

THE MEETINGHOUSE MESSENGER

**The First Congregational Church
in Stoneham
January 2009**



The Meetinghouse Messenger

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

Church Staff

Sara Thompson, Secretary
John Piskadlo, Sexton
Joyce Simpson, Music Director
Heather Oliver, Messenger Editor
Donna Wall, Youth Director
Lynda Allard, Sunday School
Superintendent

Messenger Index

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Calendar..... | 3 |
| Daily Lectionary..... | 10 |
| First Church News..... | 2-9 |
| Missions..... | 5-6 |

January Birthdays

| | |
|----|-----------------------|
| 1 | Anthony Catalano, Jr. |
| 2 | Britney Fucci |
| 4 | Nancy Sawyer |
| 8 | Fred Baumann |
| 8 | Heidi Bilbo |
| 8 | Albert Savage |
| 9 | Rebecca Allard |
| 9 | Marge Dearth |
| 14 | Bob Cruickshank |
| 14 | Tessa Storm |
| 16 | Claire Melkonian |
| 18 | Ryan McGrath |
| 19 | Robert A. Dearth |
| 22 | Matthew Jackson |
| 27 | Bert Johnson |
| 27 | Dariel Thompson |
| 30 | Renee Muise |
| 30 | Susan Severance |

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



MESSENGER

DEADLINE

The Deadline for the February
2009 Messenger is Sunday,
January 19th.

Correspondence

Dear Members of Stoneham Congregational,
I am sorry to let you know that my dad, George Halstead, passed away quietly on Saturday, December 13th at the age of 96. He was the pastor in Stoneham during the 1950's. Correspondence may be sent to either daughter, Meredith Halstead Brown at 15 Grove Road, Bedford, NY 10506, or Carla Sandberg, 103 Walbridge Rd, West Hartford, CT 06119.
Blessings, Merry Brown

Dear House of Friendship,
Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated today and always. Thank you for the Poinsettia. It really makes the living room look like Christmas.
In Friendship, Emma Ryti

Holiday Fair 2008 - Profits by Table/Event:

| | | | |
|---------------------|----------|------------------|------------------|
| Pie social | \$220.50 | Children's | 113.10 |
| Coffee Hour | 52.00 | White Elephant | 198.56 |
| Luncheon | 287.20 | Perry's Photos | 80.00 |
| Supper | 412.00 | Jewelry/Boutique | 626.80 |
| Auction | 775.00 | Crafts | 500.00 |
| Entertainment Books | 125.00 | Country Store | 372.54 |
| Leftovers on Sunday | 108.45 | Cotton/Knits | 789.00 |
| Books | 109.85 | TOTAL | \$4770.00 |

Community Posting:

The Friends of Winchester Hospital extend an invitation to all men and women of the many communities served by the hospital to attend an orientation for prospective adult volunteers. The meetings will be held at 9:30 AM and 7:00 PM on Tuesday, January 6, 2009, in the Conference Center of the hospital and will include refreshments and a brief tour of the facility. Come and learn how you can contribute to the success of this dynamic healthcare organization, recently designated #1 Best Places to work by the Boston Business Journal and the Boston Globe and recertified as a Magnet Hospital for its excellence in nursing. If you have any questions, please call the Volunteer Services Department at 781-756-2625.

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|--|------------------|-----|--|
| 8:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 5-7 Youth Group | 8-9 AA (lounge) | 5:45 Comm. Dinner 7:00 Book Study (parlor) | 3:30-4:15 Chimes 4:30-5:30 Drama 7:30 Adventista (Chapel) | 7:00 55+ Singles | | 9-4 Adventista 5-11 Band Concert |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 8:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:15 - Trustees 5-7 Youth Group | OFFICE CLOSED 8-9 AA (lounge) | 5:45 Comm. Dinner 7:00 Book Study | 3:30-4:15 Chimes 4:30-5:30 Drama 7:30 Adventista (Chapel) | | | |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 8:30 Choir 10:00 Worship Wendy VanderHart 11:00 Business Meeting | 7:30 Books & Chocolate (Parlor) 8-9 AA (lounge) | 5:45 Comm. Dinner 7:00 Diaconate (Parlor) | 3:30-4:15 Chimes 4:30-5:30 Drama 7:30 Adventista (Chapel) | | | 9-4 Adventista (Hall) |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 8:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:15 - Trustees 5-7 Youth Group | 8-9 AA (lounge) | 5:45 Comm. Dinner 7:00 Book Study | 3:30-4:15 Chimes 4:30-5:30 Drama 7:30 Adventista (Chapel) | | | 9-4 Adventista |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| 10:00 Worship Family Sunday | 8-9 AA (lounge) | 5:45 Comm. Dinner 7:00 Book Study | 3:30-4:15 Chimes 4:30-5:30 Drama 7:30 Adventista (Chapel) | | | 9-4 Adventista |

Prayer Chain Information:

Prayer is a very special privilege that draws us near to God. When we pray, we praise God, listen to Him and share with him our deepest concerns for our family, our friends, strangers, our church, our country and ourselves. A Prayer Chain can be a wonderful blessing!! In 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18, the Bible says that we ought to "pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." The more we continue in prayer the more we can see the beautiful ways that God works in our lives each day. He provides us with joy in the exciting times and comfort and strength in our difficult times.

A Prayer Chain works in the following manner:

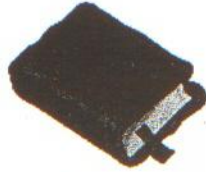
1. When you receive a prayer request, pray IMMEDIATELY.
2. After you have prayed, call the next person on the list.

If no one answers, call the next person and so on. You may leave a message on a person's answering machine but go directly to the following person. You may even have to call several people for one request.

It is always better for someone to get the message three or four times than not get it at all!!

3. When you hear of a prayer concern, call one or both Prayer Chain chairpersons, and they will begin the prayer request.
4. It is very important that every prayer request is passed to every member of our Prayer Chain.
5. When you hear of answers to prayer, call a Prayer Chain chairperson so that we may all hear of how God has worked and we can praise Him together!

If you would like to be a part of this important ministry, please call Judi Perry at 781-942-9785 ASAP! She will set up the "Prayer Chain Tree" for immediate use in upcoming requests.



A Note from the Editor:

The Messenger is now available by email (in .pdf format) for those who are interested! Anyone who chooses this paperless option will save the Church money on postage and printing and paper costs. Please send me an email if you are willing to receive the messenger by email. (and you have not already told me!) Thank you! (holiver@thecia.net)

MISSIONS / OUTREACH

Missions Schedule

Sunday January 11th, 11:30 a.m. Missions Meeting
Tuesday January 13th, 5:30 p.m. Hungry Helpers
Sunday January 18th, Missions Coffee Hour
Friday January 30th, 6:30 p.m. and Saturday January 31st
1:00 p.m. Bread & Roses Preparation

Thank You!

Once again First Congregational Church was very generous in supporting the *City Mission Society's (CMS) Christmas Shop Program*. . The Missions Committee collected \$70 in gift cards and a carload full of presents! The program helps families and children in need.

MISSIONS / OUTREACH

Bread & Roses in Lawrence, Massachusetts is very thankful for the toiletries collected from First Church members and delivered with our quarterly meal on November 29. The need is now greater so remember to leave your travel toiletries in the basket in the church office.

We collected **\$78** for the *Neighbors in Need* program which supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Thank you!

Reminders

Bread & Roses January 30-31

Preparations take place on Friday night Jan. 30, 6:30-8:00 p.m. and on Saturday Jan. 31 1:00 until 3:30 p.m. We need eight helpers or more on Friday nights and four on Saturdays. Bring your favorite knife, vegetable peeler, cutting board and apron! Also, don't forget to bring a hat or bandana to cover your hair if you don't like wearing a hairnet. Contact Lynn Haddad or Beth Bower for more information.

Hungry Helpers

The Missions Committee continues to seek volunteers and cash donations to purchase food and supplies. First Church prepares the community dinner on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. For more information contact Lynn Haddad.

**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 _____

First Congregational Church in Stoneham
1 Church Street Stoneham, Massachusetts 02180 (781)438-0097

NOTICE OF A SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

A Special Business Meeting of the First Congregational Church in Stoneham will be called to order at the close of worship (about 11am) on Sunday, *January* 11, 2009, in the Sanctuary of the Church. The Purpose of the Meeting is to choose a group of 12 or more members to be a Search Committee, charged with finding a suitable Minister for this Church to call as its permanent Pastor. In accordance with the Bylaws of the Church this is the only business which will be transacted at the meeting. The following articles constitute the Warrant for the Meeting:

Article 1 - To select a Search Committee composed of at least 12 members, nominating and voting on such members

Article 2 - To commission the Search Committee with appropriate ceremony and promises, that we may support their efforts, work for unity and clarity among us, and offer our prayers for the faithful completion of the task before them.

(Signed) *Tim Kamm*
Moderator

(Signed) *Sara Thompson*
Clerk

Date:

CRAFT GROUP

Crafts will not meet again until March.

BOOKS & CHOCOLATE

Our BOOK AND CHOCOLATE GROUP is meeting again on Jan. 12th, 2009, Monday evening at 7:30 p.m. We will welcome the new year with this new book, *The Shack* written by Wm. Paul Young. A brief description I got from Amazon. "Mackenzie Allen Philips' youngest daughter, Missy, has been abducted during a family vacation and evidence that she may have been brutally murdered is found in an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness. Four years later in the midst of his Great Sadness, Mack receives a suspicious note, apparently from God, inviting him back to that shack for a weekend. Against his better judgment he arrives at the shack on a wintry afternoon and walks back into his darkest nightmare." "The Shack" wrestles with the timeless question, "Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain?" It is available in a paperback book! Come and join us!! We will meet again in Feb. for a movie night, we plan to watch this title: *A Bridehead Revisited*. (the date is Feb. 9th). Call the church office for any information or email me at swade0624@comcast.net. Happy reading! Sharon and the book /chocolate group

CELEBRATE MLK DAY JAN. 19

Each year members of the Stoneham community gather at Town Hall to celebrate the life of Martin Luther King, Jr., and to support the principles he gave his life for in our lives and town.

Join your Stoneham neighbors for a program, food, and sharing on Monday, Jan. 19 at 1 p.m. More details coming.

Ben Jacques

-Daily Lectionary-

January 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> |
|-------------|---------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Thurs | Jan 1 | Eccles 3:1-13 | Matt 9:14-17 | Col 2:1-7 |
| Fri | Jan 2 | Gen 12:1-7 | John 6:35-42,48-51 | Heb 11:1-12 |
| Sat | Jan 3 | Gen 28:10-22 | John 10:7-17 | Heb 11:13-22 |
| *Sun | Jan 4 | Jer 31:7-14 | John 1(1-9),10-18 | Eph 1:3-14 |
| Mon | Jan 5 | Josh 1:1-9 | John 15:1-16 | Heb 11:32-12:2 |
| Tues | Jan 6 | Isa 60:1-6 | Matt 2:1-12 | Eph 3:1-12 |
| Wed | Jan 7 | Isa 52:3-6 | John 2:1-11 | Rev 2:1-7 |
| Thurs | Jan 8 | Isa 58:15b-21 | John 4:46-54 | Rev 2:8-17 |
| Fri | Jan 9 | Isa 63:1-5 | John 5:1-15 | Rev 2:18-29 |
| Sat | Jan 10 | Isa 65:1-9 | John 6:1-14 | Rev 3:1-6 |
| *Sun | Jan 11 | Gen 1:1-5 | Mark 1:4-11 | Acts 19:1-7 |
| Mon | Jan 12 | Isa 40:21-31 | Mark 4:13-20 | Rev 3:14-22 |
| Tues | Jan 13 | Isa 45:1-8 | Mark 4:21-31 | Heb 1:1-11 |
| Wed | Jan 14 | Isa 45:9-17 | Matt 4:12-17 | 1 Cor 1:1-9 |
| Thurs | Jan 15 | Isa 45:18-25 | Matt 4:18-25 | 1 Cor 1:10-17 |
| Fri | Jan 16 | Isa 46:1-13 | John 1:1-18 | 1 Cor 1:18-25 |
| Sat | Jan 17 | Isa 47:1-15 | John 1:19-34 | 1 Cor 1:26-31 |
| *Sun | Jan 18 | 1 Sam 3:1-10(11-20) | John 1:43-51 | 1 Cor 6:12-20 |
| Mon | Jan 19 | Isa 48:1-11 | John 1:43-51 | 1 Cor 2:1-9 |
| Tues | Jan 20 | Isa 48: 12-22 | John 2:1-12 | 1 Cor 2:10-16 |
| Wed | Jan 21 | Isa 49:1-7 | John 2:13-22 | 1 Cor 3:1-9 |
| Thurs | Jan 22 | Jon 1:1-16 | John 2:23-3:15 | 1 Cor 3:10-17 |
| Fri | Jan 23 | Jon 1:17-2:10 | John 3:16-21 | 1 Cor 3:18-23 |
| Sat | Jan 24 | Jon 3:1-10 | John 3:22-36 | 1 Cor 4:1-5 |
| *Sun | Jan 25 | Jonah 3:1-5,10 | Mark 1:14-20 | 1 Cor 7:29-31 |
| Mon | Jan 26 | Jon 3:10-4:11 | John 4:1-15 | 1 Cor 4:6-13 |
| Tues | Jan 27 | Josh 1:1-9 | John 4:16-26 | 1 Cor 4:14-21 |
| Wed | Jan 28 | Josh 1:10-18 | John 4:27-42 | 1 Cor 5:1-5 |
| Thurs | Jan 29 | Josh 2:1-14 | John 4:43-54 | 1 Cor 5:6-13 |
| Fri | Jan 30 | Josh 2:15-24 | John 5:1-18 | 1 Cor 6:1-8 |
| Sat | Jan 31 | Josh 3:1-10 | John 5:19-29 | 1 Cor 6:9-11 |

FOOD PANTRY NEWS:

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

| | |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| Dec. 28 – Jan. 3 | Pasta Side Dishes |
| Jan. 4 – 10 