

First Community Church

Newsletter

October 2013



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 is a busy time of year – not only in our (or at least my) personal and professional lives, but also in our church activities and the liturgical or religious calendar.

With regard to my professional life, in addition to my practice I am back to school teaching two sections of Psychology of Adolescence. I am really enjoying the students, though I dread those weekends in the not-to-distant future when I will have sixty papers to grade. This semester, in addition to serving on the Training Board and being the chair of the Curriculum Committee at the C. G. Jung Institute—Boston, I will be leading a Case Conference Colloquia for the Stage II training candidates. The theme of the colloquium is “The Creative Tension Between Causality and Teleology in Jungian Analysis.” I am really looking forward to supervising the candidates and helping them to explore this theme.

With regard to our church calendar, not long after we returned to our regular services in September, our Jewish brothers and sisters celebrated Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. I wish we had the time to explore the deeper meaning of these observances and understand their implications for our own religious journey.

On the first Sunday in October, we renew our covenant with God, with each other as pastor and parishioners, and with our church. On the last day in October, we celebrate Reformation Day, an affirmation of our Protestant heritage, closely followed by All Saints Day, when we remember those who have been an important part of our lives. In November we hold our annual Stewardship Pledge Drive. Then, before we know it, we are into the Advent season and our preparation for Christmas.

There seems to be little time to reflect, at least in the kind of depth that I would like, on these holidays, celebrations, or events. Each articulates a powerful theme both historically and spiritually. Each, in its own way, provides us with an opportunity for spiritual growth.

We are an active church – more active than one might guess from our size. In the midst of all our activity, however, we need to remember what we are all about. We need to remember Who we are all about. Everything we do in this church should be directed toward one end--deepening our relationship with God through Jesus Christ and letting our faith show in our daily lives.

As we approach Stewardship Sunday, which (for obvious reasons) we celebrate on Thanksgiving Sunday, I would like to share the following prayer that “Dear Abby” included in her column many years ago. As a prayer of thanksgiving for our many blessings and a call to remember those in need, it serves as an excellent guideline for the kind of stewardship that finds expression in this church.

“We thank Thee for food
and remember the hungry.
We thank Thee for health
and remember the sick.
We thank Thee for friends
and remember the friendless.
We thank Thee for freedom
and remember those who are enslaved.

May these remembrances stir us to service,
that Thy gifts to us may be used for others. Amen.”

God grant that this will be our heart-felt prayer in this Thanksgiving season.

Reverend Paul D. Sanderson

Adult Bible Study

This year our Sunday morning Bible study, which meets at 9:15 AM on the second, third, and fourth Sunday of every month, is studying Paul’s letter to the Romans. Paul’s letters, which are the oldest Christian documents we have, and which were written at least twenty-five years before the gospels, allow us a glimpse into the theology of the early church, how the followers of Jesus in the first century understood who Jesus was and the significance of his birth, life, teaching, death, and resurrection. In this letter, Paul tries to show how Christianity is rooted in Judaism, but is a faith for all humanity.

In addition to addressing matters of personal faith and morals, the letter to the Romans contains practical advice to the church in Rome about the problems they were facing. As such, it has been a source of inspiration and renewal in the church from earliest times to the present.

Everyone is welcome! Bibles are provided!

Missions Offering

Our October Mission Offering will go to Straight Ahead Ministries, a place where kids go to find a way out!! Twenty-five years ago, Dr. Scott Larson and his wife Hanne founded, and continue today, to direct Straight Ahead Ministries where hundreds of trained volunteers lead weekly Bible studies in more than 200 juvenile institutions each week throughout twelve states in the USA. Their national office is now located in Worcester Massachusetts and the regional offices are in Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island.



OUR MISSION

To see Jesus Christ transform the lives of juvenile offenders.

More than three million children and youth are arrested each year in the United States. Countless others are impacted, especially family and friends. We believe that this time of crisis can become the first step towards a new life.

We're committed to the journey.

Transformation usually doesn't happen overnight. Most often it's a step-by-step journey, filled with challenges and obstacles that provide opportunities to strengthen faith and develop character. At Straight Ahead, we walk with juvenile offenders through every step of this journey. We begin in lock-up, offering opportunities for kids to hear and respond to the Gospel and discover new ways of thinking and living. We continue through reentry, providing structure and support to help them through the critical transition into their communities and develop the skills and character that will help them live healthy, independent, productive lives.

We'd like you to join us.

We work in partnership with churches, ministry organizations and individuals to carry out this ministry of transformation. Our supporters, volunteers and affiliates provide resources, support and services for youth around the world.

OUR VISION

To create an international movement whereby every juvenile offender has the opportunity to hear and respond to the Gospel and grow in his or her relationship with Jesus Christ.

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Lord Jesus Christ, God's son, redeems us through His death and resurrection, and empowers us by the Holy Spirit. The Bible is God's Word and through it we are called to live out justice, reconciliation, and redemption. God's people are called to gather as a community to carry out God's purpose for the world.

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Juvenile Justice Ministries are just one of many programs that Straight Ahead Ministries has to provide.

Bible Discussion Groups

Bible discussion groups meet weekly to provide spiritual support for kids while they are locked up. Discussion are led by trained volunteer facilitators and cover topics that concern young people. About 40 percent of incarcerated youth choose to attend a Straight Ahead Bible study when it's available to them. Every week, more than 400 groups meet in 19 states across the country.

PROMISE Discussion Groups

Our PROMISE groups are based on Living a Life of PROMISE, a recovery discussion guide that introduces the spiritual principles of recovery. Trained facilitators integrate movie clips, illustrations and stories to help youth recognize harmful behaviors, identify addictions, and develop relapse prevention skills.

Ready4Life Events

Ready4Life is an innovative, strength-based curriculum that prepare youth for successful transition into healthy adulthood. Surpassing life skills training, Ready4Life is presented in a three-day event that focuses on a young person's way of thinking and relating. Short teaching segments and interactive exercises reveal past limitations and introduce future possibilities for each participant.

These and many other resources for working with troubled teens can be accessed through their website www.straightahead.org.

Celebrations Celebrations



Our Pastor's Anniversary

On Sunday, October 6, we celebrate the 16th anniversary of the calling of our Pastor, Reverend Paul D. Sanderson.

Paul, we thank you for leading us in our faith journey over the past sixteen years. You have given us your time, your talent, and above all, your love and faith to help us be 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.

October also brings another 16th anniversary – 16 years of music that makes our hearts sing, thanks to our accomplished and top notch organist, Michael Larson.

Michael, your talent and love for music is a blessing to us all. We thank you for sharing that gift with us.



Spiritual Exploration Reading Group

Tuesday afternoons with Rev. Sanderson

The book we are reading and discussing this fall is *The Power of an Open Question: The Buddha's Path to Freedom* by Elizabeth Mattis-Namgyel. The central theme, an open question, provides us with a spiritual path that is as potentially helpful to Christians as to those who follow the spiritual path of Tibetan Buddhism.

The premise of this book is that asking challenging questions leads to powerful insights. Elizabeth asks us how we can find a resting place in a world that is complex and always changing; how we can practice spirituality beyond the limits of blind acceptance and doubt. Elizabeth proposes that we access our deepest intelligence through asking these kinds of questions. 'When we ask a question,' she suggests, 'our mind is engaged yet open. The process of inquiry protects us from our tendency to reach static conclusions. Instead, we can respond to uncertainty and change with inquisitiveness and a sense of wonder.'

The theme of this book, which echoes the Buddhist directive that we should always seek to retain "beginner's mind" and Jesus' teaching that unless we become like a little child we will not enter the kingdom of God, captures the spirit of our church. We are not as interested in closure, in clinging to partial answers as if they were ultimate truth, as we are in the spiritual journey that we undertake both as individuals and as a community of faith.

As the German poet Rainer Maria Rilke has said, "Live your questions now, and perhaps even without knowing it, you will live along some distant day into your answers."

The Spiritual Reading Group meets Tuesday afternoons from 2:30-4:00 PM in the Vestry. We will meet on October 1, 8, 22, 29 and November 5, 12, 19.

Everyone is welcome.

Pillars Of The Faith

Because Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses, or thoughts, to a church door in Wittenberg, Germany, on October 31, 1517, many Christians remember that day and the major changes, or Reformation, that resulted.

Luther's theses contained three main pillars, which have stood for almost 500 years:

1. ***Sola Scriptura*** (Scripture Alone) - The Bible is the sole authority in matters of faith, life and conduct. 'All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness' (2 Timothy 3:16, NRSV).
2. ***Sola Fide*** (Faith Alone) - Christians are justified, or declared righteous, only through believing in Jesus Christ as Savior. Although morality and good works are important, they alone cannot lead to salvation. 'A person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ' (Galatians 2:16, NRSV).
3. ***Sola Gratia*** (Grace Alone) - Grace is God's unmerited, or undeserved, favor. Salvation is a free gift from our gracious God. 'For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God - not the result of works, so that no one may boast' (Ephesians 2:8-9, NRSV).



REFORMATION

A Blast From The Past

125 Years Ago

1888 – October

- ◆ Brethren L.M. Perkins and A.B. Tyler were chosen delegates to attend the South Middlesex Conference of Churches to be held at South Natick, Oct. 16th.
- ◆ Rev. T.A. Merrill and Albert B. Tyler were chosen delegates to attend the ordination of Arthur Titcomb (Mr. Merrill's nephew) at Gilbertsville on Wed. Oct. 31st.
- ◆ Oct. 21st, Miss Susie R. LeBosquet (joined June 6, 1884) dismissed to the Congregational Church in Wellesley Hills.
- ◆ A Grand Democratic torchlight parade and flag raising awoke Southville from her fifty years political lethargy Monday night. The line was formed at Cordaville, consisting of Chief Marshall Henry Newton, Union Brass Band, Fayville Democratic Club, Company A, Peter Tebo, commander, transparencies, "The Mill's bill asks for free raw material that our people may have more work and better wages. Free material means manufacture here rather than buy abroad." "Democratic party lightens taxes on necessities rather than luxuries." "Only the exigencies of war compel us to tax necessities. Have they been removed? No."

Company B. Capt. George Cantello presented a very brilliant appearance as it marched up Main Street to Southville. After passing through the principal streets, the procession halted at the mansion of Benjamin P. Prentiss, who has long been acknowledged the leading representative of that party in this town. Here a handsome campaign flag was thrown to the breeze amid hearty cheers. After speeches, all were invited to partake of hot coffee and other refreshments, which were provided in ample quantities by the generosity of Mr. Prentiss. A few selections from the band closed the festivities, and the crowd disbursed with cheers for the ticket and their host of the evening "the noblest Roman of them all."

75 Years Ago

1938 – October

- ◆ The Annual business meeting of the Federated Church was held in the Vestry on October 3rd. Stephen Boutilier was chosen moderator for the evening. The three branches elected 3 members to serve on the standing committee: Congregational, Ralph Clark, Mrs. Charles Jones, and Templeton Dix; Methodist: James Stockwell, Herbert Jones, and Stephen Boutilier; Federated or Community: Mr. Dunn, Mr. Corwin, and Mr. Nelson. Mrs. Brownell was chosen clerk of Community; Mrs. Boutilier clerk of Methodist; and Mrs. Gilman, clerk of the Congregational group.

The following were elected: Deacon, Ralph Clark; Treasurer, James Stockwell; Auditor, Mr. Merriam; Collector, Mrs. LeGay; Clerk, Mrs. Nelson; Treasurer of Benevolences, Miss Dunn; SS Superintendent, Mr. Tupper; Choir leader, Mr. Bean; Ushers, Mr. Hunt and Mr. Edmund Bean.

- ◆ The regular fair for November has been called off by the Ladies Circle.

50 Years Ago

1963 – October

- ♦ The 41st Annual meeting of the Federated Church was held on October 5th. Mr. W. Earl Appleby was recalled as our Pastor with a raise in salary from \$45 to \$52.50/week. The board of directors was given authority to see that a new furnace be installed in the new parsonage. Treasurer's report: Checking account balance: \$339.61; Building Fund: \$283.73; Deposit from sale of (old) parsonage: \$7,093.92. James G. Stockwell was elected to a five year term as Church Historian (a new position).

25 Years Ago

1988 – October

- ♦ Special Missions for 1988 raised a total of \$2,026.18. Pledges were \$13,411. The Church council consisted of Moderator, Martha Hubley; Clerk, Winifred Stone; Treasurer, Robert Farmer; SS Superintendent, Jean Wynn; Sr. Deacon, Jill Seldon Riggles; Sr. Trustee, Rowena Robertson; Youth fellowship, Nancy Robertson; Women's Fellowship, Arlene Williams; Music, Janet Bishop.

10 Years Ago

2003 – October

- ♦ The Women's Fellowship heard a talk by John Polanoqicz, President and CEO of Marlboro/UMA Hospital who spoke about the programs they offer.
- ♦ Choir Appreciation Sunday was October 19th with special music.
- ♦ The Pastor's anniversary potluck supper was held on 10/4/03.
- ♦ Fall cleanup was on October 18th.
- ♦ Quotes are being obtained to upgrade the Vestry flooring.

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.

Musings

We are here! We have been there! And we will be somewhere else? We look back to understand what is now and when and what is next. We debate and try to search beyond the windows of now to glimpse the future.

A spinning globe ever circling a flaming orb producing light and heat, night and day, seasons and time. Sustaining a variety of life forms suspended in various stages of development.

The past is done, the future a vision and the now for living, in a myriad of ways, that finite life span allotted to us. So fleeting is time yet so eternal as well. We have divided it into bits of seconds to infinite light years in an effort to account for the reasons possible (if any) for our existence.

Individually our time (life span) is bonded by and influenced by both past and future. History, family trees, genes, etc. identify us. Our roots factor in and determine what we look like, what our interests are, where we live, how we react to our surroundings and ecology, thereby making us individually unique.

Uniqueness leads to differences, differences lead to variety, variety provides options, options lead to choices, and choice produces a conglomeration of groups of individuals with communal identity.

Look at geography, history, science, technology – all necessities of humanity – all in common yet separate. Society is formed.

Air, land, water, and food producing ability have bound us into tribal community, into regional sectors, into nations; different in appearance, organization, provision gathering and providing us with society, simultaneously creating individuality and community, in an ever expanding population requiring increasing demands for living, working and playing spaces.

Final destination? Who knows for sure? We know stars die (our sun is a star) and will eventually cool down. Its gravitational pull will weaken as it eventually burns down and finally out. Its planets will cool down and freeze, moving further away from the sun's diminishing gravitational pull, or maybe our entire solar system may be swallowed in a black hole!

In astronomical time? Not soon, but the laws of nature will prevail. However with ever increasing technology and the means, perhaps another planet "Earth" will be found, we will have the abilities to move onto it and start over, and again say "there we were, here we are now, and What is our future?"

The Bible says our planet was formed to evolve, using all the elements, or building blocks of matter and be ready to sustain human life, the rest becomes natural and maybe not so natural history.



Our life spans are too short to comprehend it all. Our self-importance, our present status seeking is quite laughable in perspective. Nonetheless, in the mean time, the Lord provides quite adequately.

“Thank you Lord for a lifetime!”

Martha Hubley
FCC Columnist

Stewardship & Growth Committee Report



“We” as individuals and “we” as a committee feel we have something very unique and precious in our church – there is not a doubt in our minds about this!

We want to share it with others. We want to reach out to members of our church family who we have not seen over the past couple of years. We want to reach out to new people - to invite them to come and see what we are all about.

Part of our “job” is to explore the ways to reach out to the community. As we meet each month, we brainstorm our ideas and then shape them so we can accomplish this mission. A “First Community Church of Southborough” informational brochure has been in the works for a while and we are ready to move forward and seek outside help to complete it. Newspaper articles, small dinners open to the community, and a Facebook page have also been put on the table. We reach out to you, our extended church family to share with us any ideas you might have and welcome your thoughts.

We are also working on some fundraising ideas to help raise money for the General Fund. We are going to give our “online” yard sale another try with craigslist.org. L’il Shoppe, your Sunday morning stop for homemade baked goods (among other items) still attracts the connoisseurs of “goodies.” If you feel a sudden urge to make your favorite chocolate chip cookies or banana bread for your family, maybe you could double the recipe and drop some off to sell at L’il Shoppe. “Click to Donate” is still a work in progress for our website too.

As we move into November and December, we are reminded of how thankful we are for each other. We are family – we share a love for each other and for a God who loves us just as we are. We are the “Little Church with the Big Heart.”

2013 Stewardship & Growth Committee

David Crane, Cheryl Holmes, Darlene Sanderson, David Sickles, Dianne Simmons and Sharon Willman

Women's Fellowship

"Bless the Lord, all his works in all places of his dominion; bless the Lord O my Soul."
Psalm 103:22

The Women's Fellowship gathered on Tuesday, September 17 for our first meeting of the fall season, sharing a delicious potluck supper. Pastor Paul was working at the church so we invited him to join us for dinner and give the blessing for the food.

After dinner, we had a very productive business meeting getting right to work on our shut-in list, which is updated every year. Sandy McKeen offered to print out new copies of the revised list. Thanks Sandy.

We made plans for our November "Sunshine Baskets." We will need fifteen baskets, small or medium size, with a handle. If anyone in the church has any baskets that they would like to donate, please leave them in the kitchen anytime before November.

December will be here before we know it, so the Women's Fellowship is announcing now that we will again have our Christmas Table Fundraiser on the first three Sundays of December (1, 8, 15). We will be having our Christmas Party on Sunday, December 8. Watch for more details about these events in future newsletters.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 15 at 6:30 PM. Martha Hubley will be leading devotions and Karin Farmer will be providing refreshments.

Mattie Cummings
Secretary

Report Of The Trustees

Moving forward with our list of 'to dos':

- The church has been power washed.
- The shrubs have been trimmed.
- The Women's Fellowship funded a replacement runner for the kitchen - MANY THANKS.
- Active exploration of the water problem outside the kitchen – three quotes and resolutions have been obtained.
- An electrician has repaired all the outside lights (on the sign, the church, and the parking lot).





These Feet Were Made For Walkin'

And that's just what they did!

The Jimmy Fund/Dana Farber Boston Marathon walk this year was going to be different. After the tragic events of the April Boston Marathon Run, there was an initial larger rush to register for the September 8 walk to show that no one was going to stop this wonderful cause.

As usual, our calendar girl, Dianne, was quick to register and was invited to join the Sean Collier team in memory of the MIT officer killed in April. Sean had been a strong supporter, and I believe walker, of the Marathon walk. By the time, I decided to test my stamina (and weakened ankle) again, at the end of August, over 70 had joined the Collier team and over \$50,000 had been pledged in his name.

Marathon Eve, Dianne invited Cheryl & I and a few supporters to TJ's on the Hopkinton/Ashland line for a carbohydrate fest and pep rally. The next morning I picked Dianne up and we were off to the hill town and the starting gate. The Collier Team wanted us all to start together, so instead of our preferred 5:30 AM start time, we started at 6:39 AM. But first, a professional photographer was on hand to get some great shots of us together. Arrangements had also been made for a police car to escort the team for the entire distance in recognition of Collier's occupation.

The day dawned beautiful and in the 70's. We walked mostly 20 minute miles with healthy snacks, Gatorade, water and "Johnny on the Spots" frequently available. While the media indicated there would be tighter security, we did not experience that.

Dianne and I calculated that we were like the old "odometers" on cars. That is, our age totaled 120. Most of the other Collier Team members were in their early 20's. Needless to say, they and the police escort were out of sight by the time we reached the Natick line. We reached the 13.1 mile halfway point in Wellesley at 11:17 AM.

At every mile and sometimes even half miles, there were sandwich boards with the picture of someone that has benefited from the wonderful services of Dana Farber along with their stories. It is very inspiring!

Wellesley and Newton are towns that seem to go on forever. When we were part way up the three hills that make up Heartbreak Hill, Jim stopped and had one of the medics put a bandage on a blister that had been forming on his left foot. Unfazed, we continued on our way to "The Heights" at Boston College. Once past BC, the course became very urban with the trolley line in the middle of the road.

The famous Citgo Sign finally appeared when we were down to only about 2 or 3 miles. Believe it or not, the skyscrapers don't appear until about 1 mile to go. When we got to the 25 mile marker, we pointed out the Hancock Tower and observed how much further than 1.2 miles away it appeared. We crossed the finish line at Copley Square at 4:45 PM with



the bands playing and the DJ cheering us on. About 50 young kids were also cheering and giving us “high fives.” Various sponsors had food available to satisfy our hunger, but after all the choices along the route, we really didn’t need much more. Dianne’s son in law, Jim, picked us up, the Patriots game having conveniently ended about 45 minutes earlier.

When I stepped in the house, I hollered to Cheryl, “Honey, I’m dead!” I did get to work the next day and felt some muscle aches into the early afternoon. By evening I was feeling pretty revived but did need Cheryl’s nursing services to clean a huge blister on the bottom of my foot. Her hope was that by doing the Marathon four days before going on our vacation, we would have a “slower” vacation with less hikes, etc. That didn’t happen!!!

To all who supported us both financially and in prayer we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Dianne Simmons & Jim Holmes



Spiritual Study & Growth Group

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

This fall Reverend Sanderson is leading us in a study of the psychological and spiritual dimensions of both stress and anxiety.

We all live with stress. As we are discovering, stress can arise from external factors, internal factors, or a combination of both. This past month we have been exploring how the brain experiences and processes stress, and the various ways that stress weakens or damages our body and our immune system.

With regard to anxiety, which is similar to but different from stress, studies show that anxiety is one of the most common and crippling psychological problems, which are experienced by children, adolescents, and adults. We are exploring the difference between normal or healthy anxiety and the kind that seriously interferes with our life. We will explore the symptoms and dynamics of generalized anxiety disorder, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and various fears and phobias because the first step in addressing a problem is admitting it and naming it.

In addition to understanding the various types of psychotherapeutic and pharmacological treatments that currently utilized, including cognitive behavior therapy and psychodynamic psychotherapy, we will explore the psychological and spiritual roots of these disorders. We will especially focus on what our Christian faith and other spiritual traditions like Tibetan Buddhism have to say about this troubling psychic experience, specifically whether anxiety arises when we are living our life out of the wrong “center.”

The group meets Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30 PM in the Vestry. We will meet on October 3, 10, 24 and November 7, 14, 21.

The group is open to all.

Report Of The Diaconate

The Deacons sponsored Rally Sunday on September 15 this year. This new date of the second Sunday, not the traditional first Sunday after Labor Day seemed to go well with good attendance. The Diaconate voted to hold Rally Sunday again next year on the second Sunday after Labor Day – So “Save the Date” of September 14, 2014. A delicious ham dinner was the entrée for the event. Our many thanks to all who provided side dishes and desserts and/or helped to set up or clean up on that day.

Straight Ahead Ministries is our Mission for the month of October. Read more about that worthwhile Mission elsewhere in the Newsletter.

The date for the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service is set for Tuesday, November 26 at 7:30 PM. It will be held at St Mark’s Church and we hope that you will be able to attend.

From The Desk Of The Collector



The Newsletter Editor (aka, my wife) asked me if I wanted to see what I wrote for last year’s October Newsletter. I told her “No, I’d like to try to keep it original.” But...there isn’t much different to write.

With the end of September, I still have to dig out and dust off “Old Faithful,” my ancient typewriter, to type up the pledge statements because I haven’t yet caved into the technological advances of Church Collector’s software.

Therefore, by the end of this month those who have pledged should have their statements through September 30 in hand. And you know what we’d like you to do if you aren’t current on your contributions. Hint: It’s green and has the likeness of Hamilton or one of our presidents on it. Or even better that old lightning bug, Franklin. If you think I may have erred on your statement, please bring it to my attention. “To err is human, to forgive, divine.” And for those of you pledging for 2014, I have a surprise for you but you’ll have to wait until mid-December to learn what that is!

Thank you.

Jim Holmes
Collector

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.

MISSIONS -- JANUARY – SEPTEMBER 2013				
MISSIONS	COLLECTED	DISBURSED	TO BE COLLECTED	TO BE DISBURSED
“Sponsorship of Tenzin Dekyi” The Tibet Fund	\$260.00	\$260.00		
Assabet Valley Pastoral Counseling	\$200.00	\$200.00		
Abby’s House	\$325.00	\$325.00		
Worcester County Food Bank	\$300.00	\$300.00		
Southborough Food Pantry	\$100.00	\$100.00		
“Tools of Hope & Blankets” Church World Service	\$250.00	\$250.00		
The One Fund Boston	\$450.00	\$450.00		
Heifer Project	\$325.00	\$325.00		
Rape Crisis Center	\$226.00	\$250.00	\$24.00	
Haiti – “His Royal Ministry”	\$300.00	\$300.00		
“Stop Girl Trafficking Project” American Himalayan Foundation	\$190.00			\$190.00
TOTALS	\$2,926.00	\$2,760.00	\$24.00	\$190.00

From The Editor

The deadline for the November 2013 Newsletter will be **Sunday, October 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

Dear Friends at First Community Church,

Thank you for your warm welcome to me and your generous support of Heifer. It was a real pleasure to be with you.

Most of the money Heifer receives to make possible the mission of ending hunger and poverty comes from people of faith like yourselves. Families and communities in far flung places thank you for the opportunity to grow into good and generous lives.

May God richly bless all you do.

Reverend Marvin J. Caldwell
Volunteer for Faith Community Outreach
Heifer International



From Our Members

Dear Friends at First Community Church,

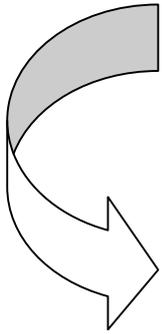
I just want you to know how grateful I am for your prayers and good wishes. I know that you have heard that presently I'm in full remission from my cancer. I'm hopeful that I will stay that way for a long time to come. Your prayers truly work miracles.

Thank you all and God bless you all.

Love,
Dennis Roy

With Our Special Thanks To --

- ◆ The Diaconate for organizing Rally Day, our traditional "beginning of a new Church year," Many thanks to everyone who brought a side dish and dessert to compliment the ham supplied by the Diaconate - A meal fit for a special day! Thanks also to those who helped to set up or clean up too.



LOOKING AHEAD

Annual Church Pie Sale
Saturday, November 23



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
Beth Hook	25 th
Bob L'Heureux	30 th

Anniversaries

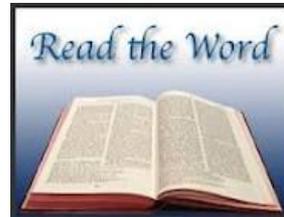
Karin & Bob Farmer	8 th
Susan & Lou Elias	9 th



"then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind." *Philippians 2:2*

Lay Leaders

October 6 - Joyce Harrington
October 13 - Sandy McKeen
October 20 - Dianne Simmons
October 27 - Barbara Crane



Greeters

October 6 - Dianne Simmons
October 13 - Barbara Crane
October 20 - Cathy Ten Eyck
October 27 - Beverly Lees

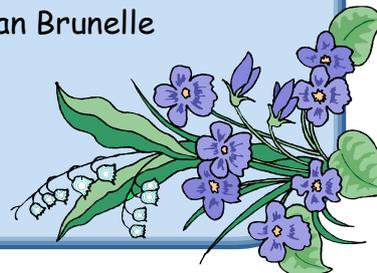
Coffee Hour Hosts

October 6 - Karin Farmer & Helen Varney
October 13 - Sandy & Scott McKeen
October 20 - Garcia Passley & Roy Pinnock
October 27 - Beverly Lees & Pat Grogan



Memorial Flowers

October 6 - Cheryl & Jim Holmes
October 13 -
October 20 - Joan Brunelle
October 27 -



Deacons for October

Garcia Passley & Bob Farmer

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>October 2013</h1> <h2>Missions – Straight Ahead Ministries</h2>		1 2:30 PM Spiritual Exploration Reading Group 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Diaconate Meeting	2	3 7:00 PM Spiritual Study & Growth Group	4	5
		6 <i>RENEWAL OF PASTOR & CONGREGATION COVENANT</i> 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service <i>Sacrament of Holy Communion</i> Coffee Hour following Worship Service	7	8 2:30 PM Spiritual Exploration Reading Group 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Trustees' Meeting	9	10 7:00 PM Spiritual Study & Growth Group
13 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	14  <i>COLUMBUS DAY</i>	15 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Women's Fellowship	16	17 7:00 PM Church Council	18	19
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 2:30 PM Spiritual Exploration Reading Group 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:15 PM Stewardship & Growth Committee Meeting	23	24 7:00 PM Spiritual Study & Growth Group	25	26
27 <i>REFORMATION SUNDAY</i> 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	28	29 2:30 PM Spiritual Exploration Reading Group 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	30	31 7:00 PM Spiritual Study & Growth Group 		