

First Community Church

Newsletter

May 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

The fifty days between Easter and Pentecost, also known as the Easter season, is a special liturgical season of the year in the life of the church. It is a time when we reflect on the events of Holy Week and the significance of the resurrection. It is a time when we reflect on how the disciples rediscovered Jesus and how their sense of his presence transformed them from disciples into apostles. It is a time for us to reflect on what it means to be both a disciple, a follower of our Lord, and an apostle, one who carries on our Lord's healing and reconciling ministry in the world.

It seems that this year in particular, in the wake of the Boston Marathon bombing, we need to hear the Good News. We need to remember the lessons of Good Friday as we, like the disciples, move forward into life. We need to remember that Good Friday was not only a part of Jesus' life but that "Good Fridays" are integral parts of all our lives. We need to remember, both individually and collectively, that the phoenix can arise from the ashes, that little shoots of life can break through the hard frozen ground, and that, if we have faith, a resurrection can follow a crucifixion.

We also need to remember the lessons of Maundy Thursday when we are passing through "the valley of deep darkness" (which is an alternative translation of "the valley of the shadow of death" in the 23rd Psalm). During these times in our lives we need to turn to each other for the kind of support that only comes through community. We need to remember that on his last night with his disciples Jesus washed their feet. We need to remember the Great Commandment that he left to them: "Love one another as I have loved you." We also need to remember his promise to be with his disciples always, even to the end of time.

The Easter season is a time of hope. It brings a hope that is not grounded in our financial and political systems, which we know are flawed, and our financial and political leaders, who have too often betrayed the trust that was given to them, who have sold out their constituents for thirty pieces of silver (or a whole lot more). It is also not grounded in military power and the illusion

that we can make ourselves invincible. Our hope is grounded in a God who created us and who is constantly working both in us and in the world for health and healing.

I think our nation and our world could learn something from our church. We have a sense of community in our church, the kind of genuine community that appears to be in short supply in places where it is desperately needed. We celebrate diversity. We listen to each other respectfully, even when we disagree about an issue. This stands in stark contrast to the ubiquitous hate rhetoric on the national and international level that I find deeply troubling.

With regard to the Boston Marathon bombing, which shocked and wounded us all, we need to remember that there is a dramatic difference between a fear response and a faith response. This is true both in relation to death and also in relation to life. A crisis, whether it is on an individual or collective level, can bring out the worst in us. Our fear can lead us to become self-centered and selfish, concerned only with ourselves. A survival mentality leads to grasping and to a hardening of our hearts.

A faith response is quite different. A faith response brings out the best in us. It leads us into an increased sensitivity toward those who are in greater need than we. I think of this whenever I think of what the victims of the bombing will face in the days ahead. I also think of it when I reflect on the many ways that our church members reach out to those of our church family who are going through difficult times.

It is interesting that in the last hours that he spent with his disciples Jesus did not tell them to take care of themselves. He told them to take care of each other. He told them to take care of the world. Then he showed them what it means to give one's life for one's friends.

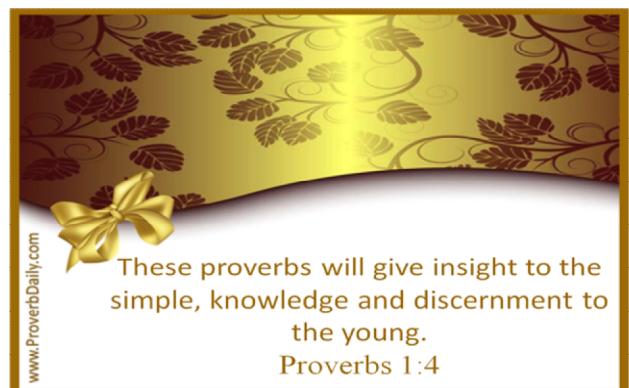
I think this is the Gospel, the Good News that we need to hear once again this Easter season as individuals, as a church, as a state, and as a nation.

