

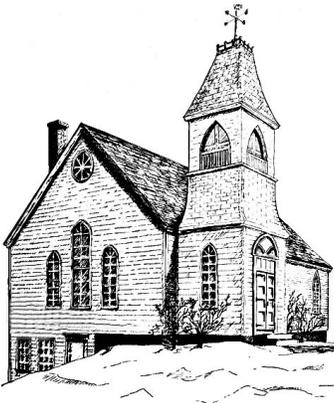
# *First Community Church*

# *Newsletter*

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September 2009

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## *Our Mission Statement*

*We are a community of faith believing in the power of prayer and seeking earnestly to deepen our spiritual life and share the love of God with others.*

## *The Pastor's Message*

**J**ust the other day I received a post card in the mail. The card congratulated me (and by extension us) on the upcoming 145<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First Community Church of Southborough, which will officially happen in January of 2010.

The format of the post card, which was obviously intended to congratulate businesses on the occasion of the anniversary of their founding, tells us that our 145<sup>th</sup> anniversary is “an accomplishment we should be very proud of – but it’s more than that.” It reassures us that our company’s 145 years of experience is “exactly what people look for when they’re deciding to do business with us or not.”

I hadn’t really thought of it that way. First of all, I was surprised that the number on the post cards went up to 145. Most businesses, even some of the biggest ones, don’t make it that long. Second, I hadn’t thought that our 145 years of experience is what makes us great. I assumed it was because we offered something in the present that people find of value in deepening their relationship with God and in living a deep and fulfilling life.

Of course, the post card was not just an expression of congratulations. The company is selling clickie ballpoint pens that come with our name and the number of years we have been in existence embossed on them. The card said we can give these as gifts or even use them for fund raising. Just as I was about to return the card and ask them to send us several thousand, I remembered that we still have some clickie ballpoint pens with our name on them in the church office. I think they were ordered for the celebration of our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and, sad to say, they haven’t proven to be a major fundraiser.

I’m not sure we need more clickie ballpoint pens, but we do need to be proud of our history.

Businesses come into existence and go out of existence. As we have seen this past year, even some big businesses fade away. The same is true of governments, even the strongest appearing dictatorships. Yet here we are – still in existence and doing quite well after 145 years.

Why is this so? I have several thoughts on this.

First, we know who we are. We are a liberal, non-denominational Protestant Christian church with members from many different religious backgrounds. We don't try to be something we are not. We offer something that I believe is fairly unique amidst the plethora of religious institutions.

Second, as an integral part of our identity as a church and our identity as Christians, we have a clear sense of mission. We are not here to become big, to be “successful,” or to make money. We are here to reach out to others. We do this in many different ways.

Third, we have a profound grasp of something that is becoming increasingly rare in our time – a genuine sense of community. We have a community that is inclusive rather than exclusive. Our members know and care about each other. This caring extends far beyond our borders.

Fourth, throughout the past 145 years we have been blessed by a core membership that, generation after generation, has been deeply committed to this church and to its mission. Our members have discovered not only that it is more blessed to give than to receive, but that it is *through* giving that we receive. Our members freely share their time, talent and treasure in many different ways both in our church and in their daily lives.

Finally, our members are committed to growth. They want to deepen their relationship with God through Christ. To this end, our members utilize Sunday worship, Bible study, personal prayer, spiritual study, and a life of service. They are truly pilgrims, constantly on the journey of Christian discipleship.

One of my favorite passages of scripture, when I think about the history, the present life, and the future of our church, is taken from the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter of Acts. The persecution of the apostles has begun. They have been forbidden to preach in the name of Jesus. Peter and the apostles answer that they must obey God rather than any human authority. The religious authorities, enraged, want to kill the whole group of apostles that are in their custody. It is a life and death moment for the early church.

A Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, respected by all the people, stands up and makes an appeal for mercy. He gives his advice to the council. He says, “I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone; because if this plan or this undertaking is of human origin, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them – in that case you may even be found fighting against God!” The council takes his advice and Peter and the other apostles are spared.

