

First Community Church

Newsletter

October 2012



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

This coming Sunday, the 7th of October 2012, marks the fifteenth anniversary of the congregational meeting at which the members of this church voted to call me to be their Pastor. It has been an amazing fifteen years! I already have the longest pastorate in the 147-year history of this church (and still counting – for both of us). This is by far the longest pastorate I have held in any church, with the next longest being the three years (from 1969-72) that I served as Pastor of Pilgrim Congregational Church on the other side of town. On this anniversary I find myself struck by the realization that I began my ministry on one side of Southborough and, God willing, I will conclude my ministry on the other side.

It strikes me that my pastorates in these two Southborough churches, both of which I love, could be seen as the bookends for the various ministries in the many and varied settings in which I have served. I served as a state mental hospital chaplain for four years and as Executive Director of three pastoral counseling centers for ten years. I have functioned as the Interim Minister of five churches and as Director of Training at the Worcester Pastoral Counseling Center. I regard my teaching at Assumption College the past eighteen years and my prior teaching at Boston University School of Theology and the University of Rhode Island as a type of ministry, for I see myself as a minister first and a teacher second. This is also the way I see the forty years I have devoted to my practice as a Jungian Psychoanalyst, a Psychologist, Marriage & Family Therapist, and Pastoral Counselor – as a specialized type of ministry. Of all the various ministries to which I have felt called since my ordination forty-three years ago, one of the most meaningful has been my relationship with and my commitment to this little church.

This week, as we approach Re-Covenanting Sunday and the celebration of the fifteen years we have spent together, have shared together, have served together, I am reminded of how much Christianity is a social or communal as well as an individual spiritual journey. Because I am an introvert, I tend to think of Christianity in terms of our individual faith journey, our individual relationship with God through Christ. However, it is difficult to imagine what Christianity

would look like without the church. I am at a loss to understand how the eternal truths of our faith would be transmitted throughout the centuries to our children, to those struggling with the meaning of life and their life, to those who find themselves walking or being dragged through what the Psalmist called “the valley of deep darkness.”

It is in celebration for all that the church, and especially all that this little church has meant to us that the Stewardship and Growth Committee has adopted the theme “Building and Strengthening Community” for the coming year. You will be hearing more about this in the weeks to come – both in the theme of our annual pledge drive and in our commitment to increase our endowment to protect and ensure our future. You will also be hearing more about this through the many social or community events that we will be hosting this year and as we move forward toward the 150th anniversary of our church.

As we reflect upon the role that the church has played (and can still play) in our lives, in our own faith journey, I would like to share two brief vignettes. The first was a brief conversation I had with a member of our church who lives quite a distance away, a distance that makes it difficult for him to attend Sunday worship and other church events. On a recent occasion he told me, “I really miss coming to church regularly. You know, every single time I come to church I learn something new and helpful.” He didn’t actually say it, but I suspect it is the case that every time he doesn’t attend church or one of our study groups, he doesn’t learn anything new. This alone strikes me as a good reason to attend church!

The second is an observation and a beautiful testimonial, both to our church and to her, that one of our most respected and committed church members shared in a recent newsletter when she said,

“I confess that when I am at church, my mood brightens; my cares are less prominent in my mind. I am exactly where I should be. This is my church family. I receive more than I can possibly give of God’s love, Jesus’ direction and pathway, and this church family. I feel God’s presence here and His love more vividly through all of you who make up this congregation. I am fortunate to be part of the choir each Sunday, to sing of God’s love and to praise Him. It is this as well as this diverse yet singular church family that strengthens my faith, and I feel blessed.”

I couldn’t have said it better myself!

Yours in Christ,
Reverend Paul D. Sanderson

Adult Bible Study

Our Sunday morning Bible Study began just a few short weeks ago and we have lots of room for all those who want to come and be a part of our group. We are continuing our study of the Gospel of John. The Gospel of John is quite different from the synoptic gospels; its focus is not so much on what Jesus did and said as who he was. In our study, whenever possible we compare the way a particular event or interaction is described in John with how it is described in Matthew, Mark and Luke.

We meet on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of every month from 9:15 – 10:30 AM in the Vestry. Bring your morning coffee. Bibles are provided!

Missions Offering



Our October Missions Offering will go to the Tibet Fund to sponsor a Tibetan refugee.

Earlier this year, we announced our adoption of Tenzin Dekyi and

promised more information about her and her family.

