasm and time is needed and will be heartily appreciated! For newer church members, this is a wonderful opportunity to meet other church friends in a relaxed setting where hands are always busy and friendly conversation is continual!

Some of the items fair crafters can use are:

- styrofoam cones, preferably white, and especially medium-sized
- sets of 20 white Christmas lights (preferably with white cords)
- white figure skates
- small Christmas decorations referred to as "picks" at craft stores
- stencils (shells, holiday, etc.)
- wall switch plates
- small wooden frames
- artificial white starfish (available at local craft stores)
- out of circulation wallpaper books

Many Thanks!

Jan 508 420-3737 Pam 508 888-6479

continued



Fair, continued

Secret Garden

This committee is requesting donations of any dried flowers, especially hydrangeas, and wet and dry oasis. Donations can be left under the church coat rack in the hallway.

First Church "Famous Apple Pies"

For your calendar, pie making dates will be Wednesday, **October 26** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. AND Thursday, **October 27** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We are planning to make 100 pies this year. This is an enjoyable and profitable way to spend all/or part of your day, as the apple pies sold are a very popular part of the fair. Contributions of flour, sugar and Crisco would also be appreciated. Look for bulletin info soon.

A sign-up sheet for volunteers will be posted in late September.

~~ Cookies, Cookies, Cookies ~~

Did you know cookies freeze beautifully for 3 months? That means you can start baking your favorite cookies NOW and they will rest happily until fair time in a freezer. Cookies can be dropped off at Eastern Bank or give Kirby a call at 508 888-3458 when you have some to freeze. .

Would you like to bake with friends..... socializing while mixing/baking/decorating cookies for the church fair? Watch the weekly bulletin for a date in September and October when the kitchen is transformed into "cookie central!"

Be sure to put the Church Fair on your calendar, for Veteran's Day Weekend, November 11th and 12th!

Our thanks for the generous support you have always brought to this grand event, and we look forward to working with you!
Wendy King and Janis Wheeler

Please keep these friends in your prayers

Perley Gates, Julia Abreu, Barbara Kashar, Bob Wentworth, and the Payne family.



Prayers for those serving our country:

Brandon Ellison, Andrew Payne, Jeremy Flynn, Jessica Peterson, and Rick Weaver.

Our Mission Statement

We live our mission as a welcoming community, celebrating God's love in the Good News of Jesus Christ. We serve the individual, the church, and our world through creative worship, spiritual growth, and nurturing fellowship.

Our Vision Statement

where we endeavor to be in five years

Building on a heritage that embraces social action, we are known as a community church where all are welcome. By the generous gifts of our growing membership our church is a catalyst for spiritual development through a variety of innovative worship and educational experiences.

Recognizing our diversity, we nurture and care for each other. Our children grow into lifelong Christians through programs that develop a living relationship with Jesus Christ. Our spiritual presence mirrors our physical presence in our town and the wider community. No matter where we are on life's journey, we are united by the common goal of moving closer to our God.



First Church Anti-Ouch Pillows Help Women and Men

Help needed

Helping hands to make more "Anti-ouch Pouches". Thank you to all that made our original batch. I have delivered approximately 60 pouches to Cape Cod Breast Care Center for women recovering from breast surgery. Hopefully those who have made them in the past will be willing to make more as I haven't any left to deliver.

Please leave any completed pouches at the church with the name "Irene Coates" on the bag.

Directions can be found at the link below:

http://www.asg.org/files/projects/Anti_Ouch_Pouch.pdf

I recently received the following note:

Dear Mrs. Coates,

I would like to extend my thanks to you as well as all your Church friends who worked hard to make these special pouches. These small things make such a difference to women who have endured this illness. Thanks again for your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,
Meg McArdle
Nurse Practitioner
Clinical Coordinator BCC

The following note was also received by First Church:

To First Church of Christ
Sandwich Mass.

I am a 75-year-old man being treated at Cape Cod Hospital and Dana-Farber in Boston for a type of non-Hodgkins lymphoma. A port has been placed in my chest for the administration of chemotherapy, other IV fluids and blood tests. Because I have a thin chest, the port protrudes and has been irritated by auto seat belts.

Yesterday an angel from the Cape hospital volunteers group showed me a selection of soft pillows called "Anti-Ouch Pouches" that were originally designed for breast cancer patients but which provide excellent protection for any source of pain in the chest. I selected a dark brown pillow, leaving the attractively patterned ones for the ladies. I wore it very comfortably as I drove an hour through Friday afternoon's traffic delays from the hospital to Orleans.

I am very grateful for this unexpected gift and wish to make a small contribution to your church to be used in whatever way the folks who make these "Anti-Ouch Pouches" prefer.

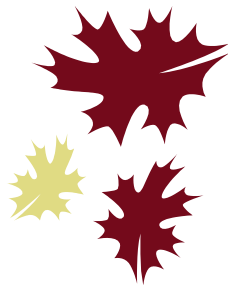
Gratefully yours, (confidential)

Letters from Friends

Our family wants to thank all of the members and friends of First Church for their outpouring of sympathy on the death of my brother, Dr. Robert N. Jones of San Antonio, Texas. Your kindness is much appreciated.

Sincerely,
George Jones





September 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10-3 Fair Crafts 12:45 Visitors 2:00 CH Worship 6:00 FC Bells 7:00 FC Choir	2 9:30 Exercise	3
4 9:30 Worship Communion 10:30 Social Hour	5 Labor Day Office Closed 7:30 AA	6 Church office opens 9-3 7:00 Jubilee 7:30 AA	7 9:30 Exercise 11:00 Prayer Grp 5:30 Spirit Singers 6-9:00 Joyful Noise in Gates Room	8 10-3 Fair Crafts 6:00 FC Bells 7:00 FC Choir	9 9:30 Exercise	10
11 Rally Sunday 9:30 Worship 10:30 Social Hour 1:00 Gardeners 5:00 9-11 Memorial Service	12 9:30 Exercise 7:00 CC Chorale 7:30 AA	13 7:00 Trustees 7:00 Search Com 7:30 AA	14 9:30 Exercise 5:00 Jr Choir 5:30 Spirit Singers 6:30 IG Bells 7:00 Outreach	15 10-3 Fair Crafts 12:00 Circle 5:00 R. Ringers 6:00 FC Bells 7:00 FC Choir	16 9:30 Exercise	17
18 9:00 Worship/ CS 10:00 Social Hour 11:00 Worship 12:00 Social Hour	19 9:30 Exercise 7:00 CC Chorale 7:30 AA	20 7:30 AA	21 9:30 Exercise 3:00 Jr Choir 5:30 Spirit Singers 6:30 IG Bells 7:00 Council	22 10-3 Fair Crafts 5:00 R. Ringers 6:00 FC Bells 7:00 FC Choir	23 9:30 Exercise 5:00 Wedding Rehearsal	24 Cusolito Wedding
25 Outreach Sunday 9:00 Worship/ CS 10:00 Social Hour 11:00 Worship 12:00 Social Hour	26 9:30 Exercise 7:00 CC Chorale 7:30 AA	27 7:30 AA	28 9:30 Exercise 5:00 Jr Choir 5:30 Spirit Singers 6:30 IG Bells 7:00 Council	29 10-3 Fair Crafts 5:00 R. Ringers 6:00 FC Bells 7:00 FC Choir	30 9:30 Exercise	



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Laurie Ray Co-Editor



**Global Ministries
 Prayers for India**

Matthew 16:13-20: God, we thank you that you are building your church around the globe. Today, we pray particularly for the Church of North India and the Church of South India. We thank you for their ministries of sharing the Good News of who Jesus is and how he is providing healing and wholeness. We thank you for the ministry of the Christian Hospital of Mungeli and the Henry family who is serving there on our behalf as missionaries. Bless them and the staff of the hospital so that they can continue to be a beacon of light in that part of rural India. Amen

Mission Stewardship Moment from India:

The Christian Hospital of Mungeli is growing steadily as we have many projects which are progressing simultaneously. We

just had an inspection by the Indian Nursing Council which was an exciting time of cleaning up and getting our act together. We hope to be able to start by taking a class of 30 nursing students this year. We are also working away at getting the cancer centre finished and all it needs now is a roof. The machine, which is a grant by the Indian Government, is going to be sent over in about two weeks. We are also awaiting the arrival of a 40 foot container from friends in Fresno, California. This is of hospital supplies and sent with love from many who volunteer their time and efforts.

The English Medium School too is growing as we go ahead with construction. We had to stop admissions at a little over 500 this year but hope to be able to move to a 1000 kids as we get the new building

built. All this work is possible by the help and support of all that is done though prayers and support of all of you there. It is indeed an honor to be sent by you and supported by you so that we together can praise God and share the Love of Christ with many who are marginalized and needy in this backward region of India.

Teresa and Anil Henry are serving a four year term with the Synodical Board of Health Services of the Church of North India. Teresa is the anesthesiologist of the Christian Hospital of Mungeli and Anil works as a medical doctor there.

Nancy Lott Henry is serving as a long-term volunteer with the Church of North India. She is working as a teacher of nurses for hospitals in their eastern region.