If this undertaking is of human origin, it will fail. If it is of God, nothing can stop it. I think this applies to our little church. It is why, after 145 years of going through good times and bad times, times of economic prosperity and times of economic depression, we are still here, are still going strong, and are unfolding an exciting future. It just might be that what we are doing here is “of God.” I think we should all take tremendous comfort in that thought.

Yours in Christ,  
Reverend Paul Sanderson

## *Adult Bible Study*

### **Begins Sunday, September 20**

The Adult Bible Study group will be meeting again this year on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of every month from 9:15 – 10:30 AM in the Vestry.

Over this past year, we have looked at the psychology of religion in general and Jung's psychology of religion in particular as a way to approach our faith and our understanding of biblical texts. Our group has grown over the months and we have shared many thoughts and ideas with Reverend Sanderson's leadership.

With still much more to discuss on this subject, it has been decided to continue with it for the rest of this year. Reverend Sanderson will be giving us a primer in Jungian psychology in preparation for the consideration of three major works: Jung's book Answer to Job; his article "Christ as a Symbol of the Self," and Edward Edinger's article "Christ as Paradigm of the Individuating Ego." We will focus especially on the importance of dreams, visions, and religious experiences in our understanding of God and the deepening of our relationship with God.

This group is open to all -- Please join us for a time of fellowship, study, and sharing as we seek to strengthen not only our understanding of our religion but our faith.

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## *Confirmation Class*

### **Begins Thursday, September 24**

The Pastor's Confirmation Class, which is open to all young people from the 7<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade, will meet from 5:00 – 6:00 PM on Thursday afternoons once again. Every year we read one or two of the books of the Bible in depth. In addition, we will continue our study of world religions.

This class (slowly and methodically) leads the young person toward the decision whether or not to become a member of the church, which usually takes place during the senior year in high school. If you are a junior high or high school student, we welcome you to our on-going journey into a deeper and broader Christian faith!

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## *Rally Day & All Church Cookout*



Sunday, September 13 is the kick-off date for the beginning of our new church year! Even though Sunday morning worship attendance and attendance at board and committee meetings have been excellent throughout the summer, it will be great to have everyone back together again and to begin our new series of educational programs for children, teenagers, and adults.

Dress is still "summer casual" for the cookout following the service. Please make sure to look at the sign-up sheet in the Vestry for contributions needed that day.

## Missions Offering



CAI's Mission: To promote and support community-based education, especially for girls, in remote regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan

Our September Mission Offering will go to support the Central Asia Institute (CAI). Their mission is to promote and support community-based education and literacy programs, especially for girls, in mountain regions of Central Asia.

As we know, under the Taliban and other repressive religious and cultural regimes, girls and woman are denied access to education. This, of course, negatively impacts their lives as individuals, preventing them from growing into fullness of life as persons, and keeps them financially and emotionally dependent on their fathers or husbands.

There are several organizations that are dedicated to providing not only schools, teachers, and school supplies but ensuring that young girls have access to education without being harassed or even having acid thrown in their faces, as has happened on several occasions recently in the hill areas of Pakistan. One of these, *Pennies for Peace*, is mentioned in the book *Three Cups of Tea*. Another, the Uganda Rural Development and Training Programme (URDT) works with girls in Uganda whose families make \$1 a day or less. Many of the girls from poor families in Africa end up or are sold into prostitution.

The following is a quote from an editorial on the worldwide sex trade that appeared in the journal *The Christian Century*: "Focusing on educating girls is not only a way to steer them away from prostitution. It is key to a broad range of social development. URDT founder Mwalimu Musheshe says that when you educate a woman, you end up educating an entire family. Educate a family, and you end up educating a village."

