

First Community Church

Newsletter

November 2016



Our Mission Statement

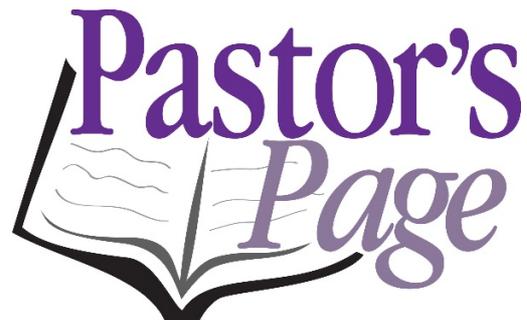
We are a community of faith believing in the power of prayer and seeking earnestly to deepen our spiritual life and share the love of God with others.

At 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.

Miracles come in many different packages, especially with regard to the pledging and fund raising that helps us meet the operating expenses of our church. Thanks to the hard work of so many of our parishioners our second yard sale brought in much more than we anticipated. Just last week, thanks to the hard work of Darlene, Dianne, several little helpers, and the generous donations of several individuals and organizations (that are listed elsewhere in this newsletter) the D & D roast chicken dinner set a new record for net income. Individual donations to cover the cost of our parking lot repaving are already starting to come in. These occasions for celebration in the life of our community may not be the equivalent of



Jesus feeding thousands of people with a few fish and loaves, but hey, he was Jesus!

As we approach Stewardship Sunday, I suspect there are several lessons for us in the miracle of the loaves and the fishes. First, we may actually have more resources at our disposal in our church than we realize. Second, if each and every one of us, like the disciples, brings forward and shares what we have, even though it may not seem like much, it will have a much bigger impact than we realize. Third, as the New England Patriots have taught us, as a team we can accomplish much more than we can as individuals. In other words, the whole is really more than the sum of the parts. If we offer what we can, God will bless our offerings and miraculously multiply them.

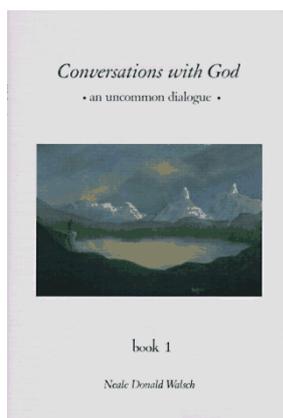
As we enter into this Thanksgiving season, we should give thanks to God for the many miracles that we have experienced in our own lives, those times when we really didn't have the right to expect something special to happen—but then it did, and it was greater than we ever could have imagined.

Then perhaps we will begin to realize how God can work miracles through us, how God can take our gifts of time, talent, and make something special from them, can make them grow in ways that we can't even imagine. Then we will begin to realize how God can take the limited resources of this little church and use what we have to feed the hungry, to feed those who are longing for the spiritual life and the caring, compassionate fellowship that is so much a part of who we are.

The lesson of Stewardship Sunday is that miracles really do happen!

Faithfully yours,
Reverend Paul D. Sanderson

Adult Bible Study



This year we began by reading a section of *The Practice of the Presence of God*, a description of the spiritual discipline that was developed by Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection, a barefoot Carmelite monk, in the middle of the 17th century. This has served as an introduction to our theme of the year - Conversations with God.

We are just beginning to read and discuss *Conversations with God • an uncommon dialogue* • written by Neale Donald Walsch. In this book Neale Walsch shares his totally unexpected experience of being able to enter in to a dialogue with God. Walsch asks God questions, questions about life, the meaning of life, etc., God answers in ways that Walsch, and we can understand.

Please join us on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of each month as we ponder what was revealed to this author and hopefully become more sensitive to the revelations we receive from God and the dialogue with God that we know as prayer. We meet in the Vestry from 9:15 – 10:30 AM.



Thanksgiving Worship

Pilgrim Church will be hosting this year's annual United Parishes of Southborough Thanksgiving Service on Monday, November 21 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 is an international partnership of Christians whose mission is to follow our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in working with the poor and oppressed to promote human transformation, seek justice, and bear witness to the good news of the Kingdom of God. They are dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice.

A worldwide staff of about 46,000 assists about 100 million people in nearly 100 countries throughout Africa, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Asia and the Americas. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

World Vision provides emergency and hunger relief, long-term community development programs, agricultural development assistance and leadership training. The organization also educates the public on poverty and justice-related issues and advocates on behalf of the poor and children in crisis.

More than 90 percent of natural disaster-related deaths occur in developing countries, where poverty and lack of resources exacerbate the suffering. We work in many of these countries, preparing for disasters before they happen, and responding quickly when they do.



World Vision®

Building a better world for children



Iraq crisis, Mosul FAQ: How the conflict affects children, families

By Chris Huber – Updated November 7, 2016

The battle is raging to retake Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, from ISIL, which has occupied the area since June 2014. After capturing village after village on the periphery, forces are fighting their way into the city's east side. World Vision and other humanitarian agencies are providing aid for civilians fleeing the area.



Since mid-2014, the people of Iraq have been caught up in a resurgence of violence. The conflict has exacerbated the already dire humanitarian situation stemming from Syria's five-year civil conflict.

Here's what you should know about the humanitarian needs of people affected by the conflict in Iraq and the battle to retake Mosul.

Iraq conflict, Mosul fast facts:

- 3.3 million people displaced within the country
- 10 million people in need out of a population of 36 million
- 20,000 people have fled the battle for Mosul since October 17
- Up to 1 million more people expected to need humanitarian assistance in the coming months as a result of increasing conflict in and around Mosul. Affected families may be experiencing their greatest needs as winter approaches.
- About one quarter of a million Syrian refugees are in the Kurdish Region of Iraq, creating additional strain among host communities struggling with limited resources
- Key areas of anticipated need: clean water, sanitation, food, shelter, essential items to help face winter, healthcare, education, and emotional support

What happened in Iraq?

Two years of fighting displaced 3.3 million people within the country. About half of them have settled in camps for internally displaced people, within host communities, or in churches in the Kurdish Region of Iraq.

Since October, the Iraqi military and other forces have moved to retake Mosul from insurgents that have held the city for two years. Civilians fleeing the area are in dire need of aid.

Right now, about 10 million Iraqis need some kind of assistance.



Khanke camp for internally displaced people hosts nearly 17,000 people in the Kurdish Region of Iraq. (©2015 World Vision, Steve Jeter)

How has the Iraqi conflict affected children?

Children fleeing Mosul are arriving at camps petrified, struggling to express themselves, and in some cases too terrified to speak, say World Vision staff based just outside of the city.

Their physical and mental health have been badly affected by two years living under a brutal occupation and then facing landmines, snipers, and fighters when they fled.

Many children are forced to flee with only the clothes on their backs. They are out of school and vulnerable to violence and health issues due to unstable and unhygienic living conditions. Cold winter weather will threaten their health if they don't have adequate clothing or ample heating in their shelter.

What are their greatest needs?

People displaced by conflict typically need clean water, food, shelter, hygiene supplies, and basic household supplies like mattresses and blankets. They also will likely have a range of healthcare needs, including chronic conditions such as heart disease and diabetes, and issues associated with poverty like malnutrition, exposure, cholera, or diarrhea.

Children and adults who have experienced the unspeakable horrors of war need long-term help coping with their experiences.

“Many children have been stuck in their homes while bombings, sniper fire or chaos ruled around them. Others have witnessed the death of family members,” says Aaron Moore, World Vision’s programs manager in northern Iraq.

How is World Vision bringing hope to Iraq?

World Vision began responding to the current crisis in Iraq in August 2014. Our staff has served more than one million people in the Kurdish Region of Iraq with:

- Access to clean drinking water
- Health services
- Education programs
- Child protection services
- Food provisions
- Food vouchers
- Cash (for most urgent needs)

We work with the church in Iraq, providing food vouchers to people who fled Mosul in August 2014 and are living in Christian camps. We have assisted these camps with generators and water systems. We’ve created spaces for children to play volleyball, basketball, and on swing sets. Some of our work focuses on the church. However, our overall aid efforts focus on helping the most vulnerable people, regardless of their religion, race, or gender.

Looking to 2017, our staff is planning to roll out economic empowerment programs to help families generate income and youth find jobs.

What is World Vision’s history in Iraq?



Ali, 3, from Syria, shows off new pencils and a notebook at the camp where his family lives in the Kurdish Region of Iraq. (©2015 Steve Jeter/World Vision)

World Vision began working in Iraq in the 1990’s. Between April 2003 and September 2004, our staff focused efforts on rehabilitating schools and rural water and sanitation systems. We also provided medical supplies to clinics and hospitals, and supported displaced families with clothing, food, hygiene kits, blankets and mattresses, and cooking sets, reaching about 598,000 people in all.

Stewardship & Growth Committee Report



Yard Sale – Part 2 was a smashing success with funds raised beyond expectations. It was truly an event proving true the thought that “many hands make light work.” A big thank you to all the many helpers who cleaned, prepared, advertised, sold, and/or packed up after the sale. Darlene Sanderson contacted Savers/Epilepsy Foundation to get the name of a contact person to take away all our unsold items. Bill Guenon arranged for the pickup and graciously met them to take away all the packed up boxes. At the suggestion of Ursula Guenon, we packed up all the leftover pillows, blankets, and towels and made many animals happy at the Hopkinton Animal Shelter. Excellent job done by all!

Stewardship Sunday will be held on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 20. Please give prayerful thought to what you feel you are able to donate to the support of our little Church. A letter from the Pastor and the Stewardship Committee with a confidential pledge card will be mailed soon. Please bring your pledge card to church on Stewardship Sunday or mail it back to us by that date so we can begin to prepare our budget for the coming year. And please remember that if you pledge an amount and circumstances arise which make it a hardship to continue to pledge that amount, this church understands without hesitation.

This committee and indeed, the entire church rejoice in the presence of some new people who have been joining in our fellowship of faith and friendship over the last few weeks and months. We are delighted that some wonderful Christians have even joined our church recently. We welcome all of you with open arms and hearts.

Our next meeting is set for Sunday, November 13 following morning Worship Service and Coffee Hour.

Spiritual Exploration Reading Group

Bhagavad Gita, A New Translation by Stephen Mitchell
Tuesday afternoons with Rev. Sanderson)

This year we will be reading the classic Hindu spiritual text *Bhagavad Gita, A New Translation* by Stephen Mitchell. When I first read this as an undergraduate philosophy major, it had a profound impact on me. Over the years, I have come to realize how congruent the teachings that Krishna imparts to Arjuna are with our own Christian faith. Our first two American sages, Emerson and Thoreau, spoke of the *Gita* with the greatest respect, and Mahatma Gandhi described it as his “eternal mother.” It fits in well with the theme of our Sunday morning Bible study: *Conversations With God*.

We have begun by reading the section on Hinduism in *The Sacred East* to get a sense of where the *Gita* fits into the culture and spirituality of this, the world’s oldest religion.

Please join us Tuesdays from 2:30 - 4:00 PM as we read and discuss this book and as we listen to an excellent recorded commentary on the spiritual paths or yogas that are presented in this book by one of the senior teachers at the Boston Vedanta Society.

Recipe: A Successful Annual



Sale

From the Kitchen of: The First Community Church Awesome Bakers

Makes: \$\$\$\$\$ for the General Fund

Serves: Our Church as one of the biggest fundraisers

Saturday, November 19, 2016

8:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

Ingredients:

Apple Pies

Blueberry Pies

Lemon Meringue Pies

Squash Pies

Banana Cream Pies

Pecan Pies

Pumpkin Pies

Apple Crisp

Breads (All types)

Cookies

Pie Baker Directions:

- 1 Advise Pie Sale Coordinator, Mrs. PPW (the Pastor's Pushy Wife) alias Darlene Sanderson what you will be making for the sale. The sign-up list is posted in the Vestry
- 2 Bake homemade pies with tasty ingredients and lots of love
- 3 Cover pie, bread, or cookies with saran wrap and/or a clear plastic bag
- 4 Mark the type of pie with a strong adhesive label
- 5 Indicate if food allergies might be an issue (such as with or without nuts)
- 6 Make arrangements to leave pies in the Church kitchen the day before the sale, if possible
- 7 If necessary, deliver the pies to the Spa location **early** on the day of the sale to give maximum opportunity to sell. The largest clientele tends to be ready for the sale between 8:00 - 9:00 AM

Pie Hawker Directions:

- 1 Set up tables at 8:00 AM in front of Mauro's (the old McCarthy's i.e. "The Spa") in downtown Southborough on Main Street (next to the RR tracks)
- 2 Proudly hang the "First Community Church Banner"
- 3 Dress appropriately – Weather conditions can range from the balmy 50's to the frigid teens with brisk winds
- 4 One official salesman should make a final Church run for any last minute pies at 8:30 AM on the day of the sale
- 5 Sale to run from 8:00 AM to 12 Noon or until "sold out"
- 6 **SELL! - SELL! – SELL!**

Women's Fellowship

"We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...and we rejoice in hope."

Romans 5:1, 2

We met together on Friday, October 21 at 2:30 PM with ten present. Barbara Crane began with a very encouraging devotion. Beth Hook shared her success in creating a finished product with the artwork of Chelsea Torres for our "Note Card" project. Some note cards were created and sold at the church yard sale.

The shut-in list was updated giving us the new count for our Sunshine Baskets in November. Thank you to all who brought in empty baskets. People responsible for some separate items for the baskets are Mattie Cummings (tangerines), Marlene Joe (bananas), and Beth Hook (grapes).

The Women's Fellowship voted to donate \$1,000 toward the Parking Lot Project. In light of the present devastation in Haiti, we also voted to give a special gift to *His Royal Ministry* that Mattie will take with her on her trip to Haiti.

We will be holding our Christmas Table Fundraiser again this year on December 4, 11, and 18. The tables will be limited to handmade items, homemade baked goods, and Christmas gift items. As always, we will accept any donations to this effort from our church family members and friends.

Our Christmas Party has been planned for December 13. The party will be held at the church beginning at 1:30 PM after the morning Worship Service and Coffee Hour. All women of the church are welcome to attend the party and we ask that everyone bring one of your favorite finger food. We will have our traditional Yankee Gift Swap with a \$10.00 limit on the gift.

Our next meeting is set for Friday, November 18 at 1:00 PM. Beth Hook will be leading the devotions and Marlene Joe will be responsible for the refreshments.

Mattie Cummings
Secretary



Due to scheduling conflicts, we will be having a First Community Church Christmas Party in place of our traditional Advent Event that is usually held in early December.

Save the date -- Sunday, December 18. We will have a light lunch following the morning Worship Service then begin some more fun events that will be sponsored by the Choir. Plan to come to Church and stay for all the fun! Everyone is invited!

Celebrations

On Sunday, October 9, we held a surprise celebration in honor of 50 years of Church membership for Bob L'Heureux and David Sickles. They were presented with a specially decorated cake and a gift in recognition of this special occasion.

Bob and David, we thank you for all the countless contributions that you have made over the combined 100 years to our church!

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 20, 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.

Calendar Girl

Being hospitalized can be disorienting in terms of what day it is and how this date is centered in a reference of time. A calendar helps patients not only figure out what day it is, but to get a better handle on when they were admitted, how long they have been hospitalized, and when their surgeon is planning to operate.

Dianne Simmons, who serves on our Diaconate, as well as the Stewardship & Growth Committee, is looking for any extra 2017 calendars that you might have received and will not be using. She will be collecting them right up through March of 2017.

A nurse working currently between two hospitals, Dianne has made it her mission to provide her patients and others on her floor, with calendars to put on the bulletin boards in their hospital rooms.

You can hand them to Dianne when you see her on Sunday morning or leave them in the kitchen with her name on them. She will gladly take them off your hands during the next few months.



Report Of The Trustees

The Trustees are pleased to remove two important items from our building and grounds "to-do" list: the re-paving of the parking lot, and completion of the final step to eliminate rain water collection at the vestry and kitchen doors. We are extremely grateful for the generosity of the Committees, members, and friends who contributed, or plan to contribute to the cost of the "new" parking lot.

We extend sincere thanks to our ex-officio board member, Bob Farmer, who oversaw the parking lot repairs, and who has worked diligently to design and implement a multi-phase solution for the "water problem" at the back doors. As part of the paving project, the final phase to divert rainwater away from the doors was completed. We now have a beautiful, level, crack-free parking lot, and will no longer need to navigate those back door puddles!

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Tuesday, November 8 at 6:30 PM.

2016 Board of Trustees

David Crane (Chairman), Joyce Harrington, Beth Hook and Helen Varney

Ex officio members: Bob Farmer, and Rev. Paul Sanderson



Parking Lot Update

As you can see, the parking lot has been beautifully paved! What an improvement! We have already had feedback from parishioners that the parking lot is much easier to traverse for those who use walkers, canes, or whose gait is unsteady. Along with the obvious aesthetics, this is one of the reasons why we did this.

In addition to funds that the Diaconate, the Trustees, and Women's Fellowship contributed to the project, we are asking the members of our church family to help cover approximately a third of the cost of this project. We have already received \$1,531 toward the \$5,000 that we have set as a goal for individual/family donations.

If you have not yet made your contribution, please do so by using the envelope that was included in the letter you received or simply mail a check with a note indicating that it is intended for the Paving Lot Project to the church.



A Blast From The Past

125 Years Ago

1891 – November

- ◆ Special meeting of the 2nd Congregational Church of Southborough. Called to order by J.E. S. Moore, clerk at 7:15. Deacon W.A. Ward chosen moderator. The object of the meeting being to invite a Council of the Churches to ordain Bro. Amasa C. Fay into the gospel ministry and calling upon Bro. Fay for remarks. Bro. Fay stated his desire to be ordained and the requirements of the law and form of the letter missive. Motion made and seconded that the church ask Mr. Fay to be ordained here carried. Motion made that the church and a council of churches carried. J.E.S. Moore; W. Loring; John Whitney nominated and voted one of the committee. An amendment offered to the motion that three ladies be added to the committee carried. Mrs. Flagg, Mrs. Ward and Mrs. Pearl nominated. Voted to accept the three ladies and previous committee.
- ◆ Southville: Officers Dorr, Newton and Barney seized seven cases of lager and 2 quarts of whiskey from the premises of James O'Brien, Southville on the 29th.

100 Years Ago

1916 – November

- ◆ November 5th. The members of the church voted this evening to give our pastor Mr. Atkinson right to administer the Lord's Supper. A.E. Boutilier, clerk
- ◆ Rev. H. C. Abbott, pastor Woodville Baptist Church visited recently. He was former pastor of the Southville Congregational Church and has many friends in the village.

75 Years Ago

1941 – November

- ◆ The November meeting of the Standing Committee of the Southville Federated Church opened by appointment of Mr. Corwin to act as secretary. The Pastor informed the committee that 22 "churches" had been given out, and that we should enjoy additional revenues this year from this source. It was decided that the little churches would be given to any person regardless of whether such persons should save for a monthly collection or yearly; it being intended however that collections would be made monthly, any other period of collection by those desiring it would however be welcomed.

(Editor's note: This is apparently referring to some form of pledging. Would be interested in knowing how this system worked).

- ◆ All the enlisted men from Southborough, Southville, Cordaville and Fayville will receive Christmas packages containing cigarettes and candy.

50 Years Ago

1966 – November

- ◆ The Senior Youth Fellowship were guests at the Westboro Baptist Church.
- ◆ On November 20th, Mrs. Morfoy from Scripture Union spoke about the wonderful work they are doing

- ◆ The smallest Sunday School attendance of the year was 64 including teachers and officers on November 13th.
- ◆ The Women's Fellowship hosted Mrs. Nancy Hero. She showed slides of the mission work being done in Thailand. A masonic supper was also served with a profit of \$51.54.
- ◆ Harold Avery and Susan Benton were married on November 18th by Rev. Appleby.

25 Years Ago

1991 – November

- ◆ The Sunday School enjoyed a Halloween party.

10 Years Ago

2006 – November

- ◆ Ye Olde Church Faire held on November 4 was a success!! Nearly two thousand dollars was raised! Money is still trickling in from items still for sale at Coffee Hour on Sundays until Christmas.
- ◆ Oh the sweet smell of success – or was that Apple Pie??? On Saturday, November 18, we raised over \$552 selling 60 homemade pies, breads, and cakes.
- ◆ The annual United Parishes Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving took place at Pilgrim Church in Southborough on Tuesday, November 21, at 7:30 PM.
- ◆ Piece by Piece, - Thanks to a mysterious donor, our Church Puzzle is now 51% in Living Color. The Goal -- \$2,000 to add to the Building Fund.

Report Of The Diaconate

Advent is quickly approaching and our church is planning our annual Advent Candle Lightings to be held on each of the four Sundays of Advent that begins on November 27. For those of you who have not been fortunate enough in past years to attend, the Advent Candle Lighting is a lovely tradition in which families are asked to read the meaning of each of four themes - love, hope, joy and peace. This is followed by the lighting of the appropriate candle. Then in closing, we all sing our beloved traditional "Advent Candle" song. It is a beautiful way to prepare for the coming of the Christ Child.

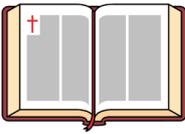
We also invite you to donate Christmas flowers to adorn the altar on Christmas Eve and Christmas Sunday. Your donation can be made in memory of a loved one(s) if you would like to do so. More details will be provided at a later date.

This year we will be having a Christmas Party on Sunday, December 18 in lieu of our Advent Event that is held earlier in the season. More details will be provided in the December Newsletter.

World Vision is our chosen Mission for the month of November.

The next meeting of the Diaconate is Sunday, December 4 after the morning Worship Service.

For We Are Laborers Together With God 1 Corinthians 3:9

				
NOVEMBER	LAY LEADERS	GREETERS	COFFEE HOUR HOSTS	FLOWERS
6	Lou Dundin	Dawn Schiappucci	Marlene Joe	--
13	Joyce Harrington	Karin Farmer	Joyce Harrington	Cheryl & Jim Holmes
20	David Crane	Linda Gable	Beth Hook	Beverly Lees
27	Cheryl Holmes	Beverly Lees	Barbara Crane	--
Deacons of the Month -- Dianne Simmons & Jim Holmes				

From The Editor

The deadline for the December 2016 Newsletter will be Monday, **November 28, 2016.** 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

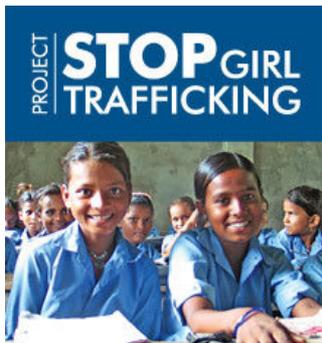


caholmes@charter.net



Thank You

From Our Missions



Dear Friends at First Community Church of Southborough,

Thank you so much for your thoughtful gift to STOP Girl Trafficking. Your generosity will keep Nepali girls safe from being trafficked.

In the chaos following last year's earthquake, predators didn't hesitate to target girls who were suddenly homeless or abandoned. In response, Dr. Arna Uprety and her team mobilized quickly, and together we expanded STOP Girl Trafficking to add 3,800 newly vulnerable girls to the 11,000 we already had in school.

Increasing to 14,800 girls is a big jump, but it's an extraordinary situation. And we are committed to protecting all of them – building temporary classrooms, hiring tutors, getting school supplies out to villages, whatever is needed so that every girl gets the same level of attention and safety as when we first started with 52 girls 17 years ago.

Thank you again for your kindness -- you make the difference between despair and hope.

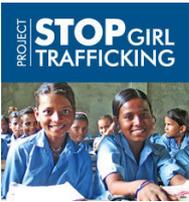
Sincerely,

Erica Stone
President

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.

Beverly Lees, our Mission Treasurer, has provided us with the update of what we have collected and donated for our September and October 2016 Mission.

 	
<p align="center">SEPTEMBER \$334.00</p>	<p align="center">OCTOBER \$250.00</p>

With Our Special Thanks To –

- ◆ David Crane, Bob Farmer and Bob L'Heureux who manned our church's booth to represent First Community Church at Southborough's Heritage Day on Monday, October 10 at St. Mark's School. It gave us an opportunity to let the townspeople know a little more about what a special church we have!
- ◆ The Dynamic Duo aka Darlene Sanderson and Dianne Simmons for their amazing talents of whipping up another super successful D&D Dinner last month. The total profit added to the General Fund was \$838!

Darlene and Dianne want to thank all those who bought tickets or donated towards this event. "We were thrilled by the tremendous support of folks who either bought tickets and attended the dinner or bought tickets and did not attend the dinner - but did let us know you were not coming and treated the ticket buying as pure donations." We were also delighted that so many of you came to the dinner and it sure looked to us as if you were all having a good time!" When the two D's looked around and saw everyone enjoying the food and each other's company, we rejoiced and gave each other high fives.

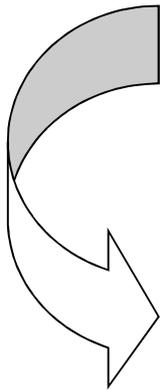
Thank you to Karin Farmer who took over the coffee detail. And thanks so much to the 3-generation descendants of Martha Templeman -who helped so much with the serving of food and the cleanup. Those 3-generation helpers were Martha's daughter Ginny, her granddaughter Coleen and her great-granddaughter Ashlei. Their help was invaluable to the smooth and efficient serving of the food and to the cleanup of the mounds of dishes. Many thanks to Rev. Sanderson who worked tirelessly to cut up all those chickens- a job that neither Darlene nor Dianne had any interest in doing. And last but not least, a very big thank you to the stores and vendors that generously donated all the goods that went into making this D&D dinner such a success.



Overflowing With Thanks

LOOKING AHEAD

**First Community Church Christmas Party
Saturday, December 18**



Write down these dates!!

NOVEMBER	
<i>Birthdays</i>	
Shirley Hutchinson	4 th
Beverly Lees	12 th
Mackenzie Renaud	13 th
Austin Renaud	13 th
Dennis Roy	20 th
Ann Deschamps	26 th
Sharon Willman	26 th
<i>Anniversaries</i>	
Diane & Ron Sickles	8 th
Darlene & Paul Sanderson	18 th

DECEMBER	
<i>Birthdays</i>	
Gilbert Joe	2 nd
Nancy Hite	3 rd
Betty Tebbetts	12 th
Tanner Willman	13 th
Bayley Willman	18 th
Cheryl Holmes	19 th
Darcy Hilbert	20 th
Stacey Willman	21 st
Dick Varney	24 th
Justin Elias	27 th
<i>Anniversaries</i>	
Kristen & Michael Springer	16 th
Lynn & Scott Webster	23 rd
Dorothy & Michael Larson	24 th



Celebrations 

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 2:30 PM Spiritual Exploration Reading Group 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Diaconate Meeting	2	3	4	5 
		6 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service <i>Sacrament of Holy Communion</i> Coffee Hour following Worship Service	7	8 2:30 PM Spiritual Exploration Reading Group 6:30 PM Trustee's Meeting	9	10
13 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service Coffee Hour following Worship Service	14	15 2:30 PM Spiritual Exploration Reading Group 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	16	17	18 1:00 PM Women's Fellowship	19  Annual Pie Sale 8:00 AM – 12 Noon
20 STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY & THANKSGIVING 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	21 <i>United Parishes Ecumenical "Service of Thanksgiving"</i> 7:00 PM Pilgrim Church	22 2:30 PM Spiritual Exploration Reading Group 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	23	24 	25	26
27 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service Coffee Hour following Worship Service	28 *December Newsletter Deadline*	29 2:30 PM Spiritual Exploration Reading Group 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	30	Missions  World Vision® <i>Building a better world for children</i>		