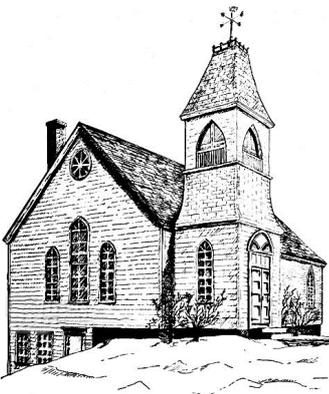


First Community Church

Newsletter

November 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

“**A**t least once every two or three years I preach a sermon about the loaves and the fishes. You know the story (or at least you should). Jesus has been out in the wilderness preaching and teaching all day to a crowd of thousands. Night is about to fall. The disciples tell Jesus that he needs to send the crowds home because it will soon be dark and they have nothing to feed them.

Jesus asks his disciples how much food they have. They tell him that they have a couple of loaves of bread and a few fish. This is barely enough to feed Jesus and the disciples, let alone assuage the hunger of thousands. But Jesus does not turn the people away. He tells the disciples to go ahead and feed them.

The disciples must have thought that Jesus was crazy. How can you feed thousands with a few fish and a couple of loaves of bread? But they trust Jesus. They divide their meager rations into twelve equal portions and start to serve the multitudes. They become increasingly amazed that as they share what they have with the crowd, the little they have seems to grow. When they have finished distributing what they have, they are stunned to find that not only have all the people been fed; there is more left over at the end than they had at the beginning.

I thought of this passage of scripture just last Saturday following our “Classic Ham & Bean Supper.” This was the first of what is hoped to be many fund-raising suppers put on by our church. Thanks to Darlene Sanderson and Dianne Simmons who planned the dinner, shopped, cooked, decorated, and served, and thanks to several guests who contributed some of the food and helped to serve and to clean up afterwards, the dinner was a great success. A good time was had by all!

To facilitate the planning and food preparation, Darlene and Dianne limited the supper to 30 guests. Despite my protestations that we should charge somewhere between \$12 and \$15 per

person, in order not to price the meal out of the range of anyone, they decided to charge only \$10. Not bad for all the ham, homemade beans, coleslaw, rolls, and apple crisp with ice cream you can eat!

On Saturday, while Darlene and Dianne were bustling about the kitchen and setting up the vestry in preparation for the event, I was in my office working on my sermon. I was put in charge of the money. Now I'm no mathematician, but if the total take is \$300 and if we have to buy the ham, beans, bacon, etc., I estimated that we would be lucky to clear \$200. I was prepared to reassure the planners who had worked so hard that in addition to a wonderful evening of fun and fellowship, \$200 would be an important contribution to our General Fund.

Imagine my astonishment when I added up the total at the end of the evening and discovered that there was \$392 in the envelope, approximately twice what I had anticipated. How did that happen? I was quite sure that no one had sneaked into my office, found the envelope, and slipped in a little extra money. I immediately declared (which is my right as a minister) that it was a miracle. Perhaps not as big a miracle as Jesus pulled off with the loaves and the fishes, but hey, he was Jesus.

Miracles come in many different packages. Several people paid for tickets even though they couldn't attend. Several members and friends (who are listed and thanked later on in this newsletter) contributed food items. Even though Darlene and Dianne obsessed all afternoon over whether there would be enough food, there was plenty of everything left over (perhaps that also qualifies as a miracle). Even after selling the leftovers to guests who were only too happy to take a meal home for later in the week, I still don't see how it added up to \$392. I still think it's a miracle.

As we enter into the stewardship and Thanksgiving seasons in the life of our church, I suspect there is a lesson in this event for us. First, if we do what we can, even though it may not seem like much, it will have a much bigger impact than we realize. Second, as the Boston Red Sox have taught us, as a team we can accomplish much more than we can as individuals. In other words, the whole is more than the sum of the parts. Third, if we offer what we can in the service of a worthy cause, God appreciates our effort, blesses it, and somehow manages to give it a little boost. Finally, we need to realize that we have a lot of friends. Almost half of the guests who attended the supper and who helped supply some of the food were not members of our church. They were also not strangers, since we didn't advertise to the general public. They are friends. We would not be who we are without these treasured friends.

I believe God can take the meager resources of our little church and make something special from it. We just have to give what we can.

As we enter into the Thanksgiving season, we should pause to reflect. How much do we need to have before our hearts are touched with gratitude?

As we enter into our stewardship season, we should pause to reflect. How much do we need to have before we share what we have with our church?

I think the answer to both of these questions is much less than we may think.

Yours in Christ,
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!