Research has shown that investing in the education and financial power of girls and women generates multiple social benefits. Better educated women have higher incomes and raise healthier children. They are more likely to be able to plan the size of their families, and they choose to have fewer children. Women are more likely than men are to use their earnings to support the health and education of their children. One study showed that women invest 90 percent of their income in their families, whereas men invest only 30 to 40 percent.



*Khanday Schoolgirls with new uniforms in Pakistan*

Investing in young women is the key not only to ending sex trafficking, it's the key to changing the world.

The organization that the Diaconate has chosen to support for our September mission, The Central Asia Institute, whose home office is in Bozeman, Montana, focuses on girls from Pakistan and Afghanistan. They say that through their agency, \$1 will educate a girl for a month. A penny will buy a pen. A teacher is paid \$1 a day.

Think about the difference we can make if we give just our average, \$350 a month, to this worthy cause!

(Our original September Mission was to go towards the Wright Ministry Fund. As of August, 2009, Ted and Sue Wright have completed their work in Africa and are now home. Monies placed in the September Missions Offering Envelope that is marked "Wright Ministry Fund" will be used to support the Central Asia Institute (CAI).

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## *A Special Gathering -- Sunday School Parents & Children*

This fall, the Pastor and the Board of Christian Education will hold the second annual Sunday School Parents and Children's Gathering – our traditional pizza party for church school parents and children at the beginning of each new church year.



We will meet in the Vestry on Thursday, September 10 at 6:00 PM to get to know each other, to share some pizza and salad, and to discuss our hopes and dreams for the upcoming year. The Board of Christian Education will explain our curriculum and how our lessons are organized throughout the liturgical year. We will also share our hopes and dreams for the future.

This meeting is for parents of all children from birth through high school (including parents of the young people in our Confirmation Class). We want to hear from you, to hear what you would like your children to receive. Even if your child is presently too young to attend Sunday School, please come. We want you to know what we are doing and what we hope to offer in the future!

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## *Report Of The Trustees*

The Trustees would like everyone to think about creating a written procedure for accepting and inscribing donations as well as procedures for opening and closing the Church on Sundays. It is a thought that these articles should also be included in the Constitution and By-laws with input from the Church Council and all other committees. At the very least, these ideas will get started with the Trustees.

We are still looking for all church related information and documents that may be lying around your home, closets, or basement. Still in the sorting and filing mode, you can give your "finds" to any one of the Trustees.

Our next meeting is set for Tuesday, September 8 at 7:15 PM.

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## Choir Notes

Well it's that time again and we are getting ready to start a brand new choir season. Anyone and everyone who would like to sing some wonderful anthems and introits this fall is invited to join us for a great time of fellowship and fun.

We will meet on Tuesdays between 4:30 and 5:00 PM and rehearse until sometime around 6:00 PM. Even if you cannot be there at 4:30, come when you can get there. Our first official rehearsal will be on Tuesday, September 8, but if you can't make that, come on any Tuesday as we can always use an extra voice on any given Sunday.

We will be rehearsing new anthems for the fall season. Hope to see you there!

The First Community Church Choir will be back in the loft on Sunday September 13!

## *Spiritual Study & Growth Group*

### *The Shack*

**A Eight-Week Program Led By Rev. Sanderson**

**Begins Thursday, September 24**

In addition to attending the United Parishes of Southborough Lenten Series, we try to hold two or three spiritual study and growth groups each year. This fall we will be meeting on Thursday nights from 7:00 – 8:30 PM from September 24 – November 12 to address William Paul Young's fascinating novel, *The Shack*.

This short book confronts, in a very readable and engaging form, several religious issues of great import: the nature of God; the nature of the Trinity; the problem of tragedy, the problem of evil, and the need to forgive. It is difficult to imagine any of us who has not struggled with one or more of these questions, including the question of how, if God is all good and all-powerful, there is so much evil and tragedy in the world.

Please consider becoming a part of this ongoing exploration of spirituality and life as we reflect on our own lives and struggles through the lens of this best-selling book.

