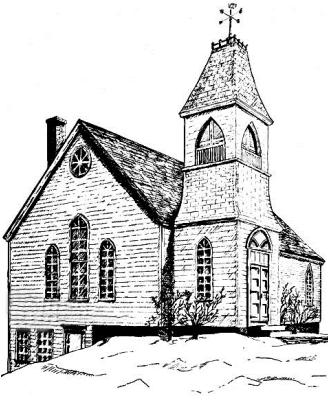


First Community Church Newsletter

September 2011



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

Early in the morning a couple of weeks ago, as I was driving to work, I noted that the outside temperature was in the high fifties. It felt like a beautiful fall day, though it was only August. As much as I enjoy summer, it was a nice feeling.

This was one of the most enjoyable and relaxing summers within memory. I have had time to read and putter around the house. Darlene and I drove down to South Carolina to celebrate the Fourth of July with Jay, Ann-Marie, Zach, Charlie, and Emily Kate. Kristen and Mike came up to join us. Then Darlene and I spent a few days in Florida putting the finishing touches on Kristen's new apartment. I know she could probably hang the pictures on the wall herself, but her saying that "it is a Dad thing" makes me feel needed.

Only a few weeks after we returned home, Corey and Nathan came for a ten-day visit. We saw the Chihuly blown-glass exhibit at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, attended a Blue-Grass festival in Hartford, spent a day at Hampton Beach, saw Kung-Fu Panda II (I highly recommend it), and spent a lot of time in our pool. Kristen came up for a couple of days to spend some time with Corey and Nathan, whom she hadn't seen in a year.

It is not easy keeping in touch with family when all three of our children (and our four grandchildren) live at least a thousand miles away. But that's the way life is for many families nowadays. It's the way it is for our family. It just makes the time we do spend together than much more special. This was truly a family-centered summer for Darlene and me.

And here we are getting ready for the fall. I resume classes at Assumption College the week before Labor Day. Rally Day is only two weeks away. And our study groups will be starting up again a little later in September.

It was a good summer for our church in several ways. I think the joint services with Pilgrim Church went very well. I especially enjoyed the opportunity to explore the Book of Ruth by alternating Sunday preaching with Julie Cedrone. I celebrate our relationship with Pilgrim Church, with Jon and Julie, and I look forward to finding more ways that we can connect with, support, and complement each other's ministries in the year to come.

It was also a sad summer in some ways. Although we knew she was not in good health, we were shocked at Martha Nutting's very sudden passing. There will be an empty spot in our hearts and an empty chair once again in our choir. Our prayers are with George, with their children and grandchildren.

As so often happens, our church comes together at times like these. Church members who had had only a limited personal relationship with Martha took the time to drive a considerable distance to attend the calling hours and/or the memorial service. When I expressed my surprise to one of them that she had made the effort to attend, she said simply that because we are a community she feels the loss of any member of our community on a personal level. I think this is a pretty good description of community and the kind of community we have in this church.

As so often happens for both happy and sad occasions, the Women's Fellowship, with very little notice, put together a wonderful collation. Thanks to David Sickles' magical touch (and a lot of hard work); the Vestry floor was once again restored to life. The tables were nicely decorated. This may not sound like much, but it means a lot to a family. These little acts of kindness are at the heart of who we are as a church.

As we enter into the fall, we need to give some thought to our goals and objectives for the year. First and foremost, each and every one of us needs to commit ourselves to deepening our relationship with God through Christ. This may/should involve a commitment to attend worship regularly, to attend our Sunday morning Bible study, or to join either or both of our study groups. If you have not attended any of these, I wish I could tell you how much we all learn through the sharing that takes place in these groups. Groups like these are the crucibles within which a stronger faith can be forged.

I would like us to commit to making this year's pledge drive the best in the history of this church, and to increase our mission giving as we respond to the pressing needs of the world. We need to make more of an effort to invite people to attend and become members of our church. We can promise them that to do so would benefit not only us but also them. We need to continue to improve our facilities in preparation for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of our church. And we need to just have fun being together.

Finally, we need to continue to do what we are already doing. Other churches have committees that organize visitations for the sick or shut-ins. We don't need to do this. Our members just step forward and do it. I am heartened to note that so many of our members have reached out to fellow members who have been hospitalized or shut-in this summer. This is what it means to be a church.