Stewardship Sunday

Watch the mail the next few weeks for a letter from your Pastor and the Stewardship Committee inviting you to renew (and hopefully increase) your pledge for the coming year. Bring your pledge card to church on Sunday, November 24, Stewardship Sunday, or mail it back to us by that date so we can begin to prepare our budget for the coming year.

We traditionally celebrate Stewardship Sunday on Thanksgiving Sunday because of the deep connection between Thanksgiving and Christian stewardship. As we gather together to thank God for our many blessings, we also renew our commitment to share our time, talent, and treasure with our church. This is a very important day in the life of our church. We invite you to be with us as we celebrate what we have in this church and as we lay the foundation for the coming year.

A Service Of Thanksgiving

This year St. Mark's Church will be hosting the annual United Parishes of Southborough Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 26 at 7:00 PM. Clergy and Laity from all of the United Parishes member churches participate in this service and is sponsored by the United Parishes Lay Council.

This is always a wonderful service and a true celebration of not only Thanksgiving but also the wonderful ecumenical spirit we enjoy in this community. Please take a moment out of a busy week to remember and celebrate all we have to be thankful for as individuals, as families, as a church, and as a nation.



Missions Offering

For the month of November, we reach out with our gifts to support the International Mission of World Vision.



World Vision®

Building a better world for children

Our Vision

Our vision for every child, life in all its fullness.

Our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so.

Our Mission



Who we are

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian charity organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice.

Who we serve

We work in nearly 100 countries, serving all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

Why we serve

Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people.

What does World Vision do?

We provide emergency assistance to children and families affected by natural disasters and civil conflict, work with communities to develop long-term solutions to alleviate poverty, and advocate for justice on behalf of the poor.

How We Work

When our work began in 1950, our approach was basic. We provided food and shelter for children in orphanages through child sponsorship. Over the years we've learned the complexity of finding long-term, meaningful solutions to poverty.

We work in the most difficult contexts, in some of the poorest countries. But we believe in children. And when we partner with children and families, we can help them transform their communities.

Our Core Values

We Are Christian

We acknowledge one God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In Jesus Christ, the love, mercy and grace of God are made known to us and all people. From this overflowing abundance of God’s love, we find our call to ministry. We proclaim together, “Jesus lived, died, and rose again. Jesus is Lord.” We desire him to be central in our individual and corporate life.

We Are Committed to the Poor

We are called to serve the neediest people of the earth, to relieve their suffering and to promote the transformation of their condition of life. We stand in solidarity in a common search for justice. We seek to understand the situation of the poor and work alongside them toward fullness of life. We share our discovery of eternal hope in Jesus Christ.



We Value People

We regard all people as created and loved by God. We give priority to people before money, structure, systems, and other institutional machinery.

We Are Stewards

The resources at our disposal are not our own. They are a sacred trust from God through donors on behalf of the poor. We are faithful to the purpose for which those resources are given and manage them in a manner that brings maximum benefit to the poor.

We are stewards of God's creation. We care for the earth and act in ways that will restore and protect the environment. We ensure that our development activities are ecologically sound.

Our Impact

Poverty is complex, and so are our solutions.

With 44,000 staff members worldwide, we bring sponsors and donors alongside children and communities in nearly 100 countries. The map below shows our work across issues — from health to disaster response — integrating lasting solutions to the root causes of poverty and sharing God’s hope for a brighter future. And we stretched donations with grants and corporate gifts-in-kind to make every dollar donated



**4.2 million children
benefiting from sponsorship**

1.1 million of these children were supported by U.S. donors in 2012; the rest were supported by World Vision sponsors worldwide in 2012.



1,600 communities served

391 of these programs were supported by U.S. donors in 2012; the rest were supported by World Vision donors worldwide in 2012.



**87 major disaster and
emergency responses**

Achievements made possible in 2012 with the support of World Vision donors all around the world.

Our Work Is...

Child Focused - Children live in families, in communities, in countries. We work on every level to achieve our goal of child well being – from international activism to checking in on children face-to-face.



Community Based - Our local staff members begin working in a community by asking a lot of questions - finding out what problems the community and especially the children see. Together, we come up with a plan, decide on ways to evaluate and measure success, and get to work.

Integrated & Connected - Some organizations focus in on just one issue. Not us. When we address the root causes of poverty and injustice in a community, we design integrated programs that address every piece of the puzzle.

Sponsorship-Centered - We are unique because while sponsorship is the foundation of our work, it is not the only thing we do. Sponsorship gives us a long-term relationship with children and sponsors, and a long-term funding base that we leverage to.

Long-Term - Some organizations come in for a couple years and then leave when the funding runs out. Not us. Addressing the root causes of poverty requires a marathon, not a sprint. We not only empower the community, but we also serve as a catalyst for change, bringing together local churches, businesses, governments, community-based organization, and other international organizations.

