

**THE MEETINGHOUSE
MESSENGER**

Rally Sunday



September 13

**The First Congregational Church
in Stoneham**

September 2009



The Meetinghouse Messenger

The First Congregational Church in Stoneham
United Church of Christ * September 2009

september birthdays



church staff

Rev. Diane Cusumano, Interim Pastor
Sara Thompson, Secretary
John Piskadlo, Sexton
Joyce Simpson, Music Director
Heather Oliver, Treasurer
Donna Wall, Youth Director

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1	Donald Wall
1	Jim Davis
2	AJ Catalano
3	Keith Nelson
4	Connie MacDonald
7	Molly Sawicki
21	Joseph Schwarz
25	Edna Dodge
26	Ryan Schwarz

If you would like to be added to the birthday list, please call the church office or email Heather.

LET'S GO GREEN!

We currently have **39** people out of **230** on the mailing list who have opted to receive their Messenger by email. Let's help the planet and the save the church money by increasing that number. If you are willing to receive an e-messenger, please send an email to the Editor at heatherwiw@rcn.com. THANKS!

craft group

Crafts will meet every Tuesday in September at 9:30 am. All are welcome to come and join us.

messenger deadline

The Deadline for the October 2009 Messenger is Sunday, September 20th.

tea anyone?

We are considering having another Tea Party next year. February 14, 2010, a Sunday which happens to be Valentine's Day, is being considered. Any ladies who would like to hostess a table for her friends and relatives for this event should speak to Judy Clark (781-944-7240). It is early, but I would like to get an idea of who is interested in participating before making any definite plans.

town day

Stoneham Town Day is Sat., Sept. 12th. Be sure to drop by our table with Crafts items and Missions information. The Boy Scouts should be next to us for a great lunch. see you there!

Books and Chocolate

For September, we are reading the book "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society", a novel by Mary Ann Shaffer and Ann Barrows

The Entertainment Book is back!

Please help us raise money for the annual Church Fair fund! We are selling Entertainment 2010, a book packed with money-saving coupons for dining out, travel, entertainment, shopping, home keeping, and much more. The cost of the book is \$25.00, a portion of which goes to the Church. The book will be available during Coffee Hours for perusal and purchase. It makes a wonderful personal gift or hostess present. To purchase Entertainment 2010, contact Jill Geisler on Sundays at church or at 781-662-0450.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS:

Here is our list of "Items of the Week" for the month of September. Please remember to pick up these items when you are grocery shopping. Please do your part to help stock our pantry for those in need in our church community and in Stoneham and the neighboring communities.

June 28 – July 4	Bleach
July 5 – 11	Canned Mushrooms
July 12 – 18	Parmesan Cheese
July 19 – 25	Coffee
July 26 – August 1	Mayonnaise

Thank you all for your continued help!
Lynn Haddad, Lorraine Savage and Sara Thompson

Sound System

The Church needs a new sound system to complement and highlight our wonderful choir, cantatas, drama presentations, minister, and TV broadcasts. The music committee has been busy researching possible systems/upgrades, but we could really use some expertise to help wade through the quotes and figure out what components we really need and what we don't and how to best prioritize purchases. If anyone knows anything about sound systems, or can offer any assistance (advice or financial assistance☺) please contact Joe Haddad. Thanks!



HOLLY FAIR

NOVEMBER 13TH AND 14TH

Friday	7PM - 9PM	Fair and Pie Social
Saturday	9AM - 2PM	Fair, Coffee Hour and Luncheon.
Saturday	5:30 PM	Ham & Bean Dinner followed by Auction.

To make this fair a success requires many, many hands. There will be a book room, a white elephant room, children's room with clothing and toys, cotton and knit items, jewelry, crafts and a country store. If you have time to volunteer, please sign your name on the poster in fellowship hall or contact Linda Merrow,

We would welcome your donations of baked goods, knit items, jewelry, books, children's clothing and white elephant items. Donations for the Auction would also be appreciated.

