

First Community Church

Newsletter

Celebrating 150 Years of Christian Worship

October 2014



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

There are times when the expression "It couldn't have gone any better" really fits. With regard to our Homecoming Sunday, September 14, it really couldn't have gone any better! It was an amazing day, a truly memorable event, and a wonderful way to begin the yearlong celebration on our 150th anniversary!

Everything fell into place just in time for the celebration. The vestry renovation was completed and, along with the stairwell and bathroom, newly painted. The grey and white decor, set off from each other by a chair rail, fits in beautifully with our new carpet. The lawn was freshly mowed, the shrubs trimmed, and our front door graced with two cross wreaths. We looked downright spiffy! And the weather could not have been better.

According to Lee Cummings, our official attendance-taker, we had 86 people present for worship (including six downstairs and one who was present by Skype from Florida), and 84 who attended our luncheon following the service. We had the opportunity to reconnect with old friends, some who had traveled 1500 miles just to be with us. The choir, graced by the presence of several old-time members, was in fine form. We sang the hymns with gusto and shared communion with each other. The luncheon, which went off without a hitch, was abuzz with conversation, laughter, and the sharing of memories. We could not have fit one more person around the tables in the vestry, and the meal itself was excellent.

Although we can't thank those of you enough who helped to make this possible, in the service of avoiding redundancy I would refer you to the thank-you section of this newsletter where we have a fairly exhaustive list of those whose time, efforts, and donations made this such a successful event.

In the succeeding weeks I have found myself reflecting on the experience from a biblical perspective. Ministers, as you know, are prone to do this. The event that came to mind was the Transfiguration. As the gospels describe the event, Peter, James, and John accompany Jesus up a high mountain where Jesus is transfigured before them; his face shines like the sun and his clothes become dazzling white. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appear with Jesus. The three of them are talking together when a bright cloud overshadows them and a voice from the cloud says, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him." The disciples are struck dumb with awe.

Following this epiphany, the disciples would like to remain on the mountaintop. But this is not an option. They descend into the valley. Almost immediately a man possessed by a demon cries out for help. Jesus heals him. Then Jesus discloses to his disciples that a hard road lies before them, a road that will lead to suffering and death.

While our experience on Homecoming Sunday does not come close to the power of the Transfiguration, the experience of having our church filled to capacity for the first time in my memory, presents us with a similar conundrum. As much as we would like to stay on the top of the mountain, this is not possible. We have to descend to the valleys. This is because we have work to do.

In a somewhat similar vein, Jack Kornfield, an American Buddhist master, has written a book addressing the question of what life is like after the experience of enlightenment. I like this book even though I confess that I am still in the pre-enlightenment stage of Buddhist spiritual development. Kornfield's book is entitled *After the Ecstasy, the Laundry*. After the mountaintop experience we go back to living our everyday life in the real world.

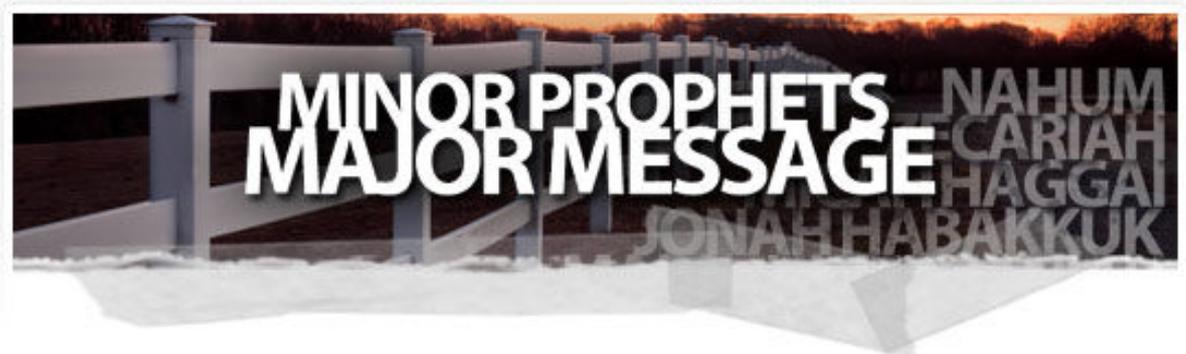
So here we are back in the real world. We need to sweep the floor and do the laundry. We need to think about the next set of improvements we need to make to our beloved building. We need to attend to our spiritual growth and reach out to each other and the world in compassion. We need to get back to our board and committee meetings, where we shoulder the important tasks that make it possible for our little church not only to continue but also to thrive.

It was especially powerful and meaningful to see so many of you on Homecoming Sunday. It was a testimony to how important this church has been to individuals and families through the years. However, we also need you now and in the year to come. We need your presence on Sunday morning if we are to make worship what it can be. We need your support for the projects that we are about to undertake. And we need your pledge and your special gifts in the year to come. In essence, we need you to commit to the faithful stewardship of your time, talent, and treasure.

In just a few short weeks we will be embarking on our annual Stewardship Drive. I hope we will not only celebrate what our church has meant to this community over the past 150 years, I hope each and every one of us will commit to doing "the laundry," the mundane but essential tasks that will carry us forth into the future. As we do this with joy in our hearts, we follow Jesus down the mountain and into a life of discipleship.

Faithfully yours,
Reverend Paul D. Sanderson

Adult Bible Study



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

and **WHAT** *Lord* require of you?
DOES THE
To act **JUSTLY** and
To love **MERCY** and
To walk **HUMBLY**
with your *God*
MICAHAH 6:8

This year we are exploring the writings of some of the so-called “Minor Prophets” beginning with the prophet Micah, and how their inspired preaching is applicable not only to their time and nation but to our world, our nation, and to us as individuals.

Biblical beginners are welcome! Bibles are provided!

“Straight” From Our Mission

Join us during our morning worship at 11:00 AM on Sunday, October 19, when we will get first hand information about Straight Ahead Ministries, our chosen Mission for the month of October.

Scott Larson, the founder (along with his wife Hanne) of Straight Ahead Ministries, will be our guest speaker to tell us of the good works of Straight Ahead Ministries not only in our country, but also around the world. Straight Ahead Ministries offers not only a high school education but also a strong Christian faith and moral code to troubled youth in the juvenile correction system. It has also played a major role in reducing gang conflict in many inner cities.



Save The Date



The D&D Dynamic Duo a.k.a Darlene Sanderson and Dianne Simmons are plotting, I mean planning another Classic Ham & Bean Supper.

Mark it on your calendar! – Saturday, November 15

Missions Offering

Our October Mission Offering will go to Straight Ahead Ministries, a place where kids go to find a way out!! It is an international organization dedicated to seeing the lives of youth at risk transformed through faith and relationship.



Straight Ahead began with a single Bible study in a juvenile detention center in New England over twenty-five years ago. No one, including founders Scott and Hanne Larson, could have predicted the unprecedented growth of the organization that has impacted a generation of young people. Today Straight Ahead is an international organization at work in 19 states and 5 countries, with materials in use in 35 countries. Over 25,000 young people have been reached.

Straight Ahead offers a way for young people who are looking for a new way to go. Staff, volunteers and affiliates facilitate Bible discussion groups, PROMISE recovery groups and Ready4Life character development trainings in juvenile detention centers, offering opportunities for kids to discover new ways of thinking and living.

The work continues in the community through reentry programs like Lynn Reentry and Worcester Aftercare that provide educational opportunities, job readiness training and resources for young people in transition from lock-up to independence. Social ventures like *Creating Hope Apparel*, *Straight Up Café* and *The New You* employ and empower youth, giving them opportunities to develop marketable skills. (See next page for more information)

After twenty-five years of successful experience, Straight Ahead has become a leading juvenile justice resource center, offering a Master's degree in Juvenile Justice Ministries through Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary and a bachelor's degree through Gordon College, along with education and training for anyone interested in juvenile justice ministry.

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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Straight2Work

Our Straight2Work program educates, employs and empowers young people who are in transition from lock-up to independence. Through job training, skill management classes, on-the-job responsibilities and mentoring programs, youth aged 16-24 develop the skills, confidence and leadership they need on their journey to self-sufficiency.

Participants receive on-site training and mentorship in our Straight2Work businesses where they develop their employable skills and work on their personal goals for successful independence.

Straight Up Cafe and Catering

Straight Up Cafe and Community Center, is a neighborhood cafe located in the heart of the Main South community in Worcester, MA. The café, operated by kids in the Straight2Work program, serves locally roasted, free trade coffee and signature menu items. The cafe also hosts open mic nights, art contests, peer groups, recreational events and small venue concerts.



The New You



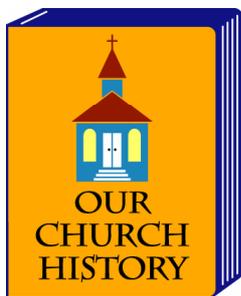
The New You resale store is located adjacent to Straight Up Cafe. Straight2Work participants manage the daily operations of the store, interact with customers, and develop retail and marketing skills, all in preparation for long-term job placement in the community.

Visit www.straightahead.org for more information about Straight Ahead Ministries.



Celebrate Our Heritage

History Lesson 102



“Don’t know much about History”

Remember the ‘70’s tune? “Looked at the pictures and turned the pages.” As Dave Crane has discovered, we do not have many pictures, particularly of old time Church members. So we rely on the written word (no, not the Bible).

For the past 11 years, the Blast From the Past has been compiled mostly from the following:

- A (very) tattered Clerk’s book from 1887-1947 with miscellaneous pages inserted and a membership list at the back. These were the days when people formally requested written transfers from one Church to another.
- A concurrent Southville Federated Church Clerk’s Records, 1924-1947 beginning with the 1922 Articles of Agreement forming the Federation. Another similar volume was started October 1947 and continued through 1981 by our much beloved, long term clerk (and sometime choir director) Winifred Stone.
- The Annual Reports dating back to about 1958, each stapled together.

Most of this was transferred to me by Winifred when I became Church Historian about 1989, following in “Bud” Williams footsteps. Then I visit the Westborough Public Library “local Heritage Room” where I check the microfilm of the Westborough Chronotype newspaper that covered Southborough.

Recently turned up were: The 2nd Congregational Church: Report of the Scribe, 1865-1885 which includes the early Confession of Faith containing 11 articles and The 2nd Congregational Society Jan. 5, 1869 - Oct. 1, 1887, Standing Committee Reports 1940-1948 & 1948-1952.

Perhaps one day we can have these records duplicated/preserved through microfilm, CD, or some other better format to last for future generations. We can’t save everything but these do seem very worthwhile.

Jim Holmes
Church Historian

Our 150th Anniversary Celebration Continues

The Upcoming Visit of Former Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Bill J. Leonard

Saturday Evening 7:00 PM & Sunday Morning 11:00 AM

As we continue the celebration of our church's 150 year history, we are pleased and excited to announce the return of former pastor, Rev. Dr. Bill J. Leonard, who is professor of Baptist Studies and Church History at the School of Divinity, Wake Forest University; a prolific and distinguished author; and a frequent lecturer in the US and throughout the world.

Dr. Leonard, who served as pastor of First Community Church from 1971 to 1975 while pursuing his doctoral studies at Boston University (see the accompanying bio) will deliver the morning message on Sunday, November 2 and will also present a public lecture at the church on Saturday evening, November 1 at 7:00 PM.

Local area members and friends of First Community Church and others interested in the history of religious experience in America are urged to take advantage of this unique opportunity to come and hear Dr. Leonard.

The Saturday evening lecture, titled *Varieties of American Religious Experience: Catholic Mystics, Puritan Preachers, and Appalachian Serpent Handlers*, examines the diverse nature of religious experience in the U.S. through three distinct approaches to Christian spirituality. What do these traditions have in common and how are they distinct? How might these approaches to religious experience inform 21st century spiritual pursuits?

Note: Dr. Leonard's latest book, "*A Sense of the Heart*": *Christian Religious Experience in the United States*; Abingdon Press, 2014 will be available beginning on November 18.

The Rev. Dr. Bill Leonard

(Excerpted and edited, with thanks, from Day1.org)



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Wake Forest University School of Divinity

Bill J. Leonard is the founding dean and professor of Church History at the Wake Forest University School of Divinity, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He holds the B.A. from Texas Wesleyan College (1968), the Master of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (1971), and the PhD from Boston University (1975). **He served as pastor of First Community Church, Southborough, Massachusetts, 1971-1975.**

Leonard served as Professor of Church History at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, 1975-1992. While there, he was for a time, Associate Dean, President of the Faculty Association, editor of the Review and Expositor, and W. W. Brooks Professor of American Religion. From 1992 to 1996, he was Chair of the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama.

In 1996 he joined the faculty of Wake Forest University with joint appointments in the School of Divinity and the Department of Religion. He was the founding dean of the School of Divinity, which began in 1999. He retired from that role in the spring of 2010.

Leonard also served as visiting lecturer at Yale Divinity School (1981) and at the Seinan Gakuin University in Fukuoka, Japan (1988-89). From 1988 to 1995 he was a member of the summer faculty of the Appalachian Ministries Educational Resource Center based in Berea, Kentucky. He serves on the board of the Appalachian Ministries Educational Resource Center and the editorial board of the Journal of Religion, Disability and Health. An ordained Baptist minister, Leonard has served as interim pastor of over 25 congregations in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Kentucky, Indiana and North Carolina.

Leonard is the author or editor of some 22 books including “The Nature of the Church;” “Word of God Across the Ages: Using Church History in Preaching;” “God’s Last and Only Hope: The Fragmentation of the Southern Baptist Convention;” “Appalachian Christianity: Profiles in Regional Pluralism;” “Baptist Ways: A History;” and “Baptists in America.” His most recent books are “Can I Get a Witness?: Essays, Sermons, & Reflections” (2013), and “A Sense of the Heart: Christian Religious Experience in the United States” (2014). Leonard is also the author of well over 400 articles published in a variety of journals, periodicals and books.

He is a frequent lecturer on college and university campuses around the world. His specialization in American and Southern studies makes him a frequent commentator on popular religion in the U.S., with frequent interviews in newspapers, magazines, radio and television.

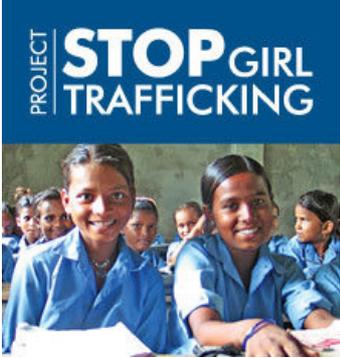
His spouse, Dr. Candyce Crew Leonard, is professor of Humanities at Wake Forest University with specialization in Spanish literature. They have one daughter, Stephanie. The Leonards are members of First Baptist Church, Highland Avenue, the oldest African American Baptist congregation in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

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.


<p>AUGUST \$250.00</p>

	
<p>SEPTEMBER \$250.00</p>	

A Blast From The Past

125 Years Ago

1889 – October

- ♦ October 3rd -- Sisters Mrs. Mary A. Clifford and Mrs. M.M. Fay were chosen delegates to attend the South Middlesex Conference of Churches to be held at South Sudbury October 8th.

100 Years Ago

1914 – October

- ♦ The First monthly supper of the Congregational Church was held Wednesday evening. Following supper there was a reception for Rev. & Mrs. Slade, Mr. John T. Gibson and Mrs. Ellwood Ward.

75 Years Ago

1939 – October

- ♦ The 17th annual Federated Church meeting was held on October 2nd. The following were elected: Deacon: Herbert Jones; Treasurer: James Stockwell; Collector: Mrs. Arthur LeGay; Treasurer of Benevolences: Mrs. Walter Dunn; Auditor: Mr. Bernard Merriam; Clerk: Mrs. Wallace Nelson; Organist: Miss Ruth Jackman; Choir Director: Mr. Chester Bean; Religious Education Committee: Mrs. Gilman, Mrs. Bussell, Mrs. Tupper, Mrs. Ralph Clark; S.S. Superintendent: Mr. Chester Bean. Ushers: Mr. Howard Hunt and Mr. Walter Dunn.
- ♦ The Ladies Circle recently held a meeting at the home of Mrs. Evelyn Warner, Fay Court. The Circle holds semi-monthly meetings.

50 Years Ago

1964 – October

- ♦ The Senior Youth Fellowship sponsored a bus to the Billy Graham Crusade in Boston.
- ♦ The Sunday School collected a substantial amount of canned goods and vegetables for the Hillside School for Boys in Marlboro.
- ♦ The Women's Fellowship held a 2 day fair on October 23-24. The theme was "Harvest Time" which was displayed in profusion throughout the vestry with an array of pumpkins and bright colored leaves. The fair was termed a great success and realized a sizeable profit.
- ♦ The 42nd Annual Meeting of the First Federated Church was called to order on October 3rd by the clerk, Winifred Stone. Howard Norcross was elected moderator.

A motion was made to call Mr. Appleby as our Pastor for another year as a part-time Pastor until his school completed then as a full time man. So carried. Mr. Appleby was recalled to the room at this time and he told us the opportunity was here for a full-time man. He would be happy to accept our call and become our first full time Pastor after his graduation. The next ten years in our area will be sure to show many changes and we, as a Church must prepare for them.

25 Years Ago

1989 – October

- ◆ The Women's Fellowship had a Halloween Party.

10 Years Ago

2004 – October

- ◆ The Church Council met on October 12. Jan Norcross reported that the Trustees have replaced the roof and contracted to excavate around the building and repair the foundation and install drainpipes on the back of the Church. We are locked into \$1.699/gallon with Jamie Oil for the season.
- ◆ Choir Appreciation Sunday was October 24th.
- ◆ The Women's Fellowship guest speaker was Susan Keir from the Bay Path Elder Services, Inc.

Women's Fellowship

"For thou, Lord, hast made me glad through thy works." Psalm 92:4

The Women's Fellowship met for our first meeting this fall and shared a delicious potluck supper. We had some delightful dishes to choose from and topped things off with squash pie, apple crisp, and some homemade chocolate and peanut butter truffles.

At the business meeting following our meal, we addressed our upcoming meetings scheduled, looked over our shut-in list, and discussed the plans for our traditional "Sunshine Baskets" in November.

Every year at this time, we are looking for small and medium sized baskets. If you have a basket or two, please bring them to the church any Sunday before our November meeting. You can hand them off to any member of the Women's Fellowship.

Early announcement with regard to our annual Christmas Table Fundraiser. It was decided that this year we would limit the items on the table to handmade and homemade items only. As always, we accept any and all donations to this effort from any of our church family members.

We look forward to this old-fashioned creative fundraiser this year. The dates are set for December 7, 14, and 21. Watch for more information on this project in future announcements.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 21 at 6:30 PM. Karin Farmer will lead us in devotions and Marlene Joe will be responsible for refreshments.

Mattie Cummings
Secretary

Homecoming! Faith, Fellowship, Friends

We truly are a special church with a very special church family. We are an independent church with independent and unique characteristics. We are a work in progress (even after 150 years) as well as a working and inclusive congregation.

We gather to worship together cohesively because of our love for the Lord and our heavenly Father, recognizing that our collective religious backgrounds are quite broad and diverse. We realize it is not the how, but the who that matters, and God created life with all its diversity.

In my mind, this is what makes our little church (in size) so huge in diversity and cohesiveness. It is what binds us together in loving God and each other, respecting religious variation of backgrounds.

In my own case, as a youth I attended a Congregational Church Sunday School where I was introduced to the books of the Bible, the Lord's Prayer, the 23rd Psalm, plus a whole variety of other familiar passages. We received stars on a large chart for memorizing them.

However, I also went to a summer camp where the Bible passages were accompanied with singing catchy Bible songs, expanding on lesson learned, accompanied by great fun and the adventure of being away from home, engaging in all the various activities available in a religious environment. I loved the adventure and fun; it added joy to my faith development.

As I grew older, I married into a family of Jehovah's Witnesses. A complete change of direction - becoming serious with a sense of urgency to spread the "Good News" of a perfect afterlife, to complete strangers – a 180° turn toward another direction and very sobering literally. I missed the joy of faith.

After a few years of growing concern about "What is worship?" "What is my belief?" I walked three houses down the street from my home to this "Little Church with a Big Heart." Here I found a church family and here I am still enjoying the joy of faith with others whose religious backgrounds are just as diverse in their own way as mine are.

We don't focus on form but on the incredibly important and uplifting gift God gave us in the form of His son, Jesus!

Each of us has our own "history" that brought us here to First Community Church. So we welcome home all who have been part of us but whose life track has led them away from us.

We are still here 150 years later, and we recognize that your faith and our faith remain connected, strong, and inclusive. We are delighted to see you again and to share in worship together. If you were with us once, then you are still with us now!

Welcome, Welcome, Welcome!

Martha Hubley
FCC Columnist



Spiritual Study & Growth Group

Satan and the Problem of Evil

Thursday evenings (New time of 6:00 – 7:30 PM) led by Rev. Sanderson

In our meetings this fall we will try to understand Satan and the problem of evil. We are all deeply troubled by the ubiquitous presence of evil in our society and throughout the world. What is evil? Does it have an ontological status or, as the Roman Catholic Church maintains, it is simply the absence of good? Does evil arise from within us, from within the psyche, or is it attributable to an outside force such as Satan? When we look at the way Satan/Lucifer is depicted in the Bible from a psychological as well as a religious perspective, it is not clear that Satan always plays a dark or evil role, even in the case of Job.

In addition to exploring biblical passages that contain references to Satan, evil, and demons, we will read selections from Rivkah Scharf Kluger's book *Satan in the Old Testament* (Northwestern University Press, 1967); Marie-Louise von Franz's *Shadow and Evil in Fairy Tales* (Spring Publications, 1974); and a collection of essays by scholars in comparative religion, literature, film, mythology, and Jungian studies entitled *Evil* (Northwestern University Press, 1967). These essays formed part of the training curriculum of the C. G. Jung Institute-Zurich in 1959-60.

Please come and add your questions and insights to our exploration of this admittedly very ambitious topic. You don't have to purchase any of these books if you don't want since we will be reading and discussing them in our meetings.

Our Thursday evening Spiritual Study and Growth Group will meet every Thursday at our new time of 6:00 – 7:30 PM through November 30.



Please help us help others!

First Community Church Shopping List for October

Please 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."

Beverages

Bottled Juice
Individual Juice Boxes
Coffee (Instant or Ground Regular)

Food Items

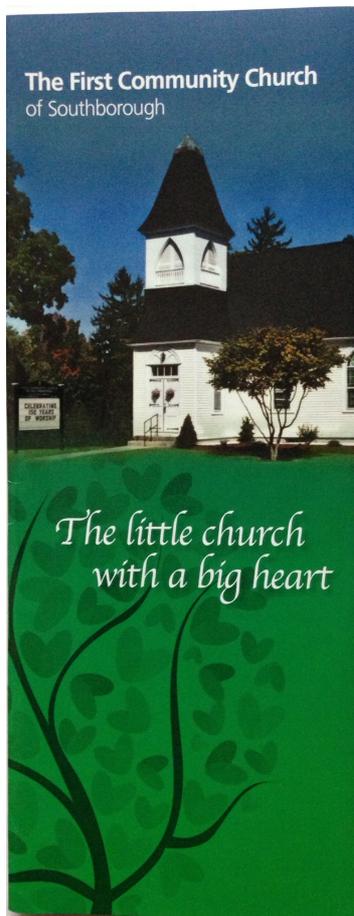
Peanut Butter (creamy)
Cookies
Individual snack packages
Sugar

Paper & Plastic Goods

Paper Towels
Toilet Tissue
Aluminum Foil
Plastic Bags

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

It's All About Us!



It made its grand appearance on the dinner tables on Homecoming Sunday. The long awaited First Community Church of Southborough brochure.

For several months, Cheryl Holmes has been working closely with Renee Maiorana who designed our brochure. Renee is co-owner of BostonWest Creative, a marketing firm located right here in Southborough. BostonWest Creative is a top-notch company that has delivered outstanding marketing communications and design to leading companies in the life sciences, software, networking, financial, and entertainment industries.

Renee took on our project after a cold call made by Cheryl. When Cheryl told Renee what she was looking for, Renee explained that their firm usually works with large companies but she listened intently to what we were looking for and for some unknown reason (???) Renee said she would take a look at our website and see what she could do – no promises though.

A few weeks later, an email with a rough draft of a brochure appeared in Cheryl's inbox. It was the start of something good. Unable to contain her excitement, Cheryl called Renee right away to say thank you and where do we go from here? Cheryl and Jim went to see Renee at her office to talk about the church and brainstorm what she might add or change to the drafted brochure.

After gathering some more information, Cheryl sent Renee what she had, and days later, the next draft came back. Cheryl brought this draft to the members of the Stewardship Committee to show them and to get their thoughts and ideas for changes, additional information, and anything they might like to see in the brochure.

Two more edits, and the completed brochure was ready for print. Unbeknownst to the members of the Stewardship Committee, the first 100 brochures were printed up and ready for their unveiling. Homecoming Sunday was the perfect day.

Currently Cheryl is getting quotes for the next printing. The plan is to have them ready for Southborough's Heritage Day on Monday, October 13 at St. Mark's school fields.

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, Cheryl Holmes, and the members and friends of First Community Church of Southborough, we thank Renee for everything she has done for us – for taking the time to really listen to that first phone call and for the many phone calls and emails thereafter -- for giving us her time and the gift of her talents to produce this beautiful brochure.

You truly have given something from your heart and we will use this brochure to share all that First Community Church of Southborough has to offer to future friends and members of our church.

With Our Sincerest Sympathies



Our heartfelt sympathies reach out to Michael and Dorothy Larson on the loss of Michael's father, Larry Larson who died on September 7 at the age of 80 in Rio Rancho, NM.

Larry is also survived by his wife, Carol Ann Larson as well as Michael's sister, brothers and their spouses, several grandchildren, and a brother.

Our love and prayers are with Michael, Dorothy, and the Larson families for their great loss.



We reach out to the Stockwell family with our heartfelt sympathies for their recent loss of Paul J. Stockwell. Paul died at the age of 67 on September 26 at Charlton Hospital in Fall River after a battle with cancer.



Paul, a former native of Southborough, leaves his wife Kathleen (Puntonio) Stockwell, his daughter Heather, and his sister Dianne Sickles and her husband Ron of Nashua, NH, a brother, an aunt and several nieces and nephews.

Reverend Sanderson officiated at the memorial service at Morris Funeral Home and burial at Rural Cemetery.

Our prayers and love are with all of the Stockwell family in their time of sadness and loss.



We extend our sincerest sympathies to Evelyn Till for the recent loss of her brother-in-law, Donald J. Sullivan who died at the age of 75 on September 30 in Ann Arbor, MI.

Don leaves his wife Kate (Hoisington) Sullivan, one daughter, two sons and their spouses, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

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

Our Pastor's Activities

Reverend Sanderson recently gave a talk to the Western Massachusetts Jung Society entitled The Archetype of Betrayal, specifically how the experience of betrayal, as illustrated in clinical and religious examples, can be an important part of the individuation process.

This semester Reverend Sanderson is teaching two sections of Psychology of Adolescence to undergraduate students at Assumption College in Worcester. Reverend Sanderson has been a member of the psychology faculty at the college for twenty-two years. In the spring semester he will also be teaching the Psychology of Dreams: Freud and Jung, a course that is very well attended by Assumption College students.

Reverend Sanderson continues to serve on the Training Board of the C. G. Jung Institute—Boston, where he also teaches and leads case conference colloquia for the training candidates. For the past few years he has served as chair of the Institute Curriculum Committee and chair of the Ethics Committee of the New England Society of Jungian Analysts.

The Longest Yard

As usual, Dianne registered to walk long before Jim did. This was Dianne's 10th walk and Jim's 4th. That's a cumulative 366.8 miles. We did the FULL walk. Others start in Wellesley and do a half marathon and yet others do as few as a couple miles.

The day dawned (actually it was still very dark) with an unexpected rain. Neither of us had ponchos readily accessible. Nevertheless, we hit the pavement at about 5:45 AM in Hopkinton. The rain quickly ceased. Dianne, the organized one, had a handy list of which mile-markers had the important "port-a-potties." Jim had the less important but useful "smartphone" to take pictures of the very inspirational sandwich boards displayed along the route that told the stories of those who have benefited from the Dana Farber Jimmy Fund.

We saw many of the regulars on the route. The gentleman who sets up a couple of speakers and plays songs with a "walk" theme such as "Walk the Line" or "Walk this Way," while his golden retriever enjoys patting from the many walkers. Then there is the "orange man" who can reliably be found not far from the Johnny Kelly statue on Heartbreak Hill with a never-ending supply of fresh orange slices.

A unique sighting this year was a man who passed us in Framingham walking backwards the entire route, guided by a friend on each side.

By the time Bible Study had started at First Community Church, we were changing our socks at Dianne's fellow nurse, Carol's home in Natick. By the time the Church service ended, we were trekking the infamous Heartbreak Hill. It is interesting that the first uphill you really feel doesn't come until you have just entered Natick. One thing that is not lacking along the route is healthy food and drink. I realized after about 10 miles I needed to stop "grazing" at each mile marker.

In Wellesley, we played cat and mouse with another of Dianne's co-workers, Sue and her cocker, Emily. We finally met up just before crossing Route 128. When you walk these kinds of distances, you notice unexpected things -- your hands swell - your neck hurts from looking down - you develop blisters on your feet. Or maybe these things only happen to me! I would wager that at least 80% of the walkers were under 40.



The walk is pretty straightforward; Route 135 into Wellesley, then Washington Street to Commonwealth Avenue, which takes you past Boston College. After that, a few more turns and then you are on Boylston Street. At the 25-mile mark, one of the volunteers asked me if I was all right. What could she have been suggesting? Dianne's son-in-law, Jim picked us up at the Copley Square finish line.

Between the two of us, we raised about \$1700 for a wonderful cause. We are now officially "Pacesetters" for the Jimmy Fund (donations in excess of \$1500) Thanks to all who supported us both financially and prayerfully.

Anybody up for 2015?

Dianne Simmons & Jim Holmes





“Just The Facts, Ma’am”

Dave Crane, our Website coordinator, would like to share the facts of our Church Internet Ministry activity for the Summer of 2014.

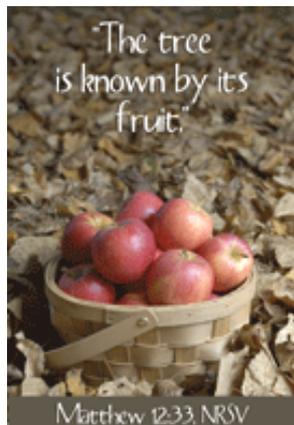
<i>Audio Sermons from 6/1/2014 to 9/30/2014*</i>		
Episode Downloads	Publish Date	Total
Homecoming Sunday – Let Us Break Bread Together	9/14/2014	2
People of the Bible: The Father of the Prodigal Son	6/15/2014	13
Pentecost – Here and Now	6/8/2014	8
The Ascension of Jesus: In Heaven and Also Here	6/1/2014	9
What (Whom) Would You Die For?	5/25/2014	7
Blankets Of Love	5/18/2014	5
If You Love Me...	5/11/2014	5
Through the Eyes of Faith	4/27/2014	6
Totals		45
Number of Audio Sermons Downloaded since we began posting: 1000 +		
* No sermons were posted during half of June and all of July and August.		

Mass Locations That Viewed <i>Text (PDF)</i> Sermons Page			
City	Page views	Unique page views	Avg. time on page (minutes)
Marlborough	32	13	1.27
Chicago	20	17	0.49
Milford	8	4	5.71
Boston	7	3	0.98
Needham	7	6	4.23
Largo	5	1	1.68
Malta	5	1	11.60
North Reading	4	4	0.10
Sharon	4	1	1.07
(not set)	3	2	2.31
Note: Statistics are not available for number of sermons downloaded.			

Web Site Viewers From States			
States	Total Visits	% New Visits *	New Visitors
Massachusetts	202	52.97%	107
Ohio	28	64.29%	18
Illinois	22	90.91%	20
New York	9	66.67%	6
Florida	7	57.14%	4
Virginia	7	85.71%	6
Texas	6	83.33%	5
Alabama	5	20.00%	1
New Hampshire	5	100.00%	5
Wisconsin	5	60.00%	3

Most Popular Pages			
Page	Total Visits	New Visits *	Avg. time on page (minutes)
Home Page	416	367	0.82
Sermons	134	81	1.94
Newsletters	107	76	2.34
Index of all pages	91	34	1.38
Pastor	73	59	2.13
Who we are	68	44	1.81
Spiritual study (general)	35	8	0.73
Music ministry	33	24	0.88
Spiritual study (current Thursday evening study)	29	13	1.61
* Visits by persons who have not visited our site since June 1 st			

Stewardship & Growth Committee Report



The Stewardship and Growth Committee met last month and all agreed that “Homecoming Sunday” was a wonderful success! It was well attended and enjoyed by all. Many thanks to all who worked so hard to make the event a success – Sandy McKeen, Beverly Lees, David Sickles, Sharon and Skip Willman, Bob L’Heureux, Karin Farmer, David Crane, Martha Hubley and her sister Nancy Alley. David Sickles named the event “Homecoming Sunday” and that title certainly helped to make it a welcoming event.

Reverend Bill Leonard, a former pastor, will be giving a lecture on Saturday, November 1 and will be our guest preacher on Sunday, November 2.

Our church will have a booth at Southborough’s Heritage Day this year. We will have our new church brochures available as well as candy for the taking. Our church banner will be proudly on display with some of our church members on hand to answer questions and share information about our church to anyone who is interested.

Thanks to a tremendous amount of time and energy spent, Cheryl Holmes has arranged to have our brand new beautiful and informative First Community Church of Southborough brochure designed and printed. Our plan is to distribute this brochure at various church functions (Pie Sale, Yard Sales, etc.) as well as putting it in various locations in surrounding communities so that others may know what is so special about our church and perhaps be drawn to it.

The next meeting of the 150th Anniversary Celebration planning and the Stewardship and Growth Committee will be Tuesday, October 28 at 6:15 PM. Anyone and everyone who is interested in joining us to plan our 150th anniversary celebration is most welcome to join us for the first half of the meeting. We have a lot to celebrate so please join us with your enthusiasm and your ideas.

From The Desk Of The Collector

The leaves are falling and that means the collector (me) is picking up the weekly pledge reports and compiling them into the final third quarter report to be mailed or handed out before the end of October.

Soon the Stewardship Campaign will begin in earnest. Remember that the minimum order for Church envelopes is 50. So please utilize this service and request envelopes on your stewardship card even if you are unsure of your pledge for 2015. As always, thanks for your unwavering support through the years.

Jim Holmes
Collector

Celebrations Celebrations

17



*Our Pastor's
Anniversary*

October is the month we celebrate the 17th anniversary of the calling of our Pastor, Reverend Paul D. Sanderson.

As we celebrate our 150th anniversary, we thank you for being with us these past seventeen years and giving us the gifts of 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.

Spiritual Exploration Reading Group

Healing and Wholeness

Tuesday Afternoons with Rev. Sanderson

The theme for our fall meetings is a Jungian approach to experiencing psychological (and sometimes also physical) healing. We will read and discuss John A. Sanford's *Healing and Wholeness* (Paulist Press, 1977). Written by an Episcopal priest and Jungian psychoanalyst in easy-to-understand language, this book touched me deeply and made me aware for the first time how C. G. Jung's depth psychology can help us understand our Christian faith from a different perspective, and how our faith can lead us to healing and wholeness.

Everyone is welcome! We slowly and carefully read the book together as a group and discuss the ideas presented as we go along. Even if you can't make all of the sessions, I trust you will find the insights of each meeting helpful to you in your own faith journey, in your journey toward healing and wholeness.

We meet Tuesday afternoons from 2:30 – 4:00 PM in the Vestry. The fall session will run through November 25. There will be no meeting on October 14.

From The Editor

The deadline for the November 2014 Newsletter will be Monday, **October 27, 2014**. 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



From Our Missions

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the generous gift you made to Heifer International. Your partnership with us will enable change on a global scale.



This year marks the 70th anniversary of Heifer International, and the United Nations has proclaimed 2014 the International Year of Family Farming. We are thrilled to celebrate 70 years of serving family farmers and are glad to have your support.

We also want to be sure you know that your gifts will keep on giving through Heifer's "Passing on the Gift." With this practice, each project family shares their gifts along with their knowledge, resources and skills, to create an expanding network of hope, dignity and self-reliance. "Passing on the Gift" ensures a living cycle of sustainability that develops community and enhances self-esteem by allowing project partners to become donors.

Sincerely,

Pierre U. Ferrari
President and CEO

From Our Members

Dear Dr. Sanderson, Darlene and fellow Church family,

It is with deep gratitude and love that I send this thank you note. I so appreciated the special invite to the 15th Anniversary Celebration! What a beautiful day. From seeing all of your kind, beautiful faces, the hugs, the joyous "noise" from the esteemed and lovable choir to the sermon, it was a day I will cherish and call upon whenever I need a lift!

When Dr. Sanderson asked us to close our eyes and imagine Jesus next to us as we celebrate communion, I imagined Jesus and saw all of you at my side.

In love and worship, I'm most happy to see you all well and thriving... and I feel good too. How can I not?... knowing I am and always will be a part of the "Little Church with the Big Heart!"

Until we meet again, I am yours in friendship.

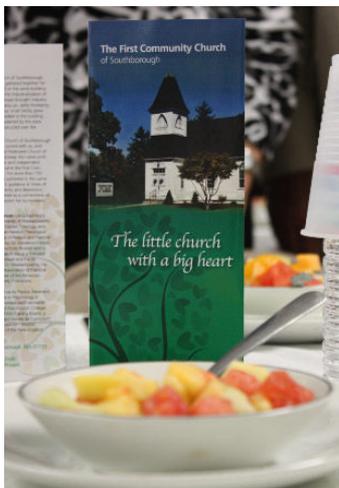
Carol Jordan

With Our Special Thanks To –

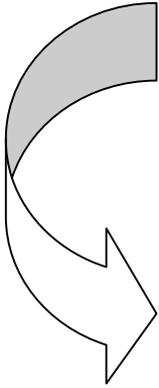
- ◆ Karin Farmer, Sandy McKeen, Mike Hubley, and the Board of Trustees for renovating the vestry just in time for our gathering; Sharon Willman for the curtains; David Crane and Bob L’Heureux for setting up the loudspeaker system in the vestry; Bob Farmer, Skip Willman and David Crane who worked tirelessly to get "the wall" in the vestry ready for painting; and Karin Farmer for her green thumb (planting fall flowers and weeding).
- ◆ The Stewardship & Growth Committee and the 150th Anniversary Committee for planning Homecoming Sunday held on September 14; Sandy McKeen and Beverly Lees for organizing the luncheon; David Sickles for bringing back many choir members; Bob L’Heureux for printing the name badges; David Sickles, Sharon Willman, Skip Willman, and David Crane for setting up and arranging the tables and chairs; and all those who helped make it possible for our older members to attend.



Overflowing With Thanks



LOOKING AHEAD



150th Anniversary Celebration Events
Guest Speaker – Former Pastor Bill Leonard
Saturday, November 1 at 7:00 PM
Sunday, November 2 at 11:00 AM Worship Service

D & D's Classic Ham & Bean Supper
Saturday, November 15



Write down these dates!!



Birthdays

Ava Willman	1 st
Tim Deschamps	8 th
Mitchell Hilbert	14 th
Lisa Nelson	17 th
Beth Hook	25 th
Bob L'Heureux	30 th



Anniversaries

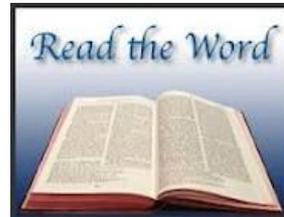
Karin & Bob Farmer	8 th
Susan & Lou Elias	9 th

CELEBRATIONS

"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 5 - Bob L'Heureux
October 12 - Lou Dundin
October 19 - Cheryl Holmes
October 26 - Darlene Sanderson



Greeters

October 5 - Dianne Simmons
October 12 - Beverly Lees
October 19 - Karin & Bob Farmer
October 26 - Garcia Passley

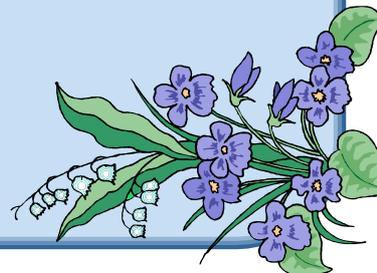
Coffee Hour Hosts

October 5 - Martha Hubley
October 12 - Marlene Joe
October 19 - Pat Grogan & Beverly Lees
October 26 - Sandra Bertulli & Barbara Crane



Memorial Flowers

October 5 - Diaconate
October 12 -
October 19 - Sandra Bertulli
October 26 -



Deacons for October

Garcia Passley & Dave Crane

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 2014 Missions – Straight Ahead Ministries			1	2 7:00 PM Spiritual Study & Growth Group	3	4
5 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	6	7 2:30 PM Spiritual Exploration Reading Group 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Diaconate Meeting	8	9 *6:00 PM Spiritual Study & Growth Group *Note new meeting time*	10	11
12 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service Coffee Hour following Worship Service	13  COLUMBUS DAY	14 6:30 PM Trustees Meeting	15	16 *6:00 PM Spiritual Study & Growth Group	17	18
19 GUEST SPEAKER – SCOTT LARSON Co-founder of Straight Ahead Ministries 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 6:30 PM Women’s Fellowship	22	23 *6:00 PM Spiritual Study & Growth Group	24	25
26 REFORMATION SUNDAY 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	27 November Newsletter Deadline	28 2:30 PM Spiritual Exploration Reading Group 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:15 PM Stewardship & Growth Committee Meeting	29	30 *6:00 PM Spiritual Study & Growth Group	31 	