Inspired by Jesus' Example - We love the way Jesus cared for the poor and oppressed, the way he showed us how to listen to children, and how to look out for widow and orphans. As a Christian organization, we serve all people, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, or creed.

Measurable - Measuring the progress of our development work toward community change is essential. We design each program to measure specific indicators to track our progress toward child well-being. We measure where things are at the start by carrying out a baseline survey. We monitor progress along the way. After 3-5 years, we re-measure those indicators to compare with the baseline. All along the way, we share our results with the community and community stakeholders so that they can be aware of what change is being reported, and validate it. The community also provides us with context through qualitative interviews and focus group discussions.



Financial Accountability

At World Vision, we are very careful with how we use the gifts our donors entrust to us because we know that every resource given to us can transform a real child's life.

We're always trying to keep our overhead rate low. In the past year, we used **85%** of our total operating expenses for programs that directly benefit children, families, and communities.

Annual Sale

Saturday, November 23, 2013

If You Bake It, They Will Sell It

“Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds.”

Our First Community Church guys are lined up, ready to brave the elements, the fierce crowds, whatever comes their way - “Pie Hawkers” Scott McKeen, Bob L’Heureux, Bob Farmer, Dave Crane and Jim Holmes are ready to face the mass of holiday shoppers who wait for all those homemade pies made by the wonderful chefs at First Community Church of Southborough.



Our annual Church Pie Sale, will be held on Saturday, November 23, from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM or until we are “sold out.” Just in time for Thanksgiving Day, the pie sale is held at Mauro's (the old McCarthy's i.e. “The Spa”) in downtown Southborough with tables set up outdoors.

A few guidelines from two dozen years of pie sales:

Mark the type of pie with a strong adhesive label. If food allergies are an issue, it should be so indicated (such as with or without nuts). Saran-wrap or otherwise cover each pie. Please deliver your pies early to the Spa to give us the maximum opportunity to sell. Our largest clientele tends to be between 8:00 - 10:00 AM. Or make arrangements to leave your pies in the Church kitchen the day before the sale. One of the official salesmen will do a last Church call at 8:30 AM the day of the sale too.

Our customers who have bought pies from our previous sales know just what they are looking for -- blueberry, lemon meringue, banana cream, pecan, and the always-popular “apple pie.” All breads are an added delight.

Please think about what you could bake for the sale and then consider doubling it. The pie sale is one of the biggest fundraisers in our Church. Last year \$755 was raised.

Mrs. PPW (Pushy Pastor’s Wife) alias Darlene Sanderson, has again offered to coordinate the list of baked goods needed. If you are able to bake anything (including cookies, breads, apple crisp, etc.) please tell Darlene. If you don’t, she will be looking for you!

Photo Courtesy of Linda Hubley, Editor and Photographer of the former Southboroughnews.com

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.

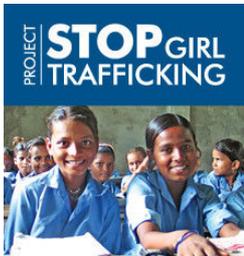
As the German poet Rainer Maria Rilke has said, "Live your questions now, and perhaps even without knowing it, you will live along some distant day into your answers."

The Spiritual Reading Group meets Tuesday afternoons from 2:30-4:00 PM in the Vestry. We will meet on November 5, 12, and 19. Everyone is welcome.

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 October 31, to the Missions that we have chosen to support this year.

<p><i>American Himalayan Foundation</i></p>  <p>PROJECT STOP GIRL TRAFFICKING</p> <p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>\$225.00</p>	 <p>Straight Ahead MINISTRIES</p> <p>OFFERING KIDS AWAY OUT</p> <p>OCTOBER</p> <p>\$450.00</p>
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The Advent Event **POTLUCK** *Supper*

& Tree Lighting Sing-A-Long

It's that time again! Mark your calendars! Saturday, December 7, 2013 at 6:00 PM! Your choir will once again be hosting The Advent Event and we promise to put you in the holiday spirit!



There will be a potluck supper followed by a Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long in the sanctuary with our new tradition of the “lighting of the First Community Church Christmas Tree.”

After we have made our “Joyful Noises” you will be treated to dessert and “our something special” in the Vestry. Food, fun, and fellowship – Come and join the First Community Church Choir as we gather to celebrate the beginning of the Advent season!

Please sign up on the posted sheet in the Vestry and let us know what food you will be bringing (entree, appetizer, side dish, or salad - whatever your specialty is). Desserts and drinks will be provided by the Choir.