Donations may be left on the stage. If you have an item that requires pick up, please contact Linda Merrow at 781-438-2475.

Golden Age

It is a long standing tradition at First Church
To honor the elders in our midst
on Golden Age Sunday.

We will celebrate the 134th Anniversary of this special
event on Sunday, October 18th, 2009,
honoring those who are 80 and over.

Please call Sara in the Church Office to add your name
or the name of a friend or family member
(with permission, please)

Thank you

Thank you for remembering me in my time of need. You helped
make my recovery more bearable.
Sincerely, Mikayla Freeman

Condolences

Our condolences to the family of Julie Nelson, who passed away
on August 12th. Julie was married to David Nelson and was the
daughter of Marie Andrews, all of whom were members here.

Baptism

Dominik Richard Jutras was baptized by Rev. Diane Cusumano
on Aug. 9th. Dominik was born on December 30th, 2008 and is the
son of Angela Gardner and Matthew Jutras.
Welcome Dominik!

!!Now Recruiting for Team Jesus!!

Team Jesus wants YOU! Join us on Sept 13th for Rally Sunday.
We will kick off a new year of Sunday School and reenergize our
commitment to our teachers, our children and the growth of our
church family. There will be an awesome pep rally and tailgate
party. Bring your team spirit, your enthusiasm and your pom
poms! (And wear your favorite team shirt!) Are you a part of
Team Jesus?

Dear Friends in Christ,

I write to you on a Friday afternoon. The church building is quiet. Yet, only a few hours ago Vacation Bible Blast was winding down. The forty-one children have gone home. I miss them already: their joy and laughter, their inquisitive minds, their capacity and appetite to learn. And they did learn. They soaked up God's love through song, dance, Bible stories, science discovery, arts and crafts, play time and snacks. We had twenty-four teen helpers and eighteen adults. What a commitment to teaching our children about our faith!

September. Back to school month. The beginning of a new Sunday School year. September 13 is Rally Day, a day of promise and beginnings, to focus on education in the church. I am hoping and praying that this year's Sunday School will be as inspirational as VBB because Christian education is the foundation stone of the church.

In the Old Testament scriptures (Deuteronomy 6:4-9) Moses, one of our first religious teachers, told the people of Israel to be diligent about teaching their children, that they should remember the words from God and recite those words to their children at home and when away from home and when going to bed at night and when getting up every morning.

The teaching tradition is continued in the New Testament with the many stories of Jesus teaching his disciples and the crowds of people who followed him. At the end of the gospel of Matthew 28:20, when Jesus returns to the disciples after his resurrection, he gives them quite a teaching mandate: "Make disciples of all nations and teach them everything I have commanded you." That applies to all of us, even today. So, how can we carry out that great commission from Jesus? Through Community, Curriculum, and Commitment.

Community. We are a family of faith who share a common story: the good news of Jesus Christ. We all are called by God and the Gospel to make a difference in the world, to share the amazing story of Jesus that has been passed down over the generations for 2,000 years. We need the whole family of faith of First Congregational Church in Stoneham to be involved in the Christian Education program.

Curriculum. The word curriculum comes from a Latin root meaning to run a course. One commentator relates the root of

the word curriculum to a circular racetrack, and by analogy suggests that a curriculum is an overall design, a round of activities. To me, that implies that all of us should be on the track, not in the grandstand because the curriculum of Jesus requires action. A church curriculum is not just published materials but much broader, including other forms through which the church educates, such as worship, proclamation, fellowship and service.

Commitment. You may be thinking that you cannot possibly make a commitment to the Christian education program because your background is in the medical field or engineering, or management or you are now a retired grandparent. You may think you have no teaching skills, but Christian education is more than teaching a lesson.

Each time we baptize a child in this family of faith, you are asked a question: Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support and care to the one about to be baptized as the child lives and grows in Christ? We all need to take seriously that each of us has a role in educating the children of this congregation. We need commitment from everyone to raise the children of this congregation in the faith.