Yours in Christ,
The Reverend Paul D. Sanderson

Adult Bible Study

We are continuing our study of the Wisdom Literature of the Bible, starting with the Book of Proverbs. So far, we have discovered a true depth of wisdom in these books, which were originally attributed to Solomon, and we have identified themes that found later expression in the teachings of Jesus and the writings of the apostle Paul.

Adult Bible Study group meets on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of every month from 9:15 – 10:30 AM in the Vestry. Bibles are provided.



Missions Offering

Our Mission Offering for May is the Blankets+ Program (formerly called Tools of Hope and Blanket Program) by Church World Service (CWS).

Founded in 1946, Church World Service is a cooperative ministry of 37 Christian communions working together with partners to eradicate hunger and poverty and to promote peace and justice around the world.



Blankets+ is a special mission opportunity that involves all ages. Some 8,000 congregations and groups across the U.S. hold CWS Blankets+ events, providing funds to help people in need around the world, including the U.S. For over 60 years, Church World Service has worked in partnership with local communities to identify their needs and access the resources they need to build the foundation for a more viable future including:

- **Blankets, tents, food** and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster.
- **Tools and seeds** for refugees returning home to replant their fields.
- **Wells** for families living in drought prone areas to provide clean, safe water to drink and to irrigate crops and gardens.
- **Literacy training and microcredit** for women struggling to realize their potential.

Bringing warmth, building hope

May 2, 2013

Survivor Recalls Superstorm Sandy Six Months Later



*At Naomi African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Margarita Robinson (left) and Sara Cherrington ready CWS Kits for distribution to Superstorm Sandy survivors in Coney Island, NY.
Photo: Terry Tangeman*

before they can be reoccupied, and as a result, many people are still living in temporary housing. Dampness and mold plague many dwellings.

It has been six months since Superstorm Sandy slammed into the New York/New Jersey coast, and survivors' painful memories remain fresh. So do their needs.

CWS Blankets, Emergency Cleanup Buckets and other CWS Kits helped many survivors get through the first days after the storm passed. Since then, CWS has been helping communities organize long-term recovery groups, which bring together a host of partners in support of survivors' return to safe housing and peace of mind.

Sandy destroyed or damaged more than 170,000 homes in New Jersey and New York. Six months later, many homes still require debris removal and temporary repairs



The basement entrance to Sara Cherrington's Coney Island, NY home flooded by Superstorm Sandy.
Photo: Sara Cherrington

Among survivors is Sara Cherrington, a Coney Island, N.Y., homeowner. "We were very badly affected," she said. "We had 10 to 14 feet of water. I never witnessed anything like what I witnessed. The water came so fast that it burst the door and came in like a deluge."

Cherrington works as Office Manager for the New York-based Global Missions Department of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, a CWS member communion. She also holds elected office as General Secretary for the Bureau of Supply, AMEZ Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society.

A while ago, she organized an AMEZ shipment of CWS Kits to her native Honduras following an earthquake. Before any other material aid got to Coney Island, CWS responded to her call for help. In short order, 500 Emergency Cleanup Buckets plus an assortment of other CWS Kits and Blankets were trucked to Cherrington's

Naomi AMEZ Church in Coney Island for distribution to members of the community.

"You know what was very helpful to me? The Hygiene Kit," Cherrington commented. With her own towels soaking wet and toiletries floating somewhere in the floodwaters, she said it was a relief to receive a clean washcloth, dry towel, soap, toothbrush and toothpaste.

Across Sandy-battered areas of New Jersey, New York and beyond to date, CWS has provided 12,840 CWS Blankets, 12,420 CWS Baby Care Kits, 19,500 CWS School Kits, 16,900 CWS Hygiene Kits and 2,193 CWS Emergency Cleanup Buckets.

Cherrington has stayed with her home, toughing it out above the floodline while waiting for the insurance company check - it finally arrived April 29 - that will enable her to begin a "gut rehab" of the ground and first floors. Meanwhile she continues to "fight to keep the mold from growing. Everything was waterlogged."

"I never thought I'd go through something like this in New York," Cherrington said. "It was a lot of drama."