If you would like a ride to and from the Advent Event, don't hesitate to call Jim and Cheryl Holmes (508-460-0142). We want you to be there and share in this special event with us.



Report Of The Diaconate

Mark your calendar for the United Parishes Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 26, 7:00 PM, at St. Mark's Church. It is always a wonderful service when “We gather together” with all the other churches in Southborough and raise praise and thanksgiving in one united voice.

Speaking of saving the date, mark your 2014 calendar for Rally Sunday, September 14, 2014, which is the second Sunday after Labor Day. This past Rally Sunday was held on the second Sunday after Labor Day and we feel that the second Sunday worked better than the traditional first Sunday after Labor Day.

Our November Mission is World Vision.

The Diaconate wishes to extend a heartfelt thanks to Pat Grogan for all the years of being our “Flower Girl” and driving from Worcester to Hopkinton, to Southborough, and then back to Worcester again to pick up and arrange the flowers for our altar. Thank you Pat, for your dedication to a time-consuming effort and a job very well done! The Diaconate has not quite decided how we will go forward with the task of picking up the flowers without Pat. For now through the end of 2013, the Diaconate will take turns picking up and arranging the flowers for the people who have already signed up to donate the flowers. None of the Deacons feel talented in the art of flower arranging, but we will give it our best shot and ask that the congregation please bear with us. The artificial flowers will be used on days on which no one has signed up.

The next meeting of the Diaconate is Tuesday, December 3 at 6:30 PM.

To Honor A Friend

Blood Drive – Saturday, November 23

The Dana Farber Cancer Institute and Brigham and Women's Hospital bloodmobile will be coming to Southborough, Saturday, November 23 from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM in the parking lot behind the Town Hall and Pilgrim Church.

This blood drive is being held in honor of our good friend Stephen Coldwell as a way to give back to the hospitals that are helping him battle brain cancer. Appointments are recommended and can be scheduled in advance by email to unclestephensblooddrive@gmail.com or by phone, 508-709-5330.

We are also asking for donations to benefit the Southborough Food Pantry. Steve has been involved with the food pantry for many years. You can find an updated list of the most needed items by visiting www.southboroughfoodpantry.org. The food pantry needs items to help restock the shelves during the busy holiday season.

Thanksgiving is a time of sharing and being thankful for all that we have. What better way is there to spend a small amount of your time during the Thanksgiving season than by donating your blood to benefit cancer patients and a few food items to help those in need in our community?

Classic Ham & Bean Supper – A Great Success!



Thanks to the untiring efforts of Darlene Sanderson and Dianne Simmons, our two planners and hostesses, our Ham & Bean Fundraising Supper on Saturday, November 2 was a resounding success! Even after expenses, we cleared \$392 for the General Fund.

Darlene and Dianne would like to thank the following angels whose donations helped to keep down our overhead:

Mary Coldwell - apple crisp & Tupperware for take-home meals
 Karin Farmer - coleslaw
 Martha Hubley - apple cider
 Jim Holmes - apples
 Fran & Roger Rosenquist - ice cream
 Women's Fellowship - paper goods
 Bob L'Heureux, who at risk of life and limb, turned on the oven
 Mattie Cummings, Karin Farmer, Marlene Joe, and all the other guests who helped serve and/or clean up.

Our special thanks to Framingham Bakery, who provided us with the rolls, and Roche Bros for giving us a \$75 gift card which we used toward the purchase of the ham. If you happen to frequent either of these stores, please remember to thank the store manager for their generosity.

Look for more of these suppers—with different menus—in the future!

A Blast From The Past

125 Years Ago

1888 – November

Lawlessness in Cordaville: Last Sunday evening several brutes in human form gathered about Cyrus Hyde's milk teams for the purpose, it was thought, of stealing milk, as he had lost cans of milk from his wagons many times before.

Some of them were evidently under the influence of bad rum and inclined to be noisy and troublesome. Where upon our efficient constable, F.A. Dorr, was called upon to quell the disturbance. In the meantime, before Mr. Dorr's arrival, someone fired a shot which Mr. Hyde thought was for him. Mr. H. lost no time in getting under cover but was followed into the milk car by one of the number with revolver in hand. But the night being dark, Mr. H. succeeded in eluding his pursuer.

Soon Mr. Dorr arrived upon the scene, but in the kindness of his heart, he took neither stick nor stone to defend himself. With little thinking that he had murderers to deal with, Mr. Dorr proceeded to take one of the number, John O'Donnell, to the lockup, when James Rafferty interfered. Rafferty struck F.W. Champagne (stable keeper) over the head with a bottle of whiskey, smashing it and called loudly to Mr. Dorr to let O'Donnell go or he would "kill him."