Can you sing or play an instrument? Do you have a craft you could share with the children? Could you make costumes for a pageant? Would you help in the nursery? Would you mentor a young person and share your own journey of faith? Could you go bowling with the teenagers? If you are asked to help in the Sunday School or with the teens or in the nursery, I hope you will say Yes. For if you say no, you are not only saying no to the person who asked you – you are saying NO to the children -- and NO to God. Since coming to the church, I continue to hear comments that we want to reach out into the community, we want to embrace more young families with children, we hope the church will grow. What commitment will you make to the Christian Education Program?

Join us on Rally Day Sunday as we celebrate the children and recommit our community of faith, in all that we do, to the teaching of the Word of God.

Faithfully yours, Pastor Diane

RALLY 'ROUND THE CHURCH WITH THE PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

On Rally Sunday, September 13, the Pastor Search Committee needs the help of the whole congregation. In order to complete the Church Profile, a document used to describe our family of faith to prospective pastors, the committee needs your help with some demographic information along with your input regarding the strength and challenges of our church and your preferences and concerns regarding pastoral leadership.

After we kick off the new Sunday School year with a brief worship to bless the children and commission the teachers, the Search Committee will present a short survey for you to complete during the second half of the worship hour. We will end the worship hour with a Pep Rally for Team Jesus followed by a Tailgate Luncheon. By completing the survey at the church we will eliminate postage costs and have immediate results. If you will not be able to join us for worship on September 13 and wish to participate in the survey, please call Linda Paolini at 781-279-9116 or Elsie Wallace at 781-438-3005 after September 6 to arrange for you to receive the survey. All surveys must be returned by September 15.

The Search Committee wants to thank Katy Bemis for her leadership as Chair of the committee over the past few months as we began our process. We will surely miss her now that she has re-located to San Antonio, Texas to be with her boyfriend. The committee is grateful that Kevin O'Neil has felt called to serve as the new Chair. We will appreciate your patience as the average time for a search process is eighteen months. We will offer monthly updates on the process and please speak to any member if you have questions or concerns. We all ask for your prayers that God will guide us.

Kevin O'Neil, Chair

Chris Decker

Christeena Decker

Jan Droz

Joe Haddad

Tim Korwan

Linda Merrow

Heather Oliver

Linda Paolini

Dick Perry

Joan Snyder

Donna Wall

Elsie Wallace

RALLY DAY – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

RALLY 'ROUND THE CHILDREN

Register children for Sunday School

RALLY 'ROUND THE CHURCH

Pastor Search Committee Survey

RALLY 'ROUND TEAM JESUS

Tailgate luncheon following worship

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:30 Crafts 5:45 Comm. Dinner 7:00 Book Study (Parlor)	2 7:30 Adventista (Chapel)	3	4	5 9-2 Adventista
6 8:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:30 Diaconate	7 OFFICE CLOSED	8 9:30 Crafts 5:45 Comm. Dinner 7:00 Book Study (Parlor)	9 7:30 Adventista (Chapel)	10 6:00 Serve (Hallway)	11	12 TOWN DAY
13 8:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:30 Trustees RALLY SUNDAY	14 8-9 AA/Lounge	15 9:30 Crafts 5:45 Comm. Dinner 7:00 Book Study (Parlor)	16 7:30 Adventista (Chapel) 3:30 Chimes 4:30 Drama	17	18	19 9-2 Adventista 5:30 Wedding
20 8:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:30 Search Com	21 8-9 AA/Lounge	22 9:30 Crafts 5:45 Comm. Dinner 7:00 Book Study (Parlor)	23 7:30 Adventista (Chapel) 3:30 Chimes 4:30 Drama	24 7:00 Cantata Rehearsal	25	26 9-2 Adventista 9-11 Serve Pickup
27 8:30 Choir 10:00 Worship	28 8-9 AA/Lounge	29 9:30 Crafts 5:45 Comm. Dinner 7:00 Book Study (Parlor)	30 7:30 Adventista (Chapel) 3:30 Chimes 4:30 Drama	31		

VBB

What a great outreach program. Can we come again next week? Do you do this once a month? When will you do it again? My kids had a great time. Where did you get the music, my kids won't stop singing it. It was a wonderful time. Are you doing it again next year? How do you get invited to help?

These are questions I repeatedly answered many many times during the week, gladly. It is very rewarding to watch unbelieving expressions change to wonder and awe during the week. Parents leave daily smiling as their children shared the music, stories and adventure they encountered and learned during a morning with us. It is very uplifting to know we have touched many hearts, too.

I want to thank our 23 tweens/teens, 17 adults and 41 campers who participated in Vacation Bible Blast. Although the head count was the same as last year the names were different. Many people who helped and participated "had never done this before". But we also have many who have been many times and even those who had graduated from camper to assistants. What a great accomplishment to see our tweens wanting to come and share their experience with younger children, and be very excited about helping too. Some of our teens/tweens were fulfilling requirements for graduation and doing community service. Many teens/tweens invited their friends to help. It is great to know they feel comfortable inviting their friends to come to a program that they will enjoy and have fun.

I want to say thank you to everyone who helped pour their heart, soul, mind and strength into making this a very awesome week. Thank you for the loan and donations of equipment to make a great forest and campsite. This is an outreach program and is paid for by food donations, money contributions, some camper fees and from the CE budget. We did not break even this year but that is OK, by doing VBB we have reached out touched many hearts and that is very important.

Thanks for your support and understanding as we turned the church upside down for this one weeks time. I have peeked at a program for next year and it is called Galactic Blast: A Cosmic Adventure Praising God! Now that sounds interesting. See you for next year's program!

Donna Wall
VBB Director

Missions Schedule

Tuesday September 8th, 5:30 p.m. Hungry Helpers

Sunday September 13th 11:30 Missions Meeting

Sunday September 20th Missions Coffee Hour

Help Needed for Hungry Helpers

Volunteers are needed to assist with our church's Community Dinner meal on the second Tuesday of each month. If you can help out, arrive at 5:30 to serve or come a bit later to assist with clearing tables and washing up.

Cash donations are also gratefully accepted for purchasing groceries for these meals. Donations can be dropped off in the church office.

Also, don't forget the "Change for the Better" buckets located outside the sanctuary doors. Just 25 cents from each person on Sundays would provide enough funding for at least 3 meals a year.

Toiletry Collection

Don't forget to bring home the complimentary soap, shampoo, and other toiletry items from your travels.

These items will be delivered to Emmaus, Inc. in Haverhill and Rosie's Place in Boston for distribution to their patrons.

Unopened, travel-size toiletries may be left in the Missions' collection basket in the church office.

Many thanks to those of you who have already donated toiletries.

Stoneham English for All

HELP STONEHAM LIBRARY GET ESL SOFTWARE

Stoneham English for All, a community project sparked by our Missions/Outreach committee is raising \$\$ to help the Stoneham Library purchase English language software for our neighbors learning English.

We've set a fundraising goal of \$2,000, and thanks to the ping-pong tournament and generous donations, we have already raised almost \$500 towards our goal.

This money will enable our local library to provide additional tools for Stoneham residents. Library staff is currently researching programs that can be accessed online from home, as well as available in the library.

If you'd like to make a donation, please make out a check to English At Large/Stoneham Library Fund, and send it to the Missions Committee at church or to Ben Jacques, 89 Collincote St., Stoneham, MA 02180.

Sept. 12: Meet a tutor—become a tutor

Several of our ESL tutors will be staffing a booth for Stoneham English for All on Town Day, Saturday, Sept. 12. Our goal is to spread the word about what we do, to recruit new volunteers, and to raise money for our Stoneham Library Fund.

We will also be hosting another tutor-training class on three Saturdays beginning on Oct. 31. Martine Thomas, English At Large program manager, will return to train a new team of tutors, to be matched with adult learners for the coming year.

We are happy to host this class at First Congregational Church.

Stoneham English for All, a special project of our Missions/Outreach Committee, will also be starting two conversation groups for intermediate to advanced learners. For more information, contact Ben Jacques at 781-438-5596.

-Daily Lectionary- September 2009

*These lectionary readings are from A Daily Lectionary-Scripture readings for Every Day based on the New Common Lectionary. Please share this resource with members of your church.
The readings listed for Sundays are from the UCC Desk Calendar and are not part of the daily lectionary cycle.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>New Testament</u>	<u>Epistle</u>
Tues	Sept 1	1Chron 29:1-13	Mark 14:1-9	James 3:1-5
Wed	Sept 2	1 Chron 29:14-25(26-30)	Mark 14:10-16	James 3:6-12
Thurs	Sept 3	2 Chron 20:1-19	Mark 14:17-31	James 3:13-18
Fri	Sept 4	2 Chron 20:20-30	Mark 14:32-42	James 4:1-6
Sat	Sept 5	2 Chron 36:11-23	Mark 14:43-52	James 4:7-12
*Sun	Sept 6	Isa 35:4-7a	Mark 7:24-37	James 2:1-10(11-13)14-17
Mon	Sept 7	Prov 1:1-19	Mark 14:53-65	James 4:13-17
Tues	Sept 8	Prov 1:20-33	Mark 14:66-72	James 5:1-6
Wed	Sept 9	Prov 3:1-12	Mark 15:1-15	James 5:7-12
Thurs	Sept 10	Prov 3:13-26	Mark 15:16-32	James 5:13-20
Fri	Sept 11	Prov 4:1-19	Mark 15:33-39	Phil 1:1-11
Sat	Sept 12	Prov 30:1-20	Mark 15:40-47	Phil 1:12-20
*Sun	Sept 13	Isa 50:4-9a	Mark 8:27-38	James 3:1-12
Mon	Sept 14	Prov 30:21-33	Mark 16:1-8	Phil 1:21-27
Tues	Sept 15	Job 1:1-22	Mark 16:9-20	Phil 1:27-30
Wed	Sept 16	Job 2:1-13	Luke 2:41-52	Phil 2:1-5
Thurs	Sept 17	Job 3:1-26	Luke 3:1-14	Phil 2:6-13
Fri	Sept 18	Job 4:1-6,12-21	Luke 3:15-22	Phil 2:14-18
Sat	Sept 19	Job 4:1,5:1-17(18-27)	Luke 4:1-13	Phil 2:19-30
*Sun	Sept 20	Jer11:18-20	Mark 9:30-37	James 3:13-4:3,7-8a
Mon	Sept 21	Job 6:1-13	Luke 4:14-30	Phil 3:1-7
Tues	Sept 22	Job 6:14-30	Luke 4:31-47	Phil 3:8-11
Wed	Sept 23	Job 7:1-21	Luke 4:38-44	Phil 3:12-21
Thurs	Sept 24	Job 8:1-22	Luke 5:1-11	Phil 4:1-7
Fri	Sept 25	Job 9:1-15	Luke 5:12-26	Phil 4:8-13
Sat	Sept 26	Job 9:16-35	Luke 5:27-39	Phil 4:14-23
*Sun	Sept 27	Eat 7:1-6,9-10;9:20-22	Mark 9:38-50	James 5:13-20
Mon	Sept 28	Job 10:1-22	Luke 6:1-11	Philem 1-14
Tues	Sept 29	Job 11:1-20	Luke 6:12-26	Philem 15-25
Wed	Sept 30	Job 12:1-25	Luke 6:27-38	Heb 1:1-7



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The Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ
...nurturing local church vitality and the covenant among our churches.

*Made possible by your contributions to
Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support and Fellowship Dues*