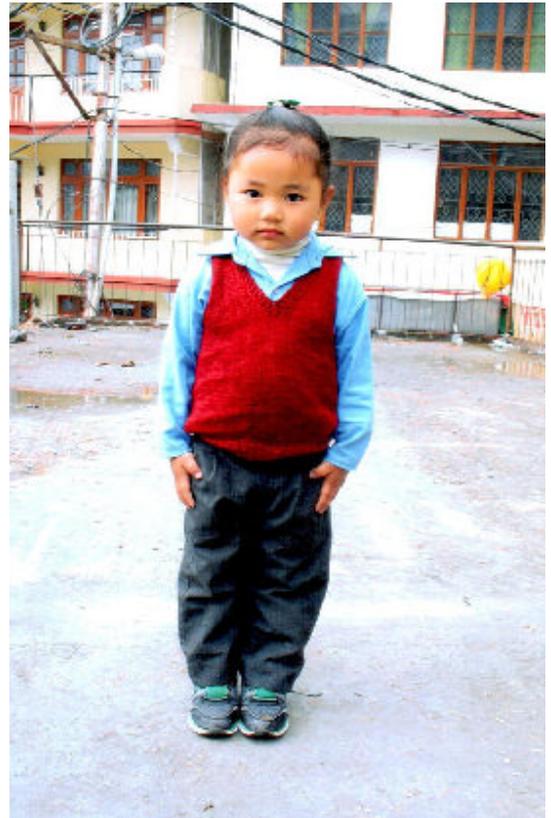
Tenzin Dekyi was born on April 9, 2009. Her father, Ngawang Norbu works at Tara Tibet beads and her mother, Loudon, is an Ayah (translated in India: a native nursemaid who looks after children) at the Yongling Crèche & Kindergarten School where Tenzin Dekyi attends school. They also have a son, Tenzin Dhaden who is 11 years old. Tenzin's parents are from Tibet who came into exile in 2006.

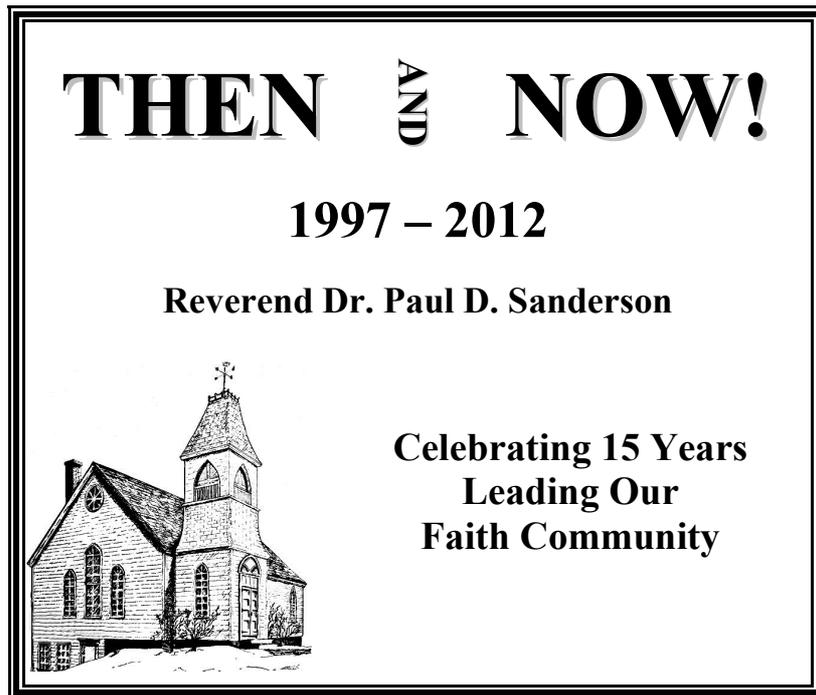
Education in Exile

Thousands of Tibetans followed H.H. the Dalai Lama to India into exile, fleeing from the forceful occupation of Tibet by the Red Chinese. The Government of India very kindly provided, not only basic rehabilitation to the Tibetan refugees but also facilitated schools separate for the Tibetan children as envisioned by H.H. the Dalai Lama. The need for separate schools for the Tibetans was felt to preserve their unique culture, language and impart modern education. During the early days of the exile-situation, due to many hardships, parents started withdrawing their children from school to earn some extra money by making them work at any odd job. This problem caused concern to the Government, thus prompting them to encourage and inspire the parents to shoulder some of the responsibility to educate the future of Tibet.

The Yongling Crèche & Kindergarten was founded in Dharamsala, India in 1984 by a Tibetan youth, Mr. Dawa Tsering, and with the cooperation of parents in Mcleod Ganj. During those days, many Tibetans were engaged as laborers in construction, road building, and carpet weaving. They faced many problems having to bring their children to work. Thus the kindergarten was established to shoulder the responsibility of the Exile Tibetan Government so that working parents would gain an awareness of their responsibility toward their children's education and could educate their children at the right age. Approximately 260 children, including 50 babies below three years of age attend the school. There are 17 staff including nine teachers, three nannies, two cooks, one dance and music teacher, one hostel mother and a secretary. The school also has hostel facilities for those children whose parents have to move constantly in search of livelihood or are living in places where there are no Tibetan schools.

With our sponsorship, we will be providing Tenzin Dekyi with food, shelter, health care and education for one year – truly a mission worth every penny!





THEN

- **Jeremiah 3:15** - *And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.*

The Year Was 1997

- ☑ First Community Church of Southborough members were preparing to find a new pastor to guide them in their faith journey. Leading the pack was the Pastoral Search Committee formed by the Church Council on May 8th. Its members included:

Timothy Deschamps (Diaconate Chair)
Robert L'Heureux (Church Moderator and Committee Secretary)
Robert Nelson
Dana Richmond
Evelyn Till
Arlene Williams (Chair)

- ☑ Their first meeting was held on May 22nd. The Committee set their plans in motion. It was decided that they would meet with Rev. Richard Sparrow of the UCC Central Office in Worcester MA on June 18th “to review their needs relative to an interim pastor and then recommend specific individuals who might be able and available to meet those needs.”