They had not proceeded far in the direction of the lockup before Rafferty fired at Mr. Dorr, placing the revolver within three feet of his head. The ball glazed the right side of his head making a slight wound. After the shot was fired, the crowd ran away and Rafferty struck Mr. D. twice in the head causing him to let O'Donnell go.

Rafferty is still at large; warrants are issued for his arrest.

100 Years Ago

1913 – November

- ♦ The "Days-of-the-week" bazaar held in the vestry of the M.E. Church was a grand success socially and financially. On the last night, an oyster supper was served. There was a candy table, which was quite attractive.

75 Years Ago

1938 – November

- ♦ Mrs. Clara Chamberlain entered into rest on November 4th at the home of her sister in Brighton. Joining the Congregational Church in July 1903, she was the oldest living member in terms of membership in the Church as Mrs. Annie Boutilier's death a few days previous gave her that distinction. She was buried in Westboro.
- ♦ Howard S. Hunt has been re-elected janitor of the Federated Church.

50 Years Ago

1963 – November

- ◆ The board of directors appointed the Church choir as an “Organ Ways and Means Committee” to look into the purchase of an organ. This came about after “A major crisis presented itself to the people of the Church when the organist promised to resign if nothing was done about the 3-manual Mason and Hamlin Organ, which had been donated to them by a Hopkinton Church some ten years before.” Also planned was a youth retreat for January.
- ◆ The Church school celebrated Harvest Home Day on November 3rd. Canned goods and vegetables were sent to Hillside School for Boys in Marlboro.
- ◆ The Women’s Fellowship held their annual fair with the theme “Holiday Fun” from November 8th-9th.

10 Years Ago

2003 – November

- ◆ The Women’s Fellowship prepared fruits and goody baskets for their shut-in friends and helped with the all-church Christmas Fair.
- ◆ A “Cabaret Evening” with Dorothy Miller on vocals and Michael Larson on piano was held in the sanctuary November 9th.
- ◆ The Board of Christian Education held a Thanksgiving dinner attended by 12-14 kids.
- ◆ The Southborough Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service was held at our Church.

SOUTHBOROUGH FOOD PANTRY



Please help us help others!

First Community Church Shopping List for November

For the month of November 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.”

Coffee

Instant or Ground Regular



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

Women's Fellowship

*"Be of good courage and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord."
Psalm 31:24*

Under new business at our October meeting, Karin Farmer, a member of the Trustees who is also one of our Women's Fellowship members, brought to our attention a need in the Church to replace the kitchen rug runner and another small rug. The Fellowship was asked if they would be willing to take on meeting this need. After a brief discussion and with willing hearts, we voted on the monies necessary and went to work right away to search out the best deal on replacing the rugs. Make sure to see the end result (new rugs!) in our kitchen and a big thank you to all who helped find, purchase, and put down the new rugs.

On Tuesday, November 19, we will have our meeting at 6:30 PM to make up Sunshine Baskets to distribute to our shut-ins. We are asking for contributions from our church family to help fill these baskets. Some suggested items are small, wrapped baked goods and/or store bought items such as granola bars, candy, wrapped crackers and cheeses, etc. If you have any items, please see Mattie Cummings or Martha Hubley before our November meeting.

Our "Christmas Table" Fundraiser will be held again this year with varied Christmas items for sale on the first three Sundays in December (1, 8, and 15). As in the past, we would appreciate any and all Christmas item donations for the table. See Mattie Cummings or Karin Farmer about any items you want to donate. Marlene Joe will be taking orders again this year for her beautiful Christmas Centerpieces. Shirley Hutchinson has donated some of her great art prints and you will see them for sale at chosen spaces around the church in the month ahead.

December 8 is our date for the Women's Fellowship Christmas Party to be held at the Church. We will meet together at 1:30 PM after Morning Worship Service and Coffee Hour. All women of the Church are invited and as always, we will have our Yankee Gift Swap (\$10.00 limit on gifts).

Mattie Cummings
Secretary



Our heartfelt sympathies reach out to Lou & Jennifer Dundin on the loss of Lou's father, Ronald Louis Dundin who died on October 30 at the age of 77 at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford CT.

Ronald is also survived by his granddaughter Olivia, Lou & Jenn's daughter.

Funeral services were held on Friday, November 8 at St. Mary's Church in Newington CT.

Our love and prayers are with Lou, Jennifer, and Olivia for their great loss.