## *Welcome New Members*

On Sunday, June 7, we welcomed Chet and Lois Jacobson into full fellowship and official membership with our church. We look forward to serving with them as a community of faith and mission in the years to come.



## *Women's Fellowship*

*"This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." Lamentations: 3: 21-23*

The Women's Fellowship will hold its first meeting of the fall season on Tuesday, September 15, at 6:30 PM. This will be a potluck dinner with a brief business meeting following. Please be thinking about what you will bring to the potluck supper meeting and then list it on the sign-up sheet in the Vestry so everyone will have an idea about who is bringing what. I hope this will be helpful.

Following the Women's Fellowship Schedule 2009-2010, Cathy Ten Eyck offered to do devotions that evening along with Evelyn Till and Beth Hook bringing refreshments. If you have any questions please contact Mattie at home anytime between 9:00–11:00 AM or after 5:00 PM.

Just a reminder, the Women's Fellowship is open to all women of the church. We invite any and all to come to the potluck dinner and to any of our meetings.

We are still meeting on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM unless there is a need to meet at the earlier time of 6:30 PM.

Our present officers are

Mattie Cummings	Chair Pro Tem
Martha Hubley	Vice President
Beverly Lees	Treasurer
Mattie Cummings	Secretary
Beth Hook	Corresponding Secretary

See you at the Supper!

Mattie Cummings, Chair

## *The Pick Of The Crop*



For the past few years during our summer morning Worship service, the altar has been splashed with the beautiful colors of the season from the gardens of Nancy Alley. Martha Hubley, Nancy's sister would get up early each Saturday morning to cut the flowers before the heat of the afternoon sun, deliver them to the Church and arrange them ever so perfectly.

Nancy and Martha, our many thanks to both of you for sharing with us your gifts of talent and time and bringing the beauty of nature to our altar.

## *A Blast From The Past*

### **100 Years Ago**

#### **1909 – September**

- ◆ Southville - Methodist Church Services – Rev. Jas. M. Sutherland, pastor. Sunday 1:00 PM; Sunday School; 2:45 PM Sermon by the Pastor. 7 PM Praise & prayer service. Thursday 7:30 PM: Prayer meeting.

### **75 Years Ago**

#### **1934 – September**

- ◆ A garden show will be held in the Southville Federated Church on Tuesday Sept. 11 under the direction of Howard Lincoln. There will be exhibits of flowers, fruits, vegetables and home cooking for which blue ribbons and other prizes will be awarded. Judges for the exhibits will be Mrs. Frederic Fosgate, Hudson and Mrs. John L. Richardson, Marlboro. Another attractive exhibit will be the log cabin containing many antiques. Special exhibits by the children will include miniature gardens.
- ◆ John Thoits of Detroit, Michigan has been a visitor having been called here owing to the death of his brother, Lindsey G. Thoits.

### **50 Years Ago**

#### **1959 – September**

- ◆ The Men's club completed the new floor in the vestry on September 26<sup>th</sup>. The Women's Fellowship kindly served refreshments to the work parties, which were greatly appreciated. Total cost was \$678.33. It was estimated that the 468 man hours given were worth \$1,170. 27 hours "given by trucks" were estimated worth \$135. Painting of ceiling and walls: 2 coats by Merchant and Hubley were estimated worth \$350. Electrical wiring, materials donated by George Knight valued at \$40. Total value of job: \$2,273.31.
- ◆ Mr. Kersenbrock installed the new officers for 1959-60 in a very impressive installation and communion service. President: George Killam; Vice President: Skipper Willman; Treasurer: Stanley Norcross; Secretary: Mary Ansell.