Spiritual Exploration Reading Group

Tuesday Afternoons from 2:30 – 4:00 PM with Rev. Sanderson

The Tuesday afternoon Spiritual Exploration Reading Group will continue to meet through May. For the rest of this month we will be reading and discussing the last chapter ("The Masks of Eternity") in the mythologist Joseph Campbell's profound work: *The Power of Myth*. This book arose from a series of interviews with Bill Moyers that had an unexpectedly large following on public television several years ago.

The group will not meet from June – September.



Spaghetti Supper & Game Night – BOGO

Have we got a deal for you! BOGO Make your plans to attend the First Community Church Spaghetti Supper. Sponsored by the Board of Trustees, it will be held on Saturday, May 18 at 6:00 PM sharp.

When you are done feasting on the meal, Cheryl Holmes and David Sickles will once again be your game show hosts for the evening, making sure everything is fair and no one is cheating (which does happen even in church!) We will have teams competing against each other and maybe some one on one questions as well. It is sure to be a night of fun and laughs.



So come and fill up with the pasta so you will be ready for the race to be first! Hope to see you all there! Tickets are \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children 5-12, and no charge for children under 5. The tickets are on sale now and may be purchased from any of the Trustees.

2013 Board of Trustees

David Crane, Karin Farmer, Beth Hook, Sandy McKeen, Roy Pinnock, and Skip Willman

Stewardship & Growth Committee

Yes, we are having a church yard sale this year. Spread the news! It will be Saturday, June 1 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. We have started collecting, so please bring in your nice clean items – no computers, no TV's please. Clothes, baby items, and toys in good condition all tend to sell well.

The “other yard sale” or better known as **craigslist** is another win/win/win fundraiser. You win by clearing out some things that you are not using or do not have space for. The church wins by collecting some much-needed funds. And the buyer wins by getting a desired item. Don’t know anything about how this works? Free feel to contact our resident experts David Sickles and David Crane. They will make it easy breezy for you.

Also please check the L'il Shoppe table from time to time. You might just find a plate of cookies, a loaf of bread, or some vegetables etc. that might just hit the spot for something you might want to serve that day.

This committee welcomes our church family to contribute together to “The One Fund” in response to the horrific events of Marathon Day. Please feel free to donate with a check to First Community Church. We have placed envelopes specially marked in the pews for your use. Or if you wish to donate but are unable to attend church, please feel free to mail in a contribution.

The next meeting of the Stewardship and Growth Committee is Tuesday, May 28 at 6:15 PM.



It's spring cleaning time! Clean your cellar! Clean your attic and garage! Clean out those closets and kitchen cabinets! Time to set aside those items you no longer need and donate them to the First Community Church Yard Sale to be held Saturday, June 1, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Rain or shine, it will be held at the church.

We will have books, furniture, clothes, shoes, toys, household items, baby items, FREE coffee, and a bake table sponsored by the Women's Fellowship! We cannot accept televisions, computers, monitors or cribs.

Items must be CLEAN and SALEABLE. The table is set up in a corner in the Vestry to drop off your items.

If anyone needs help with the pick up of their items, let someone on the Stewardship and Growth Committee know and we will help. If you have any questions about donating just ask.

Anyone interested in helping set up and/or price items please contact one of the committee members. We hope you will all stop by and browse. Come find a delicious treat at the bake table. We have so much fun! And you just might find a treasure!

2013 Stewardship & Growth Committee

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

craigslist

The Stewardship and Growth Committee have decided to sell some items on **craigslist**. For those of you who don't know about **craigslist**, it is an online service for various things. You can buy or sell things as well as advertise for yard sales, find real estate, roommates, etc. What we will be doing is like an "online" yard sale.

We are looking for items that you would like to donate. David Crane and David Sickles are working together on this project. We will take any items, large or small, in saleable condition. Most items on **craigslist** will be listed with a picture so the potential buyer will know what they are buying.

If you have a smaller item, you can take a picture of it and send it to David Sickles via email to linerdave@msn.com and he will list it with the picture. Or if you prefer, someone will come, take a picture for you, and send it to David. Please give a brief description of the item and the value you think its worth so that we can list a reasonable price. The smaller items can be brought (or picked up if you prefer) to the church where the buyer will pick them up. If you have a larger item, (furniture, lawn mower, grill, etc.) you can take a picture and send it to David or again someone will come and take it for you, all you need to do is give David Sickles a description and its value.

When the item is sold, the buyer will come and pick it up wherever it is. There is very little, if any, work on your part. All proceeds from this venture will go to the General Fund for the church. For more information on **craigslist**, or any other questions, please contact David Sickles at 508-366-7407.

Women's Fellowship

"Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him." Proverbs 30:5

The Women's Fellowship met on Tuesday, April 16 at 6:30 PM and we all agreed that meeting at this earlier time is working out very well for us. We finalized our trip plans to Tower Hill Botanical Gardens in Boylston, Saturday, April 27, leaving from the church around 9:00 AM. Read more about our trip from Karin Farmer elsewhere in the Newsletter.

We are all gearing up for the Yard Sale planned for June 1. The Women's Fellowship will have a Bake Table of goodies for sale. People responsible for overseeing the table are as follows:

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Mattie Cummings & Karin Farmer
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Marlene Joe & Barbara Crane
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Beth Hook

As part of a very nice thank you note from Shirley Hutchinson, we were given one of her many art works as a gift of which we could use in any of our fundraising efforts. Be sure to look for this one of a kind, special artwork at our bake table at the Yard Sale.

We want to extend a big thank you to Karin Farmer and any others who helped in getting the beautiful new tablecloths for all the tables to be used in the Vestry.

Our new Kitchen Clean-Up date is set for Thursday, May 23 from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. The clean up team includes Helen Varney, Mattie Cummings, Barbara Crane and Martha Hubley.

"Dinner Out", our regular meeting night and last one before the summer break, is Tuesday, June 18. Please bring your best picks of where to eat and we will choose the place at our next meeting on May 21. The "Dinner Out" is always a highlight each year and open to all ladies of the church. Look for more in the next edition of the Newsletter.

The Women's Fellowship is always looking for more members and a need for new officers in the positions of President and Secretary. If you would be interested in becoming a member of the Women's Fellowship or one of the positions of leadership, please join us on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM. We do not meet in January & February or July and August.

Mattie Cummings, Secretary

Report Of The Diaconate

This month's mission is the Blankets+ Program (formerly called Tools of Hope and Blanket Program) by Church World Service. Our May Communion Service will be on the second Sunday, May 12, which is also Mothers' Day. On May 19, we will be honoring and thanking our very talented, very special, and very much appreciated choir. "He who sings, prays twice." Summer services shared with Pilgrim Church will begin on June 30, at our usual 11:00 AM time.

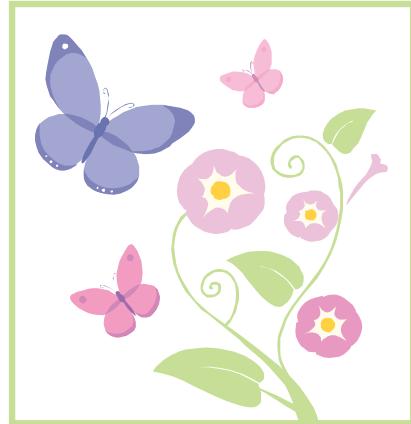
Our next meeting is set for Tuesday, May 7 at 6:30 PM.

Joy & Sorrow

Green growth, flowers, blossoming trees and bushes creating (sun-made warmth, longer days, lighter spirits, indeed) a rainbow of color, Spring is putting a spring in our step, our outlook, our hearts and minds, our very being!

Feels good doesn't it?

The snow threats of shoveling walkways and driveways, and icy roads to traverse are surely behind us. Bundling up in heavy layers of clothing, budget threatening heating bills and for families, no more snow days! We look to Spring.



A major sign that Spring is here, at least in Massachusetts, is the annual running of the Boston Marathon. Sadly, the joy, excitement and pride we have at this major sporting event was turned upside down and inside out by the cruel and evil act of the bombing of innocent people so close to the finish line. We see and hear on the news of such bombing in other countries, but we are somewhat isolated from them by geography and our reliance on diplomacy to solve dissension. How could anyone be so evil? Or so cowardly? We may find out how and why but what hate could spawn such evil? That is the only way to describe it.

In addition to the proximity to home, many of us know someone who ran officially or unofficially. In our family, our granddaughter Samantha was part of a college group of runners raising funds for charity. Her Mom, Dad, and older brother were "encamped" atop Heartbreak Hill just at the point where the course begins the final downhill run to the finish line. She stopped there, hugged them all, and continued. So close the finish line! They thought they might go to the finish line to be there as she came across, but decided against it because the crowd was too dense. So there they waited to hear from Sam, that she had crossed the finish line, completing the Marathon.

It was not to be. As they waited, word came back to them; bombs had gone off! They had no idea of where Sam was, how close had Sam got, was she a casualty? Her brother set off on foot to see if he could find her. He later said he had walked eight miles searching.

After Sam had left them at Heartbreak Hill, she continued toward her goal. Approximately one half mile from the end, people were stopping the runners and telling them to go back. They didn't know if more bombs would explode. After nerve wracking waiting, Sam with her brother returned to Heartbreak Hill. She had tried to phone her parents, but all cell phone activity had been stopped. Anxiety slowly drained away. As the realization that the bombings were not near Sam at any time, her only comment was, "Oh no, now I'll have to run it again next year!"

We were all in shock and disbelief that such a horrendous act could have happened here. The two perpetrators were later found. One had been shot and the other later found alive but injured critically.

We as a nation were shocked by the hatred of it all. We don't understand it, we are confounded. We are America, "Land of the Free and Home of the Brave." Our early settlers were immigrants. We grew largely by immigrants arriving from all over the globe; we lived together and became the backbone of our nation. Retaining some traditions, incorporating other traditions and eventually becoming a huge "melting pot" growing in diversity and continuing to grow in strength and influence.

This melting pot includes a major ingredient, a large measure of religious freedom. We take great pride in that. It has grown and expanded to include much more than all the Christian expressions of faith, but also, Native American, Far Eastern, Islam, and lesser-known ways to worship. Tolerance is a necessary part of our melting pot. While not perfectly always applied, it is still aiding our civility. Spring is a season of beginning hope, rebirth and renewed spirits. Sadly this Spring we are reminded that there is too much evil in our world that we cannot control. We are most fortunate to live here, where even when evil happens, often it can be halted, not always without loss but with hope, it may be controlled and less devastating.

We need to focus on the promise of Spring, bringing hope and all kinds of renewal, including the restoration of peace of mind and the promise of a God who is always there for us and loves us unconditionally.

Our prayers go out to all affected, personally or otherwise, Christian or not.

Martha Hubley
FCC Newsletter Columnist



Report Of The Trustees

The Board is challenged to maintain the church building while being mindful of our limited budget. There are still many projects on our "need to do" as well as our "must do" list. Unfortunately, one major item is the replacement of one of our furnaces - this is a "must do." We are always mindful of the improvements for the Vestry and the water issue by the kitchen door to name a few.

On the brighter side, we are blessed that our parishioners are always willing to give of their time and talents: planting flowers, spreading mulch, yard cleanup, snow removal, lawn mowing, not to mention the things that we rarely notice but that keep our church running. Many thanks to all!

Don't forget our Spaghetti Supper/Game Night on Saturday, May 18, 2013.

“Just The Facts, Ma’am”

Listed below is an update of the monthly activity of our Church Internet Ministry for our website (including the audio sermons blog site).

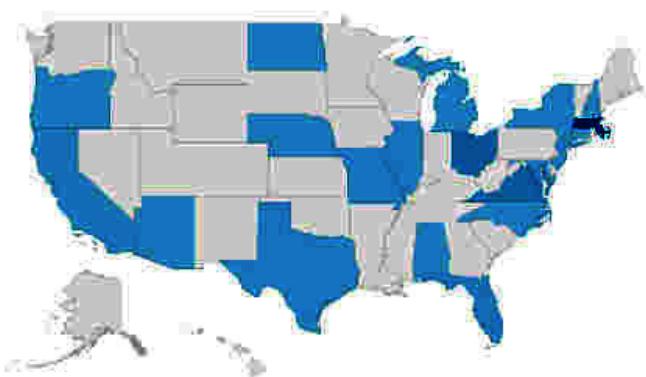


Ranking	Web Site Pages	# Times Accessed
1	home page	108
2	/sermons/index.htm	81
3	/newsletters/index.htm	50
4	/whoweare/index.htm	27
5	/index.htm	23
6	/spiritual-study/index.htm	17
7	/pastor/index.htm	16
8	/whoweare/staff.htm	15
9	/sermons/	14
10	/spiritual-study/current-thursday-study.htm	14

SOME SAMPLE STATE ACTIVITY

Massachusetts		Ohio		Florida		Virginia	
City	Visits	City	Visits	City	Visits	City	Visits
Marlborough	16	Zanesville	1	Boca Raton	1	Forest	6
Needham	13	North Olmsted	1	Homosassa	1	Lynchburg	3
North Reading	7	Minster	2	Largo	1	Danville	2
Danvers	4	Columbus	9	Spring Hill	1		
Upton	4						
Boston	3						
Worcester	3						
Douglas	2						
Framingham	2						
Newton	2						

AREAS OF THE COUNTRY FROM WHICH OUR SITE HAS BEEN ACCESSED



AUDIO SERMONS (POD CAST)	
Sermon Title	Downloads
Look For the Helpers	7
Believing is Seeing	2
Seeing Is Believing	3
The Triumph of Easter	4
Palm Sunday - The Lord Needs What We Have	4
Not Thy Will, But Mine Be Done	5
Coincidence? Or Something More?	6
Are You Looking for Something?	4
If You Would Be Great...	9
An Open Door to Evil	8
Unexpected Gifts	12
Give Birth to Love	7
Giving Birth To Hope	19

Dave Crane
Website Coordinator

A Sea Of Spring



A group of nine of us from the Women's Fellowship shared a very special outing on Saturday, April 27. We went to Tower Hill Botanical Gardens in Boylston MA leaving in the morning to enjoy a beautiful spring day.

Spring was out in all its splendor, showing off tulip beds with 100s of tulips in red, yellow and white. We just stood there in awe admiring the beauty.

On we wandered, surrounded by the serenity of this place to the great meadow filled with thousands of yellow and white daffodils. We sat on benches with the warm sunshine on our shoulders suspended in space and time at one with the sea of flowers.

We strolled through some more gardens with early spring flowers and flowering trees everywhere. Tranquility and peace seemed to be everywhere, enhanced by birds singing their lovely tunes.

We enjoyed a nice lunch and fellowship and then browsed in the gift shop.

This trip nurtured our souls and uplifted our spirits. We shall return!!

Karin Farmer
Contributing Columnist



A Blast From The Past

125 Years Ago

1888 – May

- ◆ May 13th, Mrs. Sarah DeArmond, Miss Clara M. Shuttleworth and Mr. James J. Webber were this day received on confession into the fellowship of this Church having been previously recommended by the Examining Committee and by vote propounded for admission in accordance with the rules of the Church. Isota L. Tyler, Clerk
- ◆ Deerfoot Farm Co., Southboro will forward this week one of their noted Jersey Heifers as a present to Mrs. Grover Cleveland. The donation was extended some weeks since by congressman Burnett and accepted by Mrs. Cleveland

100 Years Ago

1913 -- May

- ◆ Congregational Church services: Rev. Schaffer, Pastor. Sunday 1:30 PM Sunday School; 2:45 Preaching by the pastor; 7:00 Evening service. Thursday evening 7:30 Prayer meeting.

75 Years Ago

1938 -- May

- ◆ The Federated Church in Southville has extended a unanimous call to Roy Pearson to return as pastor for another year. Mr. Pearson has been supplying as student pastor for more than a year while pursuing his studies at Andover-Newton. Also voted to have one Sunday service during June, July and August through Sept. 4th. Also voted to grant the Pastor two weeks vacation in August.
- ◆ May 29th – Rt. Rev. Thomas M. O’Leary, bishop, Springfield diocese, blessed and dedicated the new Church structure which has replaced the former St. Anne’s Church which was destroyed by fire over 18 months ago

50 Years Ago

1963 -- May

- ◆ Captain Hamilton of the Salvation Army in Framingham was guest speaker for the Women’s Fellowship.
- ◆ Choir Director: Winifred Stone; Organist: Barbara Masterman. A Junior Choir under the direction of Mrs. Appleby has debuted.

25 Years Ago

1988 -- May

- ◆ May 9th, funeral of Jean C. Dewey, member for 29 years.
- ◆ The choir members enjoyed an evening out at the Marlboro Country Club.

10 Years Ago

2003 -- May

- ◆ May 17th memorial service held for Gayle Nittler.
- ◆ A Church yard sale was held at the Church instead of at Jeanne Hunt’s home.

SOUTHBOROUGH FOOD PANTRY



Please help us help others!

The Southborough Letter Carriers will be participating in the "Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive" on Saturday, May 11. From your door to the doors of the United Parishes of Southborough Food Pantry, your letter carriers will collect any food donations that you would like to donate. Please leave a bag containing non-perishable foods next to your mailbox prior to the time of your regular mail delivery. As they deliver your mail, they will pick up your donation and take it to the Southborough Food Pantry.



It doesn't get easier than this!

During the summer months, donations to the Food Pantry drop off dramatically. Even though it is vacation time, people still need to eat. Please think about filling a bag and be part of this joint effort to help fill those shelves at the Southborough Food Pantry. Monetary donations are always welcome and needed too.

For our church members who do not live in Southborough and want to help too, we will be collecting food items and Cathy Ten Eyck has offered to deliver them to the Food Pantry. The collection box is located next to the L'il Shoppe for you to drop off your items.

The Southborough Food Pantry Needs:

Cookies	Pancake Mix	Individual Juices
Crackers	Pancake Syrup	Coffee – non-flavored
Individual Snacks	Potato Mixes	Condiments: Catsup, Mustard,
Peaches	Beef Stew	Relish, Mayo
Pears	Canned Meats	Plastic Bags - All Sizes:
Pineapple	Rice-A-Roni	Snack, Sandwich, Quart,
Jam & Jelly	Spaghetti O's	Gallon, & Trash
Peanut Butter	Bottle Juices	Kleenex

Please Check Expiration Dates!



Visit the Southborough Food Pantry on Facebook.com or southboroughfoodpantry.org/ for the latest grocery list.

Spiritual Study & Growth Group

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

Our Thursday evening Spiritual Study and Growth Group will continue to meet through May. We have just finished discussing the archetype of the shadow as illustrated in Nathaniel Hawthorne's "*The Birthmark*". For the remainder of our meetings this spring we will read and discuss the dynamics of the shadow in Hawthorne's "*Young Goodman Brown*" and then as it appears in one or two fairy tales.

The group will not meet from June – September.

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 April 28, to the Missions that we have chosen to support this year.

<p><i>Abby's House</i></p>  <p>MARCH</p> <p>\$325.00</p>	 <p>APRIL</p> <p>\$250.00</p>
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From The Editor

The next issue of the Newsletter will be the Summer Issue (June, July & August). The deadline is set for **Sunday, May 26, 2013**. Remember to include any dates for meetings or events you would like listed on the calendar. Articles 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 Heifer Friends,

I want to personally thank you for your ongoing and generous support of Heifer over the years. We are very grateful that your community is dedicated to ending hunger and poverty.

Your partnership with Heifer has truly made a difference. Communities around the world have benefited from your caring and your commitment to share joy and life!

Our project partners are profoundly appreciative of your support. Manamaya Nepali from Nepal shared how her family was struggling to support themselves until she received two goats and training from Heifer in 2011. Now she is a proud donor as she passed on two goats in March 2013 at a "Passing on the Gift" ceremony. She shared her thoughts with us.

"I was able to raise the family income by raising livestock...My small effort has helped my family have a better life. I am extremely grateful to Heifer for helping my family increase our income and have a prosperous life."

Many thanks for your loyal support. Please be in touch if I can be of assistance.

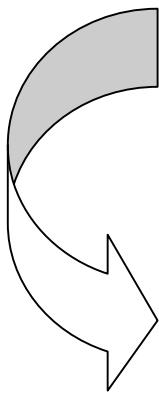
With Gratitude!

Kate Sheehan
Heifer International Community engagement Coordinator.

With Our Special Thanks To –

- ◆ Karin & Bob Farmer, Sandy McKeen and Skip Willman and his trusted companion, John Deere, for their time and efforts spent on the Spring Clean Up. The Church grounds look beautiful and alive with Spring!
- ◆ Barbara & David Crane, Bob Farmer, Martha Hubley, and Bob L'Heureux who helped add to our General Fund by sorting and bagging bottles and cans at the Southborough Transfer Station. And of course, a big thanks to the Chief Bottle & Can Collector, Mattie Cummings who organizes this fundraiser every year. This year we raised \$265.00.





LOOKING AHEAD

Strawberry Social
Father's Day – Sunday June 16

Summer Worship Schedule
Begins June 23

Write down these dates!!



Birthdays

Angie DeCormier	1 st
Scott Webster	6 th
Cricket Port	10 th
Stan Norcross	12 th
Jan Bishop	13 th
Barbara Bresse	14 th
Jeff Willman	22 nd
David Crane	23 rd
Nancy Mantos	30 th
Mason Renaud	31 st

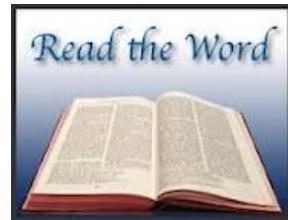
CELEBRATIONS



For we are laborers together with God (*1 Corinthians 3:9*)

Lay Leaders

May 5 - Sandy McKeen
May 12 - Garcia Passley
May 19 - Barbara Crane
May 26 - Jim Holmes



Greeters

May 5 - Scott McKeen
May 12 - Roy & Nigel Pinnock
May 19 - Evelyn Till
May 26 - Helen Varney

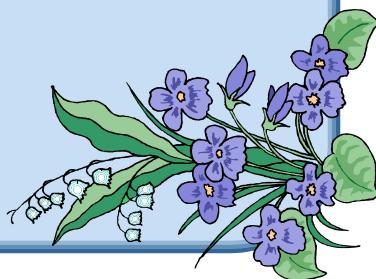
Coffee Hour Hosts

May 5 - Marlene Joe
May 12 - Pat Grogan & Beverly Lees
May 19 - Choir Appreciation Sunday
May 26 - Barbara Crane & Cathy Ten Eyck



Memorial Flowers

May 5 - Dianne Simmons
May 12 -
May 19 - Cheryl & Jim Holmes
May 26 -



Deacons for May

Garcia Passley & Bob Farmer

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
		<h1>May 2013</h1> <h2>Missions – Blankets+ Program</h2>				
5 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service Coffee Hour following Worship Service	6	7 2:30 PM Spiritual Exploration Reading Group 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Diaconate Meeting	8	9 7:00 PM Spiritual Study & Growth Group	10	11  Stamp Out Hunger FOOD DRIVE <i>Letter Carriers Food Drive to aid the Southborough Food Pantry</i>
 12 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 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	13	14 2:30 PM Spiritual Exploration Reading Group 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:15 PM Trustee's Meeting	15	16 7:00 PM Spiritual Study & Growth Group	17	18  Spaghetti Supper & Game Night 6:00 PM 
Choir Appreciation Sunday  19 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	20	21 2:30 PM Spiritual Exploration Reading Group 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Women's Fellowship	22	23  Kitchen Clean-Up Begins at 9:00 AM 7:00 PM Spiritual Study & Growth Group	24	25
26 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 Summer Newsletter Deadline (June-July-August)	27  Memorial Day	28 2:30 PM Spiritual Exploration Reading Group 6:30 PM Stewardship & Growth Committee Meeting	29	30 7:00 PM Spiritual Study & Growth Group	31	