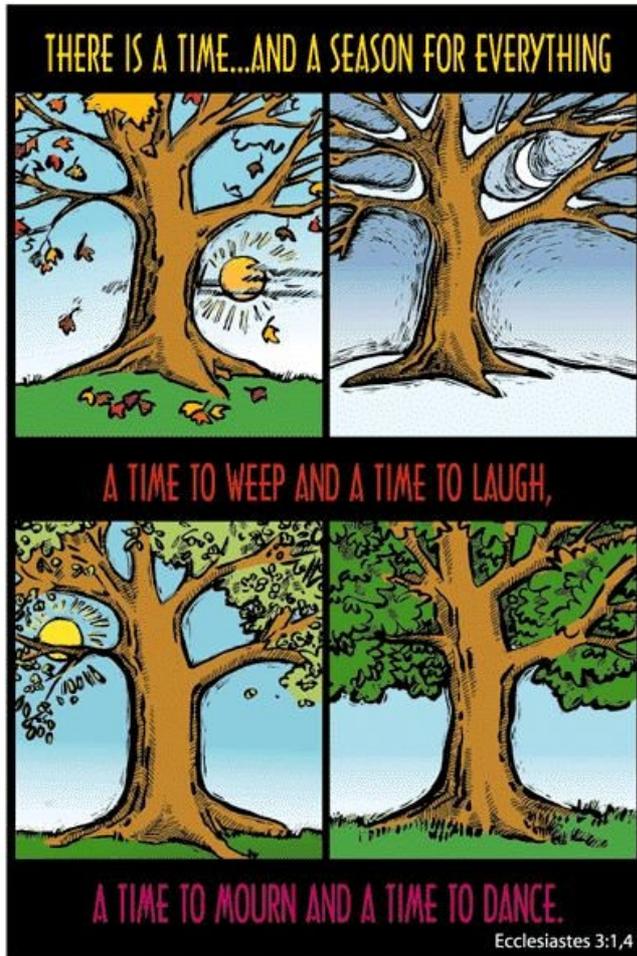
“Just The Facts, Ma’am”

Dave Crane, our Website coordinator, would like to share the facts for the October activity of our Church Internet Ministry.

Most Active Pages	# Of Page Views	Avg Visit Duration
Sermons	57	01:41
Newsletters	35	01:06
Who We Are	19	01:22
Pastor	12	01:00
Most Active States Visiting Our Site	# of Visits	Avg Visit Duration
Massachusetts	52	3:19
Virginia	6	1:31
Florida	3	13:55
Most Active Towns In Mass. Visiting Our Site	# of Visits	Avg Visit Duration
Marlborough	13	5:25
Needham	6	2:10
Cambridge	2	15:00
Framingham	2	5:55
Lowell	2	3:33
Southborough	2	1:17
Northborough	2	9:49
Newton	1	10:26

AUDIO SERMONS (POD CAST)		
Sermon Title	Date Delivered	Number of Downloads
Reformation a Call to Humility	10/27/2013	6
The Power of Prayer – IV: The Hundredth Monkey	10/20/2013	0
The Power of Prayer – III: No Separation	10/13/2013	2
The 13th Disciple	10/06/2013	4
The Power of Prayer – II: Why We Need to Pray	09/29/2013	3
The Power of Prayer – I	09/22/2013	2
Is Something Missing In Your Life?	09/15/2013	4
Learn to Love the Weeds	06/09/2013	25
Recognizing Jesus in Other People	06/02/2013	17
Atheist Don't Have No Song	05/26/2013	16
The Connecting Power of the Holy Spirit	05/19/2013	22
The Response of Faith	05/12/2013	16
Moving Through the Wilderness	04/28/2013	22

Time & Seasons



When God created and set in motion the beginning of our earth, he separated and measured time. His work separated land from water, light from darkness, and heat from cold, which provided habitation for us. We named it time and season. It became reliable and universal in orienting us to self-preservation.

We could see and feel the changes from dark (the absence of light) to light alternating daily on a regular basis, we could understand; we called it day and night.

This alternation produced warmth and cold in a reliable pattern, not only daily, but monthly and quarterly, which we called seasons.

Understanding and utilizing the seasons led to adaptations in various temperature zones on this earth. In our temperate zone at this time of year, it is the fall or autumn season, running from September 21st to December 21st, a transitory unit of time we call fall. This pattern of four seasons marks a year,

another time period necessary for identifying and denoting the passage of time -- a reliable and universal calendar.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 tells us that God's "season" is more than the passage of meteorological season. It pertains to "for everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven."

Nothing is truly new. The new is always linked to the past. "That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already is; and God seeks out what has gone by." Ecclesiastes 3:15

Each of us, every day, awake anew and face a myriad of possibilities worried about what the future will bring? Just be open to it. Trust God, He knows what He's doing and it's for our own benefit in the long run, and in the best of seasons.