I hope we can all be together on Rally Day, which is the tenth anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Most of us remember that day very well. We need to remember those who died and also those heroes that risked and sometimes

gave their lives for others on that fateful day. Then we need to move forward in our commitment to form the kind of world community that God would have us create, the kind of caring, compassionate community that we already have in this church.

Faithfully yours,
Rev. Paul D. Sanderson

Rally Day & All Church Cookout



Welcome back!! Sunday, September 11 is the kick-off date for the beginning of our new church year. Even though Sunday morning worship attendance has been excellent throughout the summer, it will be great to have everyone back together again and to begin our new series of educational programs offered for all who are interested.

Dress is still “summer casual” for the cookout following the service that will be organized by the Stewardship and Growth Committee and coordinated by Darlene Sanderson and Dianne Simmons. Please make sure to look at the sign-up sheet in the Vestry for contributions needed that day.

Adult Bible Study

Begins Sunday, September 18

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

This year we will continue our study on the Book of John.

The Bible study is open to all. No background in biblical knowledge is required. Please join us for a time of fellowship, study, and sharing as we seek to strengthen not only our understanding of our religion but also the strengthening of our personal faith.

Missions Offering

The Diaconate will be discussing and voting on a new September Mission at their next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, September 6.

Sharing some great news, we have received an update about Yeshe Tenpa, our Tibetan refugee whom we have sponsored for the past ten plus years through our Mission Offerings to the Tibet Fund.

THE TIBET FUND འོད་གྱི་ཐེབས་ཚུ།



Warm greetings from Dharamsala!

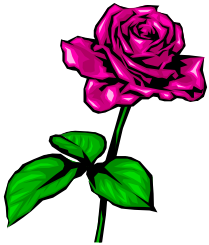
I have called Yeshe Tenpa this morning. He got passed in Class XII with 52% and he wants to continue his further education in Delhi University in the Bachelor of Arts Program. For that, he has already submitted his admission form to the University.

He paid his thankfulness and kind regards to you and all the members of First Community Church. Really, he is one of the lucky children for having sponsors like you all. I on the behalf of the Department of Education would like to thank you so very much for everything.

Sincerely,

Sonam Tsomo
Tibet Aid Fund

With Our Sincerest Sympathies



We were all deeply saddened at the sudden loss of Martha Nutting on Friday, August 12. Our friend and member of First Community Church of Southborough, Martha jumped right into the choir the moment she stepped foot in our church.

Martha was the wife of George Nutting for 52 years. She leaves her children, Mark Nutting of Ashland, and Robert Nutting and his wife Lisa, of Rockland, seven grandchildren, one great granddaughter, one brother and one sister.

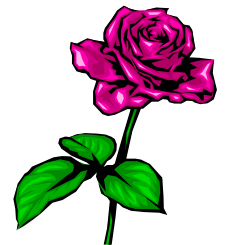
Our deepest and heartfelt sympathies reach out to George and all of the Nutting family for their great loss. Martha will be missed by each of you, and to each of us, her family at the First Community Church of Southborough.

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We extend our sincerest sympathies to the families of Geraldine Kurzontkowski, who died at her home on Saturday, August 13.

The funeral services were held at the Chapel of the Cross on August 16.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all of the Kurzontkowski family for their loss.



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## *Report Of The Diaconate*

Shared summer services went very well and were attended by both Pilgrim and First Community congregations. Summer's end and the beginning of a new Church Year will be celebrated with our traditional "Rally Sunday" when both churches go back to their regular schedules on September 11, 2011. This date also marks the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11. As a special tribute, all the Southboro churches will be ringing their church bells for 2 minutes at 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM.

Rev. Sanderson's schedule for the fall will be Mondays 2 PM – 6 PM, Tuesdays and Thursdays 2 PM – 8 PM, and of course Sundays. Study groups will resume Monday, September 19 from 2:30 PM – 4 PM and Thursday, September 22 from 7 PM – 8:30 PM.

The September mission, originally designated to the Central Asia Institute, will be changed to a new mission. It will be announced after our next meeting in September. The Diaconate rejoices that Yeshi Tenpa, our Tibet Mission child, has graduated from high school. We have chosen to adopt Konchen Dolma. Konchen, who is 8 years old, was born on April 20, 2003. Her parents are farmers and she has four sisters and three brothers. The Tibet Fund is our October Mission.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, September 6 at 6:00 PM.