- ☑ A total of five meetings were held. The Church Profile was updated and copies were submitted to Andover-Newton Theological School, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and Boston University School of Theology.
- ☑ Four resumes were received; two from ordained clergy and two from individuals not yet ordained. There was a telephone inquiry and a personal visit from another to see the church and community, both ordained clergy.

But.....because of some other developments going on at the same time, no personal interviews were conducted.

- ☑ As the Search Committee is diligently looking for the right candidate to fill the Pastor position, the Diaconate is also fulfilling their responsibilities of seeking an Interim Pastor to “fill in” the Sunday morning Pastor slot that is vacant. Jim Holmes, a member of the Diaconate was in charge of finding the pulpit supply for the summer worship. He found just the right one -- Reverend Dr. Paul Sanderson.

The story continues –

- ☑ Everyone in the congregation was immediately impressed with his sermons and worship leadership – thinking how wonderful it would be to have a pastor like him. At the same time, Dr. Sanderson was experiencing an attraction to the church and community. He had served his first pastorate, from 1969 to 1972, at Pilgrim Congregational Church and knew a number of people in town. Following a couple of Sundays as our pulpit supply minister, he met with the Diaconate and expressed a willingness to serve as interim pastor for as long as they wanted him. After another Sunday or two, he met with members of the Diaconate and Search Committee to express a sincere interest in being called as our “settled” pastor, which most of us felt was almost “too good to be true.”
- ☑ **“A Call Agreement Including Financial Considerations Extended to the Reverend Paul D. Sanderson”** is drawn up on October 1st to present to the Congregation.
- ☑ A special all Church meeting was held on October 5th immediately following the Church service. The status of the Search Committee was given along with the interest in our pastoral opening by our summer supply pastor, Rev. Dr. Paul Sanderson of Foxboro. The Deacons and the Search Committee enthusiastically recommended that Rev. Sanderson be accepted as our Pastor.

Dot Watkins motioned that First Community Church call Rev. Sanderson as its Pastor, seconded by Rae Kay.

The motion was unanimously voted!

- ☑ The Agreement is signed, sealed, and delivered -- The search is over -- the call had been answered.



Now

Is It Now Already?

Well, well, well - time sure flies by when you're having fun. Just fifteen years ago, we were once again searching for a pastor. It seems that every two or three years, the current pastor would move on to a full-time pastorate or "greener pastures." It seemed that we provided a "hands-on, learn by doing" step between seminary and a full-time church. (Sort of like practice teaching in education) After all, except for the beginning days, some 100+ years back, we were a small congregation offering a part-time ministerial experience for a budding minister, fresh and green, to our small community somewhere west of Boston; high in practical application whilst somewhat lower in greenbacks. It actually worked just fine most of the time.

Frequent pastor rotation was beneficial to our small multi-denominational congregation. Individual leaders with much dedication served us well. In the pulpit were fresh faces with fresh ideas and ideology with a wider range of worship opportunities. It did have its positive aspects. We were building community with fairs, suppers, yard sales, social gatherings, whatever was necessary to include our entire church family.

The underlying skeleton of the church, its long-term faithful, bore the burdens of managing a church with much variety of denominational backgrounds and doctrines and with one God. Yet it worked! Economic stringency determined the part time status of pastors as it still does today.

Then, fifteen years ago, Rev. Dr. Paul Sanderson came on the scene one summer, as a supply minister, when we were between permanent pastors. We asked him if he would be an interim pastor. He said No! Actually, he wanted to be our permanent pastor. Sounded like a real good deal, right???



But why? He had a wide variety of pastoral based jobs, a wonderful array of work in some difficult venues. His first church was our own local Pilgrim Church in Southborough. What could we offer him? Some wondered why a learned man with all those capital letters after his name, was interested in getting to know us better and wanting to take charge of our spiritual well being. Were we a potential dissertation subject?

While our history represents a mixed bag of denominational worship within a small congregation, we were firmly united in faith, regardless of the origins and our ecumenical crazy quilt foundations.

We were functioning quite efficiently in many ways, but without a permanent minister's pasturing, continuity suffered; but our faith and desire to praise God together did not.

We agreed to call Rev. Dr. Paul Sanderson to be our permanent minister, and as they say, the rest is history.

We may have been puzzled then Paul, but in the here and now, after fifteen years, we really think you are serious about us, and you are for real!

Right now, you and Darlene are a vital part of our church family and we love it. For this, we are very thankful!

Martha Hubley & Cheryl Holmes
FCC Columnist FCC Editor

PS By the way, if that dissertation turns into a best seller, can we have signed First Edition copies?



Two For The Price Of One



And with this Pastor comes our First Lady of First Community Church of Southborough, Darlene, who as a Pastor's wife has "a tough position." She needs to "stand by her man," "be the perfect lady, never stepping out of line in thought or deed, yet be her own person.

A very tough position indeed!

Darlene has been the driving force for many of our fundraisers; church fairs and yard sales – she's there every step of the way. From organizing, crafting, cooking, and cleaning up, her hands are in there. L'il Shoppe, our Sunday morning "Quick Mart" is still alive due to her tireless efforts to keep it going by baking her own banana breads or coaxing others to bring in some of their own specialty dishes, crafts, fresh eggs, or vegetables straight from their garden.