Martha Hubley
FCC Columnist

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 have three more meetings scheduled for this fall: November 7, 14, and 21.

The group is open to all.

From The Editor

The deadline for the December 2013 Newsletter will be **Sunday, November 24**. 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



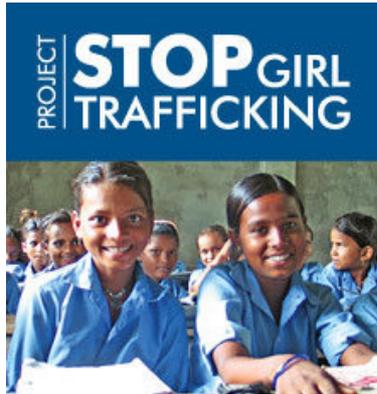
244 Flanders Road
Westborough, MA 01581



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Thank You

From Our Missions



Dear Friends at First Community Church of Southborough,

Thank you so much for your generous gift to the American Himalayan Foundation. As you requested, your kindness will keep girls safe in school.

AHF's Stop Girl Trafficking partnership with the amazing Dr. Aruna Uprety and RHEST keeps Nepali girls from being sold into slavery – young victims of their family's poverty and indebtedness and a caste system indifferent to a girl's value.

On our last trip to Nepal, we were in one of the places where Aruna and her team have just started working, an area notorious for trafficking. The stories have been horrific, but the change in just two years of SGT presence is heartening. In one school we met with 63 SGT girls, all proudly dressed in their blue uniforms. They knew about the danger – one girl, asked what she wants to do, stood up, then burst into tears and said, "I just want to be able to stay home and go to school." Not a single one of their mothers had been to school, but they were all grateful that their daughters would have a "life less difficult than theirs."

And it's thanks to you that the girl who stood up, and 10,000 other girls like her, will be able to go to school, learn about the world – and change it.

Sincerely,

Erica Stone
President



From Our Members

To my very dear First Community friends,

Thank you all so much for the surprise celebration of my 80th birthday during coffee hour on October 27th.

The nicely decorated cake (with ice cream) was delicious and I will keep and cherish for the rest of my days, the card containing all of your warm birthday wishes.

Bob L'Heureux

With Our Special Thanks To --

- ♥ Darlene Sanderson and Dianne Simmons for planning, shopping, and cooking for the “sold out” delicious Ham & Bean Supper on November 2. Thanks also to all those who brought and/or supplied the finishing touches for the feast and to those who helped set up and cleaned up.
- ♥ Nancy Alley who shares her beautiful garden full of magnificent flowers each summer and fall Sunday morning with us – Nature at its best. And our many thanks to Martha Hubley who uses one of her many talents and arranges these colors of summer and fall to grace the altar for all eyes to behold.



Overflowing With Thanks

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*Let us come  
before him with  
thanksgiving.*

Psalm 95:2, NIV

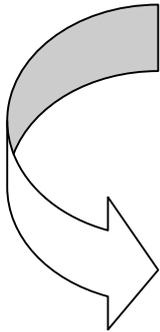
## *Thanksgiving In Other Lands*

*We tend to think of Thanksgiving as a holiday unique to the United States. But America’s neighbors to the north and south celebrated it even earlier than the Pilgrims’ famed meal in 1621.*

*Canada’s first Thanksgiving feast, held by English explorer Martin Frobisher, occurred in Newfoundland in 1578. The country’s Thanksgiving observance is now on the second Monday in October, with holiday fixings that are similar to those enjoyed by Americans.*

*In Mexico in 1598, a large group of explorers, soldiers and Franciscans traveled on sand dunes in what’s now the American Southwest. They were running low on water, so when they reached the Rio Grande, they expressed gratitude to God by feasting on fish, duck and geese. No official date is set for Thanksgiving celebrations in Mexico.*

*People of all nationalities have been giving thanks to God for as long as we’ve been on the earth.*