There is much wrong with the world we live in these days. It is difficult and discouraging to see so very few ways to slow down or stop our slide from Eden's idea. Yet we do have our faith in God, our creator and redeemer. Our faith is a personal faith in Him.

Our church is an accommodation in which we congregate with each other and with God, and in His love for us, it grounds and connects us as God's family.

This is not to say we can ignore the stresses and demands of the life paths we have chosen by saying God will provide and will take care of us, because we make choices and to paraphrase Sir Isaac Newton, "for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction." So we must expect consequences.

Life is a balancing act of spiritual faith and earthly reality. It's like a seesaw with God as the fulcrum. Up and down we go, still connected to Him, but driving our own actions by pushing off each time we touch the ground.

Consider not why God allows disappointment, grief, and pain, but rather consider His love and strength when we are faced with the vagaries and consequences of ordinary living.

As we come off our church's summer schedule, which is less demanding of our time and talent, we look ahead to the practical, as well as the spiritual dimensions of our church.

Committees reconvene, Bible Study and discussion groups renew their explorations, the Women's Fellowship and Choir reappear, and our independent community of faith reawakens to a new season of activity. There is a strong sense of renewal that is almost tactile - it is so real!

We at First Community Church are in a world full of problems, dealing with them the best we can. We are also a community of faith worshipping together to the Glory of God!

Welcome home!!

Mattie Cummings  
Guest Columnist

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## *Spiritual Study & Growth Group*

**Begins Thursday, September 22, Led By Rev. Sanderson**

Our Spiritual Study and Growth Group will hold its first fall meeting on Thursday, September 22 from 7:00 – 8:30 PM.

We will be reading and discussing *Tibetan Wisdom for Living and Dying*.

The group is open to all.

# Congratulations!



To Peter MacGregor who received the Good Scout Award and was honored at the 2011 Hopkinton Good Scout Award ceremony and reception held at the Hopkinton Country Club on June 8, 2011.

Pete, with his wife, Joanie, has been involved in scouting since 1978 when Pete started running camporees, before moving up the administrative ranks. Nothing was too small for him no matter what his rank – he worked in a kitchen tent in 2005 at the National Jamboree. He was active with Scoutland in Hopkinton and helped with the exchange of property with EMC. The Scouts now have a beautiful and large place in Vermont to call Scoutland.

Pete MacGregor has been an active Unit Commissioner promoting the benefits of Scouting for the youth and families of Hopkinton with over fifty dedicated years of service to Scouting in Massachusetts.

Pete's children, Glenn and Deb, accepted a citation from State Senator Karen Spilka on behalf of Pete who could not be there due to health reasons.

We congratulate Pete for this special award and thank him for his gifts of his time, talent, and dedication to scouting and for the many things he has done for his friends and family at First Community Church of Southborough.

## *Good Scout Award*

The Good Scout Award is bestowed upon individuals who have demonstrated integrity and genuine concern for others in both their professional and personal lives.

The recipients need not have been Scouts but must carry the "Spirit of Scouting" into their adult lives. They are people who have been unselfish in their service to others on an individual and community basis. They seek no return for their service, other than the satisfaction of aiding their fellow citizens, their community, and their nation.



The Good Scouts are people who truly capture the respect and imagination of our youth.



To Martha and Bud Hubley who celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this past June. Their families hosted a celebration on Saturday, August 13, complete with an official cake cutting ceremony, delicious food, and entertainment that was enjoyed by everyone near and dear to Martha and Bud.

Thanks to the Hubley families for inviting all the members of First Community Church of Southborough to share in this special day with all of you.

## *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 July 31, to the Missions that we have chosen to support this year.

| <i>MISSIONS -- JULY 2011</i>       |                   |                   |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                                    | COLLECTED         | DISBURSED         |
| Straight Ahead Ministries          | \$515.00          | \$515.00          |
| Assabet Valley Pastoral Counseling | \$220.00          | \$220.00          |
| Abby's House                       | \$410.00          | \$410.00          |
| Worcester County Food Bank         | \$350.00          | \$350.00          |
| Church World Service               | \$325.00          | \$325.00          |
| Love Loaves-Heifer Project         | \$20.00           | \$0               |
| Heifer Project                     | \$355.00          | \$375.00          |
| Rape Crisis Center                 | \$423.00          | \$425.00          |
| Haiti – His Royal Ministry         | \$420.00          | \$420.00          |
| Haiti Earthquake Relief            | \$140.00          | \$140.00          |
| Salvation Army                     | \$5.00            | \$0               |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                      | <b>\$3,183.00</b> | <b>\$3,180.00</b> |

## *A Blast From The Past*

### **125 Years Ago**

#### **1886 – September**

- ◆ Miss Evelyn E. Ward and Frank H. Squier were united in marriage at the residence of the bride's father, Ephraim Ward, Esq. in Southville, Monday at 10 AM by Rev. J. LeBosquet (Minister of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congregational Church)

### **100 Years Ago**

#### **1911 – September**

- ◆ Annual church meeting Wednesday evening September 6<sup>th</sup> called to order by the clerk. The following names proposed for moderator: Mr. Works, Mr. Chickering, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Chamberlain; all declined to serve. Mr. Rockwood afterward volunteered to serve. (the pastor).
- ◆ Remarks on work done during the past year such as painting, papering and wiring the church, also work done by the pastor, following which came the election of officers. One ballot was cast for W. Boutilier for clerk. Mr. C. Chamberlain for treasurer; Mr. Rogers, Mr. Stone and Mr. Garfield for the standing committee. Voted to have the collections for the Church Building Society taken Easter Sunday and the first Sunday in October for the Home Missionary Society, the same as last year.
- ◆ September 7<sup>th</sup> - After the Thursday evening prayer meeting it was voted that Mr. Works and Mr. Chickering remain as deacons for the coming year.
- ◆ The Congregational Society opened their church after the usual summer vacation Sunday morning, Rev. Mr. Rockwood occupying the pulpit. The church has been renovated to the satisfaction of those who make that church their place of worship.
- ◆ The Rev. Mr. Wyman from Cherry Valley preached at the M.E. church, Southville, Sunday afternoon, and the preaching was listened to by earnest hearers. The music was especially fine as the voices seemed well modulated and attuned to praise, with phrasing that was beyond criticism. The evening praise service is of much interest, and everyone is cordially invited to join in these services.
- ◆ The supper and phonograph concert at the Congregational church Tuesday evening was of a pleasing character and the returns in every way satisfactory.

### **75 Years Ago**

#### **1936 – September**

- ◆ 25 September letter from Christ Congregational Church, Millis, MA to the Congregational branch of the Southville Federated Church:

Greetings:

This certifies that Mr. & Mrs. A.E. Norcross are members in good and regular standing of the Christ Congregational Church of Millis, Mass.

As such, they are, at their own request, hereby dismissed, and affectionately recommended to the fellowship and care of the Congregational Branch of the Southville

Federated Church of Southboro, and when received by it their membership with this Church will cease.

By vote of the Church,  
Miss Marjorie A. Wade, Clerk.

(Historian's note: Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Norcross were Stann Norcross's grandparents)

- ◆ Among those who have enjoyed their annual vacations were A.F. Hubley, who is employed by M.C. Corwin at City Hall, Boston.
- ◆ George Mooney, Jr. has entered Framingham High School.

## 10 Years Ago

### 2001 – September

- ◆ The first day of Church school was September 9<sup>th</sup>. We celebrated after Church by having a “casual Church day cookout at the Church.” There are 11 children from 5 to 14 in one classroom. Four teachers rotate on a schedule every four weeks.
- ◆ Joan MacGregor died September 1<sup>st</sup>.
- ◆ Church council met on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Toby Mountain & Gwen Sickles have joined the current investment committee. Toby Mountain reported for the trustees that the church addition is still on hold. The fire department inspected the Church and informed us of code regulations we need to look at.

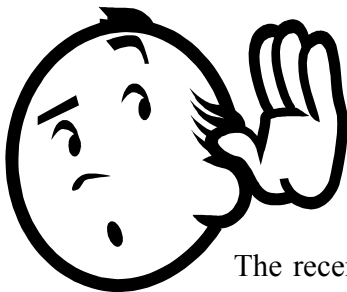
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## *Spiritual Exploration Reading*

**Begins Monday, September 19 with Rev. Sanderson**

Our Monday afternoon Spiritual Exploration Reading group will begin reading and discussing *Tales From the Magic Monastery*.

We meet every Monday afternoon (except Monday holidays) at 2:30 PM in the Vestry. All are welcome to attend.



### *Can You Hear Me Now???*

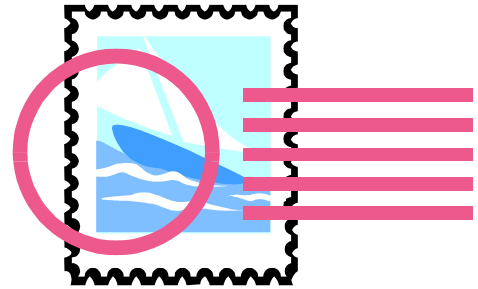
If you have any difficulty hearing clearly the sermon, scripture readings, pastoral prayer, etc., please be sure to ask for one of our wireless FM receivers which are available in the Narthex for every service.

The receiver is very easy to use, has an ear “speaker” which fits comfortably over one ear, a combination on/off switch and volume control, and a clip, which can be attached to your clothing or slipped over the hymnal rack.

If you have any question regarding receiver operation or earphone placement, please speak with either Bob L'Heureux or David Crane.

## *Postcard Ministry*

Postcards from our “Postcard Ministry,” are making their way to the mailboxes of our friends and members. Sponsored by the Diaconate, the program is one small way we can reach out to those who can’t be with us to worship or to someone who just needs some inspiration.



Please take one or two postcards from the cardholders in the pews and send it to someone to tell that you are thinking about them; you miss them, or you wish them “get well.” The postage stamp is already on the card so you can take it with you and drop it in the nearest mailbox or put it in the offering plate and it will be mailed for you.

Thanks to Sandy McKeen for keeping all the cardholders full with postcards all stamped and ready to go.

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## *From The Editor*

The deadline for the October 2011 Newsletter will be **Sunday, September 25**. 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

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## *Autumn Prayer*



*Bring the glory of autumn into our souls,  
The peace of God to our hearts.  
We bow our heads in reverent grace  
For the blessings this season imparts.*

*by Vera Stafly*

# Thank You

## *From Our Missions*

Dear Friends,

I want to thank you for your generous contribution – especially appreciated in this challenging economy. Thanks to caring donors like you, Church World Service can provide food, water and other necessities to families displaced by natural disasters, as we are doing in Pakistan now. And with your help, we can also assist impoverished communities as they work to improve their farming techniques, develop reliable water sources, and build a more sustainable future.



In a world wounded in so many ways, I remain hopeful because of the creative, resilient women, men, and children we assist around the world, and because of caring people like you, who empower us to act on your behalf. May God bless you for your compassionate support.

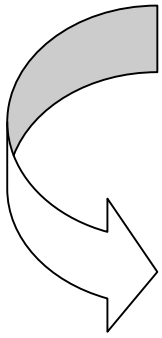


Yours in service,

Rev. John L. McCullough  
Executive Director and CEO

## *With Our Special Thanks To --*

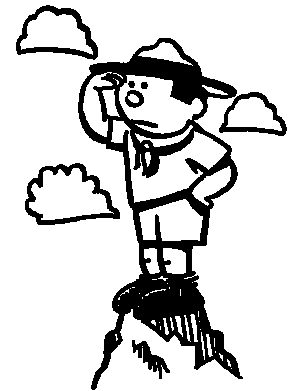
- ◆ The Diaconate for honoring all the Dads on Father's Day with the annual "Strawberry Shortcake Social."
- ◆ The Stewardship & Growth Committee and to everyone who donated, purchased, organized, set up, and cleaned up that made our June Yard Sale a great success! Special note – "Waste not, Want Not" -- The yard sale leftovers were taken to Abby's House in Worcester and to the "Swap Shop" at the Transfer Station in Southborough. Also, some of the items were taken to the Southborough Fire Station where a collection was being held for the tornado victims in western Massachusetts. Now that's what we call giving and giving again! Thanks to Sandy and Scott McKeen for making this all happen.
- ◆ All those who hosted our coffee hours this summer.
- ◆ Nancy Alley who shares her beautiful garden full of magnificent flowers each summer Sunday morning with us. And our many thanks to Martha Hubley who uses one of her many talents and arranges these colors of summer to grace the altar for all eyes to behold.



# LOOKING AHEAD



The  
Colors  
of  
Autumn



## Write down these dates!!



### *Birthdays*



|                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Chet Jacobson       | 5 <sup>th</sup>  |
| 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



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

# September 2011