And we always know when the Annual Pie Sale is coming as she makes her list and checks it twice to see that every kind of pie imaginable is going to be available for sale at our November fundraiser – our biggest and best of the year. Darlene has earned every letter in her title of PPW affectionately known as (Pushy Pastor's Wife). She is going to see that things get done!

And we won't mention all the different Boards and Committees that she has served on over these past few 15 years. Or her commitment to the Choir each Sunday – a commitment that also brings her to church every Tuesday for Choir rehearsals – a jaunt added to her to do list after a full day at work and a drive with all those commuters hitting the roads for home. Or her gift and love for music as she works with Michael Larson our organist, writing meaningful words to go with Michael's beautiful music that he has composed. Together they have written some songs that have touched our hearts and brought tears to some of our eyes.



So as we celebrate Paul's 15 years with us, we would like to say to Darlene, "We love you and thank you for what you have brought to us."

Definitely a bargain!

Three's A Charm

1997 brought two wonderful individuals to First Community Church of Southborough as you have already read in the previous articles in the Newsletter.

But alas, there is one more, making it a total of three!

As Jan Bishop reported to the Church Council on September 25, 1997, "We have a new and very competent organist, Michael Larson, who has agreed to play every Sunday and come to rehearsals weekly."

"We are so lucky to have Michael as our organist." "We really enjoy your preludes on the piano."

And here it is, fifteen years later and we would all have to agree with Jan's understatement, you are "very competent" and we are so "lucky" to have you, and we still "really enjoy" your preludes on the piano.

Michael, you bless us all with your gifts every Sunday. Your talent and love of music comes out with every touch of the keys, be it the piano or the organ. From classical to gospel to our old time favorite hymns, you have connected your music to our hearts and touched our souls.

You inspire the Choir and with David our Director, you bring out the best in all of us. All eyes or should we say all "ears" are on you every Sunday morning.

So as the song goes,

**So I say
Thank you for the music, the songs I'm singing
Thanks for all the joy they're bringing
Who can live without it, I ask in all honesty
What would life be?
Without a song or a dance what are we?
So I say thank you for the music
For giving it to me!**

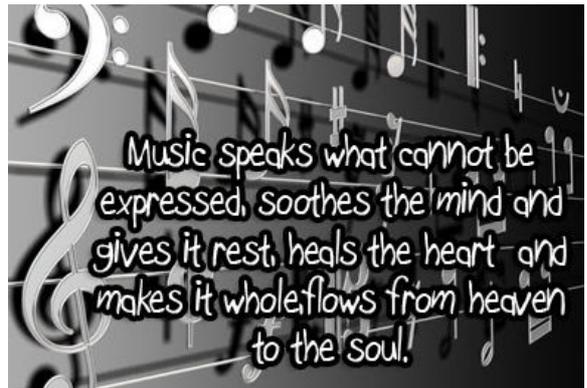
Spiritual Exploration Reading

Tuesday afternoons with Rev. Sanderson

The theme of our Tuesday afternoon Spiritual Exploration Reading Group this fall will be how the insights of Hinduism and Buddhism can shape our understanding of God and deepen our Christian faith.

We are presently reading the short novel – *Siddhartha* by Herman Hesse. In our meetings we listen to *Siddhartha* as it is masterfully read by Baron Christianson for part of each session then discuss parallels between *Siddhartha's* spiritual journey and the spiritual journey to which Christ calls us.

The Tuesday afternoon study group meets every Tuesday from 2:30 - 4:00 PM in the Vestry. Everyone is welcome!





.....*The Trustees*

2012 Membership: Dave Crane, Karin Farmer, Beth Hook, Sandy McKeen, George Nutting, Skip Willman and Ex-officio member Bob Farmer, Church Treasurer

Meetings: 6:15 PM on the second Tuesday of each month (except July and August)

Responsibilities are to maintain the church building, outside and inside.

Recent Accomplishments:

- Two new front entry doors installed
- Sanctuary carpets cleaned
- Sanctuary lighting improved with brighter bulbs
- A railing on one side of the choir loft stairs installed
- New lighting and a dimmer installed in the choir loft
- A wireless internet connection installed
- Held a Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser on April 9, 2012
- Oversaw the cleaning of the gutters and the power washing of three sides of the church that was completed by Metrowest Powerwashing
- Kitchen door lock repaired
- Outside front lights repaired
- Loose seals around the kitchen counters re-glued
- A small table in the kitchen was repaired
- Holes in the parking lot were patched
- Held a clean-up day on April 30 and spread three yards of hemlock mulch
- Donated flowers and planted them prior to Easter Sunday for the summer; more flowers planted again for the fall
- Planted a boxwood bush in the garden next to the kitchen door
- Planted new grass after the sidewalk was repaired

- Painted the grill vent on the hot water heater
- A storage unit to contain the snow blower and the gas grill was completed

Projects in process:

- The Vestry chairs are in the process of being repaired
- The new front doors are in need of decorative hardware
- Noise from air intake being addressed

Future projects:

- Improve the wiring in the Vestry
- Soundproof the Vestry (acoustic tiles for the ceiling, sound absorbent tiles on the Vestry walls, a new Vestry rug or floor)
- Soundproof the Pastor's Office
- Resolve the kitchen door water problem, which could include the driveway improvement and outside drainage
- Need new ceiling light in Vestry

Your Input Is Welcome: We encourage parishioners to approach any Trustee with concerns regarding the upkeep of the Church facility.

**This is the third in a series of focus articles on the Boards and Committees of First Community Church of Southborough*

From The Desk Of The Collector

The Case of the Missing X

Once a year I lug out the old typewriter for its "Annual Rite of Fall." That would be preparing the pledge statements to show pledges received for the first nine months of the year. This year, the X key has chosen not to "mark the spot."

The statements will be handed out or mailed in early October. Please review them to make sure you are on track to finish the year meeting your annual commitment. The final statement will be given out in late January after the auditor has approved the records.

Oh, and if you have an X in your name (ala Mr. L'Heureu_) or address (hello Martha Hubley of Cedar St. E_t., Hopkinton) you will understand how the corruption occurred!

Thank you all.

Jim Holmes
Collector

A Blast From The Past

100 Years Ago

1912 – October

- ◆ Southville: Congregational Church services: Rev. Arden M. Rockwood, pastor; Sunday school: 1:30; Preaching by pastor: 2:45; Evening service 7 PM; Thursday evening Prayer meeting: 7:30

Methodist Church Services: Rev. A.W. L. Nelson, pastor. Sunday school: 1:30; Preaching: 2:45; 7:00 Evening Praise and Prayer service. The last Sunday evening in month at 6:30 Pastor Conducts service. Prayer meeting Thursday evening 7:30.

75 Years Ago

1937 – October

- ◆ The Annual meeting of the Federated Church held on October 4th preceded by a supper; in charge of the advisory committee, Ralph Clark chairman. After supper, the roll was called by the pastor. Mr. Merriam was appointed moderator of the meeting.

The three groups of the church each held their business meeting before the annual meeting and elected three members from each group to act on the standing committee: Congregational group; Mr. Norcross, Mr. Ralph Clark, Mrs. Howard Lincoln. Methodist group: Mr. Herbert Jones, Mr. Stephen Boutilier, Mrs. Arthur LeGay. The Federated group: Mr. Leonard Tupper, Mr. Wallace Nelson, Mrs. Brownel.

50 Years Ago

1962 – October

- ◆ The 40th Annual Business meeting of the First Federated Church was held on October 6th. Mr. Ernest Williams was elected moderator for another year. Rev. Glessner has not picked a home as yet. The parsonage has not sold yet. (This would be the first parsonage) The every member canvas reported pledges of \$84.10 weekly and 2 yearly commitments. Rev. Glessner announced his future plans - chaplain at Mt. Ida College. Also has received medical advice that he cut down on his work. He will be buying a home in Norfolk and moving after Christmas. It was voted to call Rev. Glessner as pastor through December 31st.
- ◆ The Board of Directors met and organized after the Annual meeting. Charles Hutchinson was elected chairman and Winnifred Stone, Clerk. The board consists of 15 members. An average of 8 attend monthly meetings.
- ◆ The Sunday School used the "Gospel Light" material with the exception of one class which used David C. Cook.
- ◆ The Women's Fellowship worked on various articles for the fair. The Fair Supper was held on October 20th.

25 Years Ago

1987 – October

- ◆ October 4: New member: Agnes (Nancy) Ferguson (mother of Sarah L’Heureux)
- ◆ October 23: Funeral of Napoleon B. Barber
- ◆ Installation service of Rev. John Chane at St. Mark’s Church
- ◆ October 12: Women’s Fellowship raised \$182 at a “Cookie station” at Heritage Day.

10 Years Ago

2002 – October

- ◆ 5 October: Marriage of Reggie Lirette & Kathleen Hooper
- ◆ Women’s Fellowship meeting was a “work night” for the Church fair.

With Our Sincerest Sympathies



We were saddened at the loss of Barbara F. (Barry) Masterman who died on June 2 in Gilford NH. A former member of our church joining in 1954, Barbara was an active member of the Women’s Fellowship and a big supporter of past Vacation Bible School programs.

Barbara was the wife of the late Charles F. Masterman who died in June 2003. She leaves her daughter Pamela Chadwick of Gilford NH, two sons, Charles of Southborough and Paul of Townsend MA, as well as 8 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at First Community on June 7, with Rev. Sanderson officiating. Interment was at the Rural Cemetery in Southborough.

Barbara was our former organist for over ten years.

Our deepest and heartfelt sympathies go out to all of the Masterman family for their loss.



Our heartfelt sympathies reach out to Martha Templeman for the recent loss of her son, William. William, 63, died suddenly on Monday, September 17. Our prayers and love go out to Martha and each member of the Templeman family for their great loss.



Harvest

The “Oct” in October refers to the number eight and October was the eighth month in the year. At some point in time, it was decided to revamp the calendar to represent more closely the astronomical cycles of seasons and orbital rotations. It was calculated that twelve months of twenty-eight to thirty-one days, plus a leap year day every four years, was more practical. Two months were added and October became the tenth month.



Since the original tenth month was already named December, they let October keep its place. Presumably the extra two months were added earlier and the first month of the new twelve month year was designated January. There must have been some rationale for the new arrangement, but I do not know it -- maybe they drew straws!