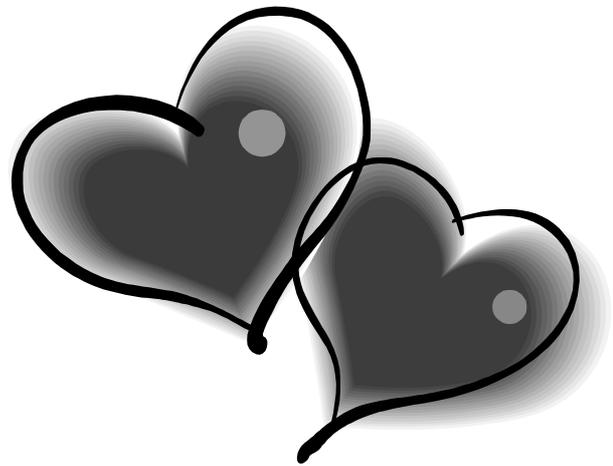


# LOOKING AHEAD

The Advent Potluck & Christmas Tree  
Lighting Event  
Saturday, December 7



## Write down these dates!!



### *Birthdays*

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Shirley Hutchinson | 4 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Beverly Lees       | 12 <sup>th</sup> |
| Austin Renaud      | 13 <sup>th</sup> |
| Mackenzie Renaud   | 13 <sup>th</sup> |
| Earle Watkins      | 17 <sup>th</sup> |
| Garcia Passley     | 20 <sup>th</sup> |
| Dennis Roy         | 20 <sup>th</sup> |
| Ann Deschamps      | 25 <sup>th</sup> |
| Sharon Willman     | 26 <sup>th</sup> |

# CELEBRATIONS

### *Anniversaries*

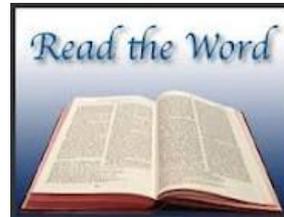
|                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Diane & Ron Sickles      | 8 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Darlene & Paul Sanderson | 18 <sup>th</sup> |



"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

November 3 - Sandy McKeen  
November 10 - Jim Holmes  
November 17 - Karin Farmer  
November 24 - Cheryl Holmes



Greeters

November 3 - Scott McKeen  
November 10 - Karin Farmer  
November 17 - Bob Farmer  
November 24 - Helen Varney

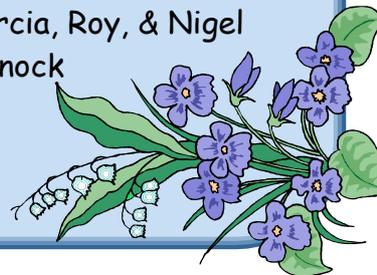
Coffee Hour Hosts

November 3 - Marlene Joe  
November 10 - Mattie & Lee Cummings  
November 17 - Cathy Ten Eyck  
November 24 - Barbara & Dave Crane



Memorial Flowers

November 3 -  
November 10 - Cheryl & Jim Holmes  
November 17 -  
November 24 - Garcia, Roy, & Nigel Pinnock



Deacons for November

Joyce Harrington & Dianne Simmons

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Monday                                                                                                         | Tuesday                                                                                                                         | Wednesday | Thursday                                                                                                                         | Friday | Saturday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <br><b>November 2013</b><br><b>Missions -- World Vision</b>                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                 |           |                                                                                                                                  | 1      | 2<br><br><b>Ham &amp; Bean Supper</b><br>6:00 PM<br><br><i>Fall Back</i><br><small>Daylight Saving Time Ends</small> |
| 3<br>10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal<br>11:00 AM Sunday School<br>11:00 AM Worship Service<br><i>Sacrament of Holy Communion</i><br>Coffee Hour following Worship Service                                                                                               | 4                                                                                                              | 5<br>2:30 PM<br>Spiritual Exploration<br>Reading Group<br>5:00 PM<br>Choir Rehearsal<br>6:30 PM<br>Diaconate Meeting            | 6         | 7<br>7:00 PM<br>Spiritual Study &<br>Growth Group                                                                                | 8      | 9                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 10<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                                                                                                       | 11<br><br><b>Veterans Day</b> | 12<br>2:30 PM<br>Spiritual Exploration<br>Reading Group<br>5:00 PM<br>Choir Rehearsal<br>6:30 PM<br>Trustee's Meeting           | 13        | 14<br>7:00 PM<br>Spiritual Study &<br>Growth Group                                                                               | 15     | 16                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 17<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                                                                                                       | 18                                                                                                             | 19<br>2:30 PM<br>Spiritual Exploration<br>Reading Group<br>5:00 PM<br>Choir Rehearsal<br>6:30 PM<br>Women's<br>Fellowship       | 20        | 21<br>7:00 PM<br>Spiritual Study &<br>Growth Group                                                                               | 22     | 23<br><br><b>Annual Pie Sale</b><br>8:30 AM – 12 PM                                                                                                                                                    |
| 24<br><b>STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY</b><br>&<br><b>THANKSGIVING SUNDAY</b><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><br>*December Newsletter Deadline* | 25                                                                                                             | 26<br><b>United Parishes</b><br><b>Ecumenical</b><br><b>"Service of</b><br><b>Thanksgiving"</b><br>St. Mark's Church<br>7:00 PM | 27        | 28<br><br><b>Thanksgiving</b><br><b>Day</b> | 29     | 30                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |