

**The First
Congregational
Church in
Stoneham**

The Meetinghouse Messenger

August 2010

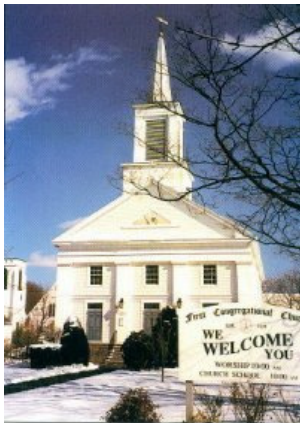
**United Church of
Christ**

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VBB—August 9-13, 2010



It's almost here! Plans are finally coming together. I have found some adults available to help with crafts, songs, stories, science, and games. I have a 'computer voice' and puppeteer. And I have space ship full of decorations to place around the Church. Time is just ticking away and it is almost time for our journey to begin.

I am really excited about the dedication of our youth/teens who have decided to return this year and help get this space shuttle off the ground. I will be looking for many hands to help decorate on Wednesday August 4 from 7 - 8pm and again I'll need a large crew on Sunday August 8 from 2 -5pm (adults and teens welcome) to complete the decorating and preparing for Monday morning. There is plenty left to do and many hands will allow us to finish early.

Registration papers are available in the Church office or on Sunday mornings. All volunteers also need to register and have emergency contact information in the Church office for VBB. Questions, concerns or conversations for VBB can be directed to Donna Wall or Sara in the office.

It has been an interesting and exciting journey so far planning for our space shuttle, the Galactic Blast. If during the week of August 9 - 13 you have some free time and want to experience VBB, drop by and be a part of the adventure. Donna and her crew will also bring you our space adventure re-cap on Sunday August 15 at worship See you all soon.

Coming Events:

- August 9-13: VBB
- September 12: Rally Sunday
- November 12-13: Church Fair



The First Congregational Church in Stoneham

One Church St.
Stoneham, MA 02180
781-438-0097
781-438-0238 (fax)

COME WORSHIP WITH US!

Staff of the Church:
Rev. Meredith Allen, Pastor
Joyce Simpson, Music Director
Sara Thompson, Secretary
John Piskadlo, Sexton
Judi Perry, Sunday School Superintendent
Kevin O'Neil, Youth Group Leader
Heather Oliver, Treasurer & Messenger Editor

We are on the Web!

www.firstchurchstoneham.org

Or

www.facebook.com

Craft Group

The Craft Group will meet again in September! See you then!

Pastor Merrie's first day will be during the week of August 23rd, and her first Sunday preaching will be Rally Sunday, Sept. 12. Don't miss it!

From the Flower Committee:

Summer is here and we would love to see your garden flowers on our altar. Please call Sara in the office, call Betty Baumann, or just bring them on Sunday! Thanks in advance



Missions / Outreach

Missions Schedule

Tuesday August 10th 5:30 p.m. Hungry Helpers

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. For more information, contact Lynn Haddad.

United Church of Christ Coffee Project

The Missions/Outreach Committee continues to sell fair trade coffee, tea, chocolates during the summer months. If you'd like to purchase any of these products, speak with Lynn Haddad during coffee hour or contact her at lahaddad@verizon.net. The quality of these items is excellent and the prices are very reasonable. Your purchase will help support fair trade farmers in many countries

Don't Forget.....

When traveling this summer, don't forget to bring home the unopened soap, shampoo, and other toiletry items for our **toiletry collection** for Rosie's Place in Boston. Toiletries may be left in the Missions' collection basket in the church office.

New Youth Group Leader!

The Christian Education Committee is delighted to announce that Kevin O'Neil has agreed to become the new Youth Group leader. He has shown tremendous leadership and dedication as Chairman of the Search Committee and we are excited to have him bring his talents and energy to the youth program. Stay tuned for more youth group news!

Christian Education

The Christian Education Committee met on July 8 to welcome new members and begin planning for Sunday School in September. Several people have stepped up to teach but more teachers are needed. Contact Judi Perry, Sunday School Superintendent, or Lorraine Savage, CE Chairperson if you can help. We were blessed to have Pastor Merrie attend the meeting and share her vision and ideas. The acolyte program will resume in September and will welcome any children in grade 5 and up who would like to participate. Details about acolyte training will be in the next newsletter.



- | | | | |
|----|------------------|----|------------------|
| 2 | Andrew Clark | 22 | Linda Paolini |
| 4 | Richard Wallace | 23 | Bette Biggio |
| 4 | Susan Jepson | 23 | Kathleen Vacca |
| 11 | Ron Bergstrom | 24 | Norma Lister |
| 11 | Nancy Muise | 26 | Robert Dodge |
| 12 | William Pirie | 26 | Gail Wright |
| 12 | Chuck Severance | 28 | Robert Biggio |
| 13 | Ginny Cummings | 28 | Marion Nelson |
| 14 | Doris Green | 28 | Christopher Wall |
| 14 | Justine Sullivan | 30 | Lynda Chapman |
| 16 | Michael Wall | 31 | Zachary Jacques |

Let's Go Green!

We currently have **69** people out of **231** 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 heatherwiw@rcn.com.
THANKS



Town Day!

Stoneham Town Day will be September 11. The craft group will have a table with fall crafts.



Stoneham Farmer's Market!

Every Tuesday from 2-7pm starting on June 29 through mid-October on the Stoneham

Town Common. This is run by the Stoneham Senior Center to benefit programs for seniors in Stoneham.

Save the Date!

The 2010 Church fair will be held November 12th and November 13th. Watch your Messenger in the coming months for more details.

First Church is on TV!

Couldn't get to service this week? Loved the sermon so much you want to hear it again? First Church services are rebroadcast all week!

- Comcast users: Channel 9
- Verizon users: Channel 34
- RCN users: Channel 3



The schedule and channels are as follows:

- Weekly Schedule:
- Monday 6:00 PM
 - Tuesday 10:00 AM
 - Wednesday 4:00 PM
 - Thursday 10:00 AM
 - Saturday 8:00 AM
 - Sunday 8:00 AM

Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

Writing this letter is a bittersweet moment. I celebrate with you the calling of Rev. Meredith Allen as your new pastor. Yet, as I worship with you on August 1st for the last time I know I will miss being a part of First Church. I have been so blessed to serve as your interim pastor for the past sixteen months. I thank God for the privilege to walk with you as the church renewed its spirit during our time together. I leave you in good hands – your own – for you have taken ownership of your congregation. The committees are strong, with some new leadership and with continuing activities and some new plans for future activities.

I thank all of you for welcoming me into your lives, for sharing your faith journeys with me, and especially for your prayers for me. If I tried to thank you individually for your kindnesses to me it would take up the whole newsletter, so I hope you will accept my gratitude, from the depth of my heart, to all of you. One of my favorite hymns best sums up how I feel about all of you: *They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love*. I have experienced your love and thank God that your love for the church of Jesus Christ, for the community, and for each other has blossomed.

Thanks be to God and all of you as I celebrate with you First Church's continuing commitment to serve your community. During the past year the Food Pantry has received many donations and has been serving more clients during the depressed economy. A few weeks ago I was privileged to share in the 15th anniversary celebration of the Community Dinner program, and I pray that it may continue for another 15 years. A highlight of our time together was the installation of the new sound system which greatly enhanced Sunday worship with Joyce and the choir, the children's chimes and drama programs, and the Advent and Palm Sunday Cantatas. And a special worship for me was resuming the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service and pray that will continue this year by opening up First Church to all the community.

With God's grace and Rev. Allen as your spiritual guide, may your renewed spirit reach out into the community to embrace more folks to share in the joy and fellowship of this warm and wonderful family of faith.

I will miss you but through God's gift of love and the power of the Holy Spirit you will always remain in my heart. I will look forward to receiving the e-mail Messenger each month to keep abreast of your continuing journey of faith.

I leave you with words from the holy scriptures: *May the LORD watch between you and me, when we are absent one from the other.* (Genesis 31:49)

Yours in the peace of Christ, *Pastor Diane*



Food Pantry

Here is our list of "Items of the Week" for the month of August. 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.

Aug. 1 – 7	Mayonnaise
Aug. 8 – 14	Instant Potatoes
Aug. 15 – 21	Vegetable Oil
Aug. 22 – 28	Bottled Juice
Aug. 29 – Sept. 4	Sugar (2 lb. boxes)



We have been fortunate to be able to buy quite a few items for the pantry with coupons at great discounts. If you would like to help the food pantry in this way, please leave your coupons in the church office.

Thank you all for your continued help!

Lynn Haddad, Lorraine Savage and Sara Thompson

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN STONEHAM STEEPLE FUND

1 CHURCH STREET, STONEHAM, MA 02180

Yes, I would like to donate to the Steeple Fund

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount of donation: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to:

First Congregational Church in Stoneham Steeple Fund

Please make this donation in memory of: Name: _____

The Steeple Fund Committee will be printing a list of name of those people who have donated to the Steeple Fund. This list will be displayed in Fellowship Hall. If you do not wish to have your name printed on this list, please indicate here:

NO, do not print my name _____

August 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Farewell to Pastor Diane!	2 8-9 AA/Lounge	3 5:45 Community Dinners 7:00 Book Study	4 7-8:30 VBB Prep 7:30 Iglesia	5	6	7 9-2 Iglesia/ Sanctuary
8 Kevin O'Neil Preaching	9 VBB 8-9 AA/Lounge	10 VBB 5:45 Comm. Dinners 7:00 Book Study	11 VBB 7:30 Iglesia	12 VBB 7:00 55+ Singles	13 VBB	14 9-2 Iglesia/ Sanctuary
15 VBB Wrap Up Sunday	16 8-9 AA/Lounge	17 5:45 Community Dinners 7:00 Book Study	18 7:30 Iglesia/ Chapel	19	20	21 9-2 Iglesia/ Sanctuary
22 Helen Collins Preaching	23 7:30 Books & Chocolate 8-9 AA/Lounge	24 5:45 Community Dinners 7:00 Book Study	25 7:30 Iglesia	26	27	28 9-2 Iglesia/ Sanctuary
29 Judi Perry Preaching	30 8-9 AA/Lounge	31 5:45 Community Dinners 7:00 Book Study				

Sunday School

We certainly have been experiencing the true meaning of 'Summer' this year. We hope you all are enjoying yourselves in some air-conditioned place, a pool, or maybe even you own summer place. Wherever you may find yourselves, enjoy, be healthy and safe!

We are working on securing Sunday School teachers and have chosen the curriculum for the fall semester. The children will be learning about "God and the First Families - Stories from Genesis." These will be different than they learned about last year.

There are lots of new things happening: there is a new CE committee; we have a new Youth Director and, best of all, we have a new Minister, Rev. Merrie Allen. Our church is blessed, indeed!

Remember that God loves you!

Judi Perry
Sunday School Superintendent

Correspondance

Dear Friends, Just a note to thank you for the lovely flowers given to my husband John, during his battle with cancer. Sadly he lost his fight on May 4th and has taken his place in God's home. Pastor Diane's visit during the last week was a great comfort to us both. I thank you so much Diane for that day. The prayers at church on Sundays for him to get well, thank you for those and God Bless! I also wish to express my gratitude for the donations to the cancer Society made on his behalf and also for all the beautiful cards and caring words of sympathy from so many friends at church. Again, thanks for your thoughtfulness and your concern for my family.

Love to all, Bette Biggio

Community Announcements

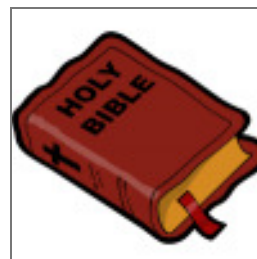
Affinity Hospice of Life is looking for dedicated volunteers to visit with our special patients in the Stoneham area. There are many opportunities for volunteering with Affinity. Our volunteers are trained free of charge by our volunteer coordinator. Hospice volunteers participate in a wide range of patient specific activities including taking walks, reading, grocery shopping or supervising with pet therapy. Volunteering is a gift that very special people give to those suffering from a terminal illness. If you are a caring individual who wants to make a difference, please call Affinity Hospice of Life at 888-239-0401.

Hallmark health VNA and Hospice is making gift purchasing easier this year. Unique, one of a kind gifts will be available at the Hallmark health Hospice Artisan Fair on Saturday, Nov. 6 from 10-3 at the Americal Civic Center in Wakefield. The fair will feature handmade jewelry, pottery, furniture, paper journals, glass blown pieces, photos, paintings and more. Free admission. For more info, call Janet at 781-338-7902.

To my church family,

Many thanks for all the prayers, cards and phone calls. They have been greatly appreciated. Thanks also for the beautiful prayer shawl, flowers and visits from Pastor Diane.

Sincerely, Marion DiMeglio



Meet our New Members!

Valerie Giovanni

Valerie lives in Stoneham and has 2 children, Dawn and James, and one grandchild, Justin, who lives in Virginia. Valerie is a retired accountant who worked at Melrose Hospital. Her hobby is her dog! Valerie comes to us as a transfer from the Presbyterian Church in Needham. Welcome Valerie!

Kathleen Bardell

Kathleen lives in Stoneham and has 2 children, Autumn and Bryce. Kathleen works at MetLife and enjoys camping, collecting, scrapbooking and playing with her kids! Kathleen was drawn to the church by the people, and plans to get involved helping youth and joining the craft group. Welcome Kathleen!

Louise Southmayd

Louise lives with her husband in Stoneham and is a homemaker. Louise enjoys needlepoint, cross-stitch and crochet. Louise was attracted to First Church by the feeling that we are all Family. Louise plans to get involved in bible Study, visiting, and hosting coffee

Denise Keegan

Denise lives in Stoneham and has 3 children, Chelsey, Rachael and Jason. Denise is a Registered Nurse and she volunteers for the Department of Social Services. Her hobbies include painting, reading, gardening and her children! Denise looks forward to getting involved with the social committee and helping with food related events at the church (and we have plenty of those!). Denise came to First Church because she was church shopping and drove by and felt that the doors of First Church were calling her in. Welcome Denise!

Melanie Bell

Melanie lives in Stoneham and has 2 children, Nicholas and Elaina. Melanie is a psychotherapist and enjoys music and exercise. Melanie came to the church on the recommendation of her friend Linda Paolini (good work, Linda!) and would like to get involved with the music program and filming services. Welcome Melanie!

Robert Bardell

Robert lives in Stoneham and has 2 children, Autumn and Bryce. Robert works on computers and coaches football. Robert came to the church because of the people, and looks forward to getting involved with cooking here at the church. Robert comes to us through Confession of Faith. Robert and Kathleen's children have already joined Sunday School and Chimes. Welcome Robert!



He shall be like a tree
Planted by the rivers of water,
That brings forth its fruit in its season,
Whose leaf shall not wither;
And whatever he does shall prosper.

Daily Lectionary Scripture References
August 2010 (Year C)

Sun., Aug. 1
18th Sunday – Ordinary Time
 Hosea 11:1-11
 Psalm 107:1-9, 43
 Colossians 3:1-11
 Luke 12:13-21

Mon., Aug. 2
 Psalm 60
 Hosea 11:12–12:14
 Colossians 3:18–4:1

Tues., Aug. 3
 Psalm 60
 Hosea 13:1-16
 Colossians 4:2-6

Wed., Aug. 4
 Psalm 60
 Hosea 14:1-9
 Luke 12:22-31

Thurs., Aug. 5
 Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23
 Isaiah 9:8-17
 Romans 9:1-9

Fri., Aug. 6
 Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23
 Isaiah 9:18–10:4
 Acts 7:1-8

Sat., Aug. 7
 Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23
 Isaiah 1:2-9, 21-23
 Matthew 6:19-24

Sun., Aug. 8
19th Sunday – Ordinary Time
 Isaiah 1:1, 10-20
 Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23
 Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
 Luke 12:32-40

Mon., Aug. 9
 Psalm 11
 Isaiah 2:1-4
 Hebrews 11:1-7

Tues., Aug. 10
 Psalm 11
 Isaiah 24:1-13
 Hebrews 11:17-28

Wed., Aug. 11
 Psalm 11 • Isaiah 24:14-23
 Luke 12:41-48

Thurs., Aug. 12
 Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19
 Isaiah 2:5-11
 Hebrews 10:26-31

Fri., Aug. 13
 Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19
 Isaiah 3:1-17
 Hebrews 10:32-39

Sat., Aug. 14
 Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19
 Isaiah 3:18–4:6
 Matthew 24:15-27

Sun., Aug. 15
20th Sunday – Ordinary Time
 Isaiah 5:1-7
 Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19
 Hebrews 11:29–12:2
 Luke 12:49-56

Mon., Aug. 16
 Psalm 74
 Isaiah 5:8-23
 1 John 4:1-6

Tues., Aug. 17
 Psalm 74 • Isaiah 5:24-30
 Acts 7:44-53

Wed., Aug. 18
 Psalm 74
 Isaiah 27:1-13
 Luke 19:45-48

Thurs., Aug. 19
 Psalm 71:1-6
 Jeremiah 6:1-19
 Hebrews 12:3-17

Fri., Aug. 20
 Psalm 71:1-6
 Jeremiah 6:20-30
 Acts 17:1-9

Sat., Aug. 21
 Psalm 71:1-6
 Jeremiah 1:1-3, 11-19
 Luke 6:1-5

Sun., Aug. 22
21st Sunday – Ordinary Time
 Jeremiah 1:4-10
 Psalm 71:1-6
 Hebrews 12:18-29
 Luke 13:10-17

Mon., Aug. 23
 Psalm 10
 Jeremiah 7:1-15
 Hebrews 3:7–4:11

Tues., Aug. 24
 Psalm 10
 Jeremiah 7:16-26
 Revelation 3:7-13

Wed., Aug. 25
 Psalm 10
 Jeremiah 7:27-34
 Luke 6:6-11

Thurs., Aug. 26
 Psalm 81:1, 10-16
 Jeremiah 11:1-17
 1 Peter 3:8-12

Fri., Aug. 27
 Psalm 81:1, 10-16
 Jeremiah 12:1-13
 1 Peter 4:7-11

Sat., Aug. 28
 Psalm 81:1, 10-16
 Jeremiah 2:1-3, 14-22
 Matthew 20:20-28

Sun., Aug. 29
22nd Sunday – Ordinary Time
 Jeremiah 2:4-13
 Psalm 81:1, 10-16
 Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
 Luke 14:1, 7-14

Mon., Aug. 30
 Psalm 58
 Jeremiah 2:23-37
 Hebrews 13:7-21

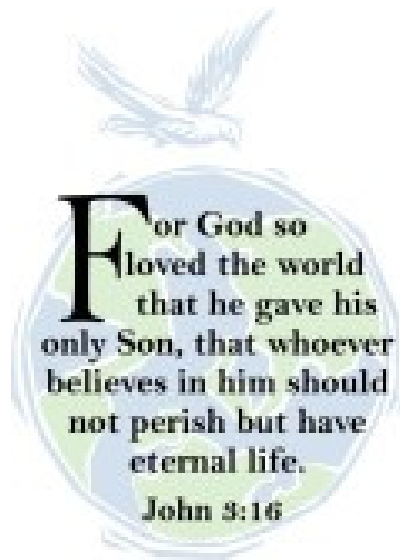
Tues., Aug. 31
 Psalm 58
 Jeremiah 3:1-14
 Titus 1:1-9



Note: During the period of Ordinary Time, the Revised Common Lectionary provides two parallel tracks: the complementary and the semicontinuous. The latter option, which allows for a more sequential reading through the major themes of certain biblical books, is offered here. The other sequence can be found at commontexts.org

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The First Congregational Church

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Office Hours: Mon-Fri. 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

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