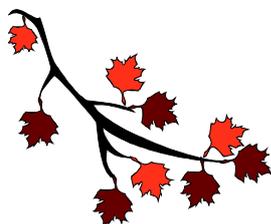
Anyway, in our latitudes, October is a spectacular month. It is a transitional time and can boast some very warm weather at the start, and end with below freezing temperatures, foretelling the coming of winter.

Remember last year?? A near blizzard snowstorm, snapping off branches still holding their kaleidoscope of colorful leaves hit hard, sending us into attics and basements for winter gear. No warning – just in your face wind, snow, and freezing temps. Of course, that was an anomaly and quite unexpected. Oh well, that’s New England for you.

Usually we experience October as the end of the growing season with a bountiful harvest. The season for preserving, once a life sustaining necessity now making a comeback. A season for freezing and canning, stocking root cellars and larders. Back to basics today, it’s a trend as we realize we should be eating more natural non-additive foods.

Fall fairs abound, farmers and wanna-be farmers, display their agricultural bounty. A welcome break from the urgency that accompanies producing and preserving the fruits of our labor to enjoy in the barren months to come.

Students are settled in schools. Vacations are memories. The snowbirds are preparing in anticipation, their annual treks south, leaving us stalwarts behind to conquer and survive the wintry blasts to come!



And in October, something amazing happens, incredible color! As summer departs, the hues of autumn appear – Bright reds of maples seem to lead the way. Multiple reds, oranges and yellows follow; oaks in rusty greens seem to come last in a wonderfully kaleidoscopic non-patterned way, bringing the growing season to its end. Trees lapse into their winter coma to await another spring.

October is truly an amazing transition in our earth’s cycle!

Tilling, planting, cultivating, harvest and preservation; this does not come serendipitously, it is hard work! It is also God’s gift to us. He calls us to be not only hearers of His word, but does as well. We know how to sustain ourselves physically, we are bombarded by “How to” messages daily. We also know how to attain spiritual sustenance; worshipping together.

Here at First Community Church we are known to be a “working” congregation. We are participants - our weekly bulletin calls us ministers. Yet we are more - we are a community working and worshipping together, representing God’s presence among us and within us. Fortunately, we can nurture and express our faith monthly, weekly, and daily, by ourselves and together! This is also a gift from God.

Harvest means to gather in and store. Let us gather together and share in our hearts “God’s abundant blessings!”

Martha Hubley
FCC Columnist



Women’s Fellowship

“For the joy of the Lord is your strength.” Nehemiah 8:10

The Women’s Fellowship gathered on Tuesday, September 18 for our first meeting of the fall season, sharing a delicious potluck supper. We were happy to have Pastor Paul and Darlene join us. This gave us a chance to catch up on all the upcoming wedding plans for their daughter Kristen.

After dinner, we had a short business meeting. We updated our shut-in list and Helen Varney will be printing a revised copy for our October meeting. We laid out some of our plans for the upcoming months, which are always our busiest!

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 16 at 7:00 PM. Helen Varney will be leading devotions and Mattie Cummings will be providing refreshments.

Mattie Cummings, Secretary

Celebrations Celebrations



On Sunday, September 23, we celebrated the Sacrament of Infant Baptism for Leonardo James D’Arcangelo, son of Amy and James D’Arcangelo.

Leonardo’s Godparents are Julie Kranert and Justin Pannichelli.

Also sharing this celebration is Dianne Simmons, Leonardo’s Grammie.

We extend a warm welcome to him, the newest member of our Christian community, and we ask God’s blessing on him and his parents Amy & Jim.

The Walkin' Talkin' Duo



Dianne started walking the Boston Marathon route (and many others) in 2004 and hasn't missed one since;

Jim had walked it once in 2003.



Dianne, a couple years older and wiser than Jim, was concerned she would not keep up with him;

Jim was concerned that Dianne's daily walking regimen would show him up.



Dianne had all the important little necessities (like Band-Aids) in her fanny pack; Jim had his cell phone.



Dianne liked to start as early as they let you start (5:30 AM);

Jim was fine with 7:00 AM.



Dianne registered early and quietly raised her minimum (\$300) to participate;

Jim waited until one week before and announced it to the full congregation that day in Church.



And so the first "Team Community Church" Boston Marathon walkers were set!

The evening before the marathon, Nurse Dianne invited Cheryl & Jim to Carbone's to join her, Amy, Jim and little Leo to partake of some delicious pasta to raise those important carbs.

Earlier in the week, Dianne had brought a back up pair of socks to her friend's home just off Rt. 135 in Natick.

Jim picked Dianne up at her home Sunday morning at "O dark 30", translation, 5:30 AM. Parking (with Dianne's pre-arranged authorization) at Hopkinton Drug, we made our way to the old High School to get Jim's # to wear. (Of course, the organized one, Dianne, already had received hers in the mail). The school was a beehive of excited volunteers and walkers. After the obligatory photo shot, we were off for Boston at 5:50 AM.



With the exception of stops for the "sock swap" and lunch in Wellesley, "Team Community" managed about 20 minute miles. The weather was a very comfortable low 60's and overcast except for the last couple of miles. Healthy snack and food tables were set up every couple of miles -- Oh, and the very necessary "Johnny on the Spots". Every mile was marked by a large poster of a child that had benefited from the Jimmy Fund along with their story. And when you

came to the snack shacks, there were usually a half dozen cheering volunteers urging you under a simple archway.



As we walked, we conversed about our Church family and everyday life. Jim realized early on that if he snapped a picture of the mile markers and emailed them to Cheryl, he would have a good record, mile by mile, of their progress. In Natick, Church was in session at St. Patrick’s Church and the doors were open so you could hear the music. In Wellesley, those who chose to do a “half marathon” joined our route.



As we approached the Boston Public Library, a man with one leg came “running” toward us on crutches to cheer us to the finish line. Upon finishing the 26.2 miles, we had medals placed around our necks, serenaded by a live band, and nourished by a wide choice of foods.

Dianne finished first so Jim could take her picture. Somehow the picture came out but Dianne was nowhere to be found in it. Jim finished second and Dianne managed to get his photo.

Amy & Jim arrived shortly after and gave us a much-appreciated ride back to Hopkinton so Jim could pick up his car.



To the many members of our Church family who sponsored us, we thank you very much. (and if you would still like to sponsor us, you have until November 1st, either in person or by going to the Jimmy Fund Boston Marathon website and searching for Dianne Simmons or Jim Holmes). And perhaps next year we can grow our team from 2 to 3 or more!



Dianne Simmons & Jim Holmes



Spiritual Study & Growth Group

**Thursday Evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 PM
Led By Rev. Sanderson**

The theme of our Thursday evening Spiritual Study and Growth Group this fall is the relationship of Jungian psychology (the psychology of Carl Gustav Jung), particularly the dynamics of the persona and shadow, to the Christian faith and to our personal, social, national, and international conflicts.

We are just beginning our reading of Robert Louis Stevenson's short novel *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde* to explore how Stevenson's resolution of the ego-shadow conflict compares with those suggested by Jesus.

The Spiritual Study and Growth Group meet every Thursday from 7:00 – 8:30 PM in the Vestry. The group is open to all.

S O U T H B O R O U G H F O O D P A N T R Y



Please help us help others!

First Community Church Shopping List for October

For the month of October will be collecting all donations that are appropriate and you are willing to give. Choose from the list below or consider making a check out to First Community Church of Southborough with a note earmarking it "Southborough Food Pantry."

Toilet Tissue Paper Towels Laundry detergent



The collection box is located next to the L'il Shoppe for you to drop off your items.

Our Gifts We Bring

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.

Bob Farmer, our Treasurer, has provided us with an update of what we have collected and donated as of September 30, to the Missions that we have chosen to support this year.

<i>MISSIONS -- JANUARY – SEPTEMBER 2012</i>		
<i>MISSIONS</i>	<i>COLLECTED</i>	<i>DISBURSED</i>
Straight Ahead Ministries	\$410.00	\$400.00
Assabet Valley Pastoral Counseling	\$300.00	\$300.00
Abby’s House	\$433.00	\$433.00
Worcester County Food Bank	\$320.00	\$320.00
Southborough Food Pantry	\$100.00	\$100.00
Heifer Project	\$300.00	\$300.00
Church World Service	\$251.00	\$251.00
Haiti – “His Royal Ministry”	\$325.00	\$325.00
Rape Crisis Center	\$243.00	\$225.00
Stop Girl Trafficking Project (American Himalayan Foundation)	\$289.00	\$0
TOTALS	\$2,971.00	\$2,654.00

From The Editor

The deadline for the November 2012 Newsletter will be **Sunday, October 28**. 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

“The earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.” Psalm 24:1

Heifer International gratefully recognizes First Community Church of Southborough for their contribution of healthy animals and training in their care to help struggling families overcome a life of hunger and poverty.

Pierre A. Ferrari
President and CEO
Heifer International



From Our Marathon Members

Dear First Community Church Family,

Thank you for your loving support for Jim and I as we walked the 26.2 miles of the Jimmy Fund Marathon. We truly felt your love and support as we walked along. You gave wings to our feet. And, those of you who were able, thank you for your checks and online donations. Every dollar helps! You never know – your dollar just might be the one that buys the test tube in which some thing AMAZING happens which, could turn the tide in the fight against cancer.

If you wanted to donate and thought you had missed the chance – good news – it’s not too late. If you wish to donate please mail a check made out to The Jimmy Fund Walk to either Dianne or Jim. Or if you wish, please go online at www.JimmyFundWalk.org, click on “sponsor a walker” and find one of our names. Thank you!

Again thank you all for your support and prayers, we felt you with us the whole way.

God Bless You All.

Love,
Dianne and Jim

With Our Special Thanks To --

- ◆ Everyone who helped to make Rally Day, our traditional “beginning of a new Church year,” a delicious and enjoyable event. The cookout that turned into an awesome ham dinner due to the threat of a rainstorm was a welcomed surprise. It was a great time for all to get back together and catch up on our “summer vacation happenings. Thanks to the Stewardship & Growth Committee for organizing the dinner and many thanks to all who brought food, cooked and cleaned up.
- ◆ Karin & Bob Farmer and Barbara Crane for all the special plantings that seem to appear around our church grounds every couple of weeks. You never know what colorful surprises you are going to see when you walk into the kitchen door on Sunday morning.

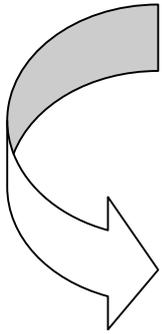


A hidden fire burns perpetually upon the hearth of the world.... In autumn this great conflagration becomes especially manifest. Then the flame that is slowly and mysteriously consuming every green thing bursts into vivid radiance. Every blade of grass and every leaf in the woodlands is cast into the great oven of Nature; and the bright colours of their fading are literally the flames of their consuming.

The golden harvest-fields are glowing in the heart of the furnace.... By this autumn fire God every year purges the floor of nature. All effete substances that have served their purpose in the old form are burnt up. Everywhere God makes sweet and clean the earth with fire.

~ Hugh Macmillan





LOOKING AHEAD

Annual Church Pie Sale
Saturday, November 17



Write down these dates!!



CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

Ava Willman	1 st
Ben Mountain	1 st
Tim Deschamps	8 th
Mitchell Hilbert	14 th
Lisa Nelson	17 th
James Robertson	22 nd
Beth Hook	25 th
Bob L'Heureux	30 th

Anniversaries

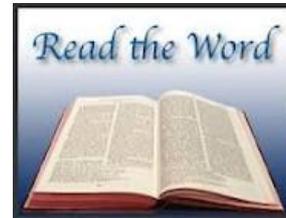
Karin & Bob Farmer	8th
Susan & Lou Elias	9th



For we are laborers together with God...(1 Corinthians 7:9)

Lay Readers

October 7 - David Crane
October 14 - Sandy McKeen
October 21 - Bob Farmer
October 28 - Mattie Cummings



Greeters

October 7 - Joyce Harrington
October 14 - Scott McKeen
October 21 - Karin Farmer
October 28 - Scott McKeen

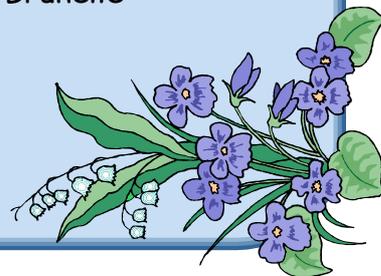
Coffee Hour Hosts

October 7 - 15th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon
In honor of Rev. Sanderson
October 14 -
October 21 - Cathy Ten Eyck
October 28 -



Memorial Flowers

October 7 - Celebrating the 15th
Anniversary of
Rev. Sanderson's Calling
October 14 - Joan Brunelle
October 21 -
October 28 -



Deacons for October

Garcia Passley and Bob Farmer

Forgiveness

Part 2

10. *To refuse to forgive is to continue to hurt yourself. Victimized once, your lack of forgiveness keeps you stuck as a victim, holding on to a victim's identity. Instead, claim the identity of one who forgives.*
11. *Recognize how you've refused to forgive. Keeping inner monsters at bay requires energy. Instead, use your energy to affirm and embrace life.*
12. *Victims are helpless, at the mercy of the offender. By showing mercy to an offender, you put yourself back in control. Take charge by forgiving.*
13. *Know that forgiveness is possible even in the most hurtful circumstances, even toward someone you may not trust or respect, even when someone doesn't seem to deserve forgiveness. It is a testimony to the goodness you're instilled within you from the first moment of your being.*
14. *Forgiveness is the only real prescription for the pain you feel over someone else's behavior. The healing choice is yours to make.*
15. *Think of forgiveness as a powerful survival skill. It helps you find your way through the wilderness of misunderstanding, hurt, resentment, and hatred.*
16. *If you find it hard to forgive your parents for their imperfect parenting, remember: they were shaped by the imperfect parenting they received from parents who were shaped by their own parenting, and so on and so on.....*
17. *Forget about forgetting an injury. That's not always possible – and maybe at times not even desirable. Rather, choose to move on, past remembering to forgiveness.*
18. *Let forgiveness be the catalyst for a healthy chain reaction. Forgiveness sterilizes the wound, which permits healing, which releases energy for growth.*
19. *No loving relationship is free of hurts. Bind up the wounds of love with forgiveness.*
20. *No offense is unforgivable – unless you make it so. Use your power wisely.*

To be continued

Author: David W. Schell

*Karin Farmer
Contributing Columnist*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	2 2:30 PM Spiritual Exploration Reading Group 6:30 PM Diaconate Meeting	3	4 7:00 PM Spiritual Study & Growth Group	5	6
7 RENEWAL OF PASTOR & CONGREGATION COVENANT 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service <i>Sacrament of Holy Communion</i> A Celebration Luncheon in honor of Rev. Sanderson's 15 th Anniversary after Worship Service	8  COLUMBUS DAY	9 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:15 PM Trustee's Meeting	10	11 7:00 PM Spiritual Study & Growth Group	12	13
14 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	15	16 2:30 PM Spiritual Exploration Reading Group 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Women's Fellowship	17	18 7:00 PM Church Council	19	20
21 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	22	23 2:30 PM Spiritual Exploration Reading Group 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:15 PM Stewardship & Growth Committee Meeting	24	25 7:00 PM Spiritual Study & Growth Group	26	27
28 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 November Newsletter Deadline	29	30 2:30 PM Spiritual Exploration Reading Group 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	31 	October 2012 Missions – Tibet Aid		