### **25 Years Ago**

#### **1984 – September**

- ◆ September 9th Beth (Lambert) Hook joined the Church.
- ◆ September 9th David Hook was baptized.
- ◆ September 16th Sunday school began at a new time, moving from 9:30 to 11:00. A picnic was held following the first classes on the Church lawn with games, activities and good food for all. The year started with 27 children enrolled.
- ◆ The Constitution Up-date committee met several times throughout the year to effect their task of updating and correlating the Constitution and its amendments.
- ◆ The Women's Fellowship met at the church for the annual potluck supper with fourteen present.

## 10 Years Ago

### 1999 – September

- ◆ Jonathan Willman and Caroline Sullivan married September 11, 1999.
- ◆ Church Council notes from Sept. 14, 1999:

The new church sign has been repainted to better reflect the letters at night. The old church sign has been repainted and erected on the Highland Street side of the Church. Both signs will have the ability to reflect the changed hours of services as the seasons change.

The Church's septic system has been located and appears to be in very good shape, only 1/3 full. The Title V inspector felt it was adequate to take care of the church's needs even if an addition is built.

Dennis Roy has met with two builders to get some estimate of the cost for building an addition to the church. The Trustees agreed, however, that plans for an addition need to be drawn before a true estimate can be given.

Upon the resignation of the Choir director, Dave Sickles has agreed to assume the office.

Two opportunities will be presented each month for mission offerings.

## *Fellowship Coffee Hour*



I just wish to express my thanks to all who have kept the Sunday Coffee Hour alive and kicking this summer. You all are an amazing group of hosts and hostesses.

With the beginning of another church year, the slate is open and waiting for all to sign on. We so appreciate you always being there to answer the call!

Thank you.

Marlene Joe  
Coffee Hour Coordinator

## *Report Of The Diaconate*

Summer services have gone very smoothly with Rev. Sanderson and Rev. Wortmann taking turns at the pulpit at both churches. Keeping the services at our church at 11:00 AM has worked well. Services this summer, at least at First Community, have been well attended. We managed to survive when Bob L'Heureux was away but we were delighted to welcome him back the last Sunday in August.

Rally Sunday will be on September 13. In keeping with our tradition, we will have an old-fashioned cookout. Bob Farmer has graciously volunteered his grill-master skills with the assistance of his handy helper Scott McKeen. Gwen Sickles has volunteered the use of her grill for the event. A sign up sheet for some of the cookout items is posted in the Vestry. Please help if you can.

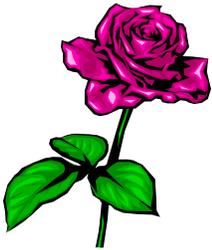
This fall's Study Group that is led by Rev. Sanderson will be based on *The Shack*, which made the New York Times Best Seller List. Stay tuned for details on this upcoming enrichment opportunity.

September's mission offering, originally earmarked for the Wright's mission, has been changed to the Central Asia Institute. Read all about it in the Missions section of this Newsletter. Ted & Sue Wright have completed their mission in Africa and are now home.

The next meeting of the Diaconate will be on Tuesday, September 1 at 7:15 PM.

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## *With Our Sincerest Sympathies*



We were all deeply saddened at the recent loss of Tom Sickles, our friend and long time member of First Community Church of Southborough. Over the years, he served as a Trustee and was a member of the choir.

He leaves his wife and love of 64 years, Gwendolyn (Doore) Sickles, his children, Ronald Sickles and his wife Diane of Nashua, NH; Sharon Willman and her husband Skip of Southborough; David Sickles of Westborough; his brothers, Joseph Sickles of Cossayuna, NY; John Sickles of Troy, NY; 8 grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Our deepest and heartfelt sympathies go out to Gwen and all of the Sickles family for their loss. He will be missed by each of you, and to each of us, his family at the First Community Church of Southborough.

Our love and prayers are with you.

We reach out to Earle Watkins with our most heartfelt sympathies for the recent loss of his son Jonathan. Jonathan, 58, died suddenly on Saturday, June 13. Our prayers and love go out to each member of the Watkins family for their great loss.



# Congratulations!



To Martha Templeman who celebrated the 90<sup>th</sup> year of her birth this past August. Martha was the “Guest of Honor” at a very special surprise birthday party given by her family. Happy Birthday Martha, from your friends and family at First Community Church of Southborough.



To Clark and Kimberly Bilawchuk on the birth of their first son, Carter Wells.

He was born on May 17, weighed 6 lbs. 11 oz. and was 21 inches long.

Carter has one big sister, Cassidy.

&



To Brian and Elizabeth McKeen on the birth of their fourth daughter, Megan Kathryn.

She was born on May 29, weighed 5 lbs. 3 oz. and was 19 inches long.

Megan’s big sisters are Lauren, Courtney, and Kristen.

A double congratulations to Scott and Sandy McKeen (Nanny & Grampy) the very proud grandparents to both of these new babies.

To Holly VanderSluis for receiving the New York State Bar Association Legal Ethics Award. The award is given to a student in recognition of their extraordinary accomplishment in advancing the lawyer’s professional responsibility to their client and as an officer of the legal system.

After completing a Summer Associate position with the law firm, “Paul, Weiss,” a leading corporate defense firm in New York City, she was offered (and accepted) a full time position in the litigation division of the firm when she graduates from law school.

Holly begins her third and final year at New York Law School this September.

No one could be more proud than Cheryl & Jim Holmes, Holly’s Mom and Step Dad.



## *Our Gifts We Bring*

As most of you know, our Missions Offerings are donations made above and beyond our gifts of the Pledges that we make to support the First Community Church of Southborough's General Operating Budget.

Our Treasurer Bob Farmer has provided us with an update of what we have collected and donated as of August 22, to the Missions that we have chosen to support this year.

<i>Missions – January – August 2009</i>		
<i>MISSIONS</i>	<i>AMOUNT COLLECTED</i>	<i>AMOUNT DISBURSED</i>
Straight Ahead Ministries	\$483.00	\$485.00
Assabet Valley Pastoral Counseling	\$310.00	\$310.00
Abby's House	\$511.00	\$511.00
Worcester County Food Bank	\$416.00	\$416.00
Love Loaves	\$137.30	\$0
Church World Service	\$356.00	\$366.00
Heifer Project International	\$605.00	\$605.00
Haiti Mission	\$368.00	\$375.00
Rape Crisis Center	\$178.00	\$0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$3,374.30</b>	<b>\$3,068.00</b>

## *From The Editor*

The deadline for the October 2009 Newsletter will be **Sunday, September 27.** Remember to include any dates for meetings or events you would like listed on the calendar.

Articles and/or dates for the calendar may be submitted to Cheryl Holmes by:



(508) 460-0142



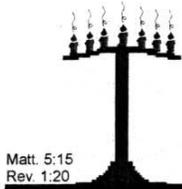
244 Flanders Road  
Westborough, MA 01581



caholmes@charter.net

# Thank You

## *From Our Missions*



Matt. 5:15  
Rev. 1:20

## "His Royal Ministry"

I Pet. 2:9

*Working with Haitian Pastors and Leaders  
to Build Up Christ's Church in Haiti*

Mattie L. Cummings, Director  
20 Flagg Road, Southborough, MA 01772

Tel. (508) 481-2086

Dear Members and Friends,

*"The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. It is good that a man (or woman) should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord."*

***Lamentations: 3: 25 & 26***

It is time again to give thanks to the Church family here at First Community Church for their generous giving to the Lord's work in Haiti. Pastor Lorinson said he would send off his own personal letter of thanks and I will post it when it comes.

He says the economic situation in Haiti is still very bad, but there are some hopeful signs for other help to come to the country. A Boston Globe article, (May 15) made mention of Dr. Paul Farmer at the Harvard Medical School who met with our State Department to discuss a proposed surge in funding over the next six years for global programs to fight AIDS, tuberculosis, and tropical disease and to improve children's health. This same Dr. Farmer has worked in Haiti and in other countries on lifesaving projects for over twenty years!

A later article in the Boston Herald, (August 12), states "The U.N. Taps Hub's Farmer for Haiti." President Obama had been considering Dr. Farmer for this post, and I am happy to hear he has taken this position as U.N. Deputy Special Envoy to Haiti under former President Bill Clinton.

The former President said of Dr. Farmer, "His credibility, both among the people of Haiti and in the international community, will be a tremendous asset to our efforts as we work with the government and people of Haiti to improve health care, strengthen education, and create economic opportunity."

Some encouraging news for Haiti and other poor countries around the globe, we wait on God who is able to move the mountain in Haiti.

Thank you again.

Mattie Cummings  
Director - "His Royal Ministry"

## *From Our Members*

I want to thank everyone who attended my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party, also for all the lovely cards, I received. It was so thoughtful of you!

I hope you all enjoyed yourselves.

Martha Templeman

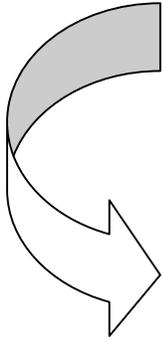
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Your gifts of comfort, sympathy, and prayer at this difficult time are greatly appreciated and taken to heart.

Earle Watkins

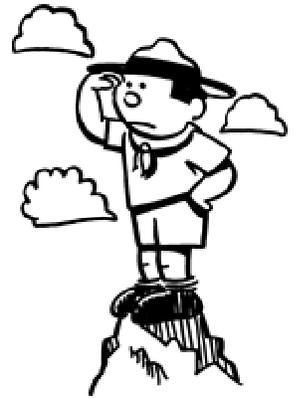
## *With Our Special Thanks To --*

- ◆ The Yard Sale Committee for all their time and great effort to make this Fundraiser successful. Many thanks to all those who helped in some way -- cleaned & priced, baked & cooked, set up & cleaned up, and donated & bought, and the “sales people” that worked the day of the sale. And a big thank you to David Crane and Joyce Harrington for heading up the project to make it happen.
- ◆ The Diaconate for honoring all the Dads on Father’s Day with the annual “Strawberry Shortcake Social.”
- ◆ All those wonderful Ladies who cleaned and organized our kitchen. (In case you haven’t noticed, everything and anything that you need to host one of our “Coffee Hours” is all in one corner – Nice and neat and simple!!)
- ◆ Barbara Crane for lovingly tending our plantings.
- ◆ All those who hosted our coffee hours this summer.
- ◆ Scott McKeen for power washing the outside of the church.
- ◆ Scott McKeen and George Nutting for polishing our pews.
- ◆ George and Martha Nutting for donating one of the two new cabinets that we are already utilizing for much-needed storage in the Vestry; also to George for assembling them both and relocating the dehumidifier, a major piece of work.
- ◆ Sherrie Jodrey for donating the second storage cabinet that is in the Vestry.

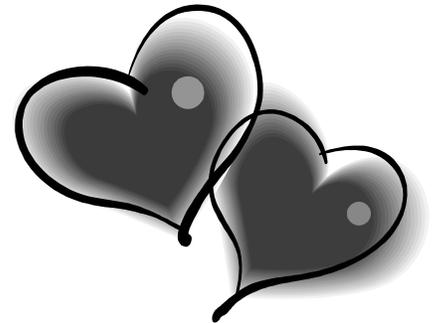


# LOOKING AHEAD

Spiritual Study & Growth Group  
*The Shack*  
Thursday Evenings, 7:00 PM  
September, October, & November



## Write down these dates!!



### *Birthdays*

Zachary Webster	9 <sup>th</sup>
Rev. Paul Sanderson	16 <sup>th</sup>
Rae Kay	20 <sup>th</sup>
Joseph Curtiss	21 <sup>st</sup>
Marlene Joe	22 <sup>nd</sup>

### *Anniversaries*

Cheryl & Jim Holmes	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Susan & Mitch Hansberry	10 <sup>th</sup>
Jennifer & Lou Dundin	13 <sup>th</sup>
Nancy & Walter Hite	26 <sup>th</sup>



# CELEBRATIONS



# *A Celebration Of Life*

## *Thomas L. Sickles*

Thomas L. Sickles of Southborough died Saturday, June 20, 2009 at MetroWest Medical Center.

Born in Troy, New York on July 22, 1923, he was the son of Albert and Catherine Sickles. Tom was in the Air Force stationed in Clovis, New Mexico where he met the love of his life, Gwendolyn Doore. Gwen, a Waltham MA native, was also stationed in Clovis with the Women's Army Corps (WAC).

As the story was told, Gwen and some of the other WACs, would go into the "One-Horse Town" on Saturday morning to do a little shopping. Then they would drive back to the base for the weekly Saturday evening dance. Gwen absolutely loved to dance and would not miss out on the live band performing at the NCO Club. "There was a war going on and you would celebrate any chance you could." "Everybody would be at those dances!"

One October Saturday evening, a handsome "Air Force Altitude Chamber Technician" was there and he asked this petite WAC secretary from the Legal Office of Courts and Boards to dance. Well -- How could she say NO???

Then November came and it was Thanksgiving time. A great dinner was to be served in the Mess Hall and you could invite a guest. Gwen asked Tom to be her guest and he accepted. From then on, they were a couple. Just about one year later, October 14, 1944 to be exact, Tom Sickles and Gwendolyn Doore were united in marriage. And the rest is history.

After teaching Air Force students how to "ditch" their planes and make emergency landings, Tom changed to a calmer career as an insurance agent for Prudential Insurance for almost thirty years.

Tom was an active member of First Community Church of Southborough. He served as a Trustee and he also sang in the Choir. He was an avid fisherman and had some great "fish" stories. However his greatest joy was spending time with his family.

Tom leaves Gwen, his wife of 64 years, his children, David Sickles of Westborough; Sharon Willman and her husband Skip of Southborough; Ronald Sickles and his wife Diane of Nashua, NH; his brothers, Joseph Sickles of Cossayuna, NY; John Sickles of Troy, NY; 8 grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, June 23 at First Community Church of Southborough. Reverend Paul Sanderson officiated. In Tom's honor, the Choir sang one of his favorite hymns, "Open My Eyes That I May See." The burial followed in the Rural Cemetery in Southborough.

### *WHEN YOU'RE GONE*

*When you're gone,  
You bring weeping and salty,  
sour tears to my eyes.*

*When you're gone,  
You bring terrific happy memories to us.*

*When you're gone,  
We miss what you do best –  
Hugs, kisses, going fishing  
and cherishing a lot of love to everyone.*

*We miss you and even though you are in Heaven  
You watch us like shooting stars!*

*By Kalyann Teasley (Great Granddaughter, Age 9)*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:15 PM Diaconate Meeting	2	3	4	5
6 <b>SUMMER WORSHIP</b> 11:00 AM Worship Service Rev. Jonathan Wortmann <i>Sacrament of Holy Communion</i> Coffee Hour following Worship Service	7 	8 4:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:15 PM Trustees Meeting	9	10 6:00 PM Sunday School Parents & Children Get Together	11	12
13 <b>FALL WORSHIP BEGINS</b> <b>RALLY DAY</b> & <b>ALL CHURCH COOKOUT</b> 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service Cookout following Worship Service	14	15 4:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Women's Fellowship Potluck Supper	16	17	18	19  <b>ROSH HASHANAH</b>
20 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service Coffee Hour following Worship Service	21	22 4:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 	23	24 5:00 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Spiritual Study & Growth Group "The Shack"	25	26
27 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service Coffee Hour following Worship Service October Newsletter Deadline	28  <b>YOM KIPPUR</b>	29 4:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	30			

# September 2009

# **Missions – Central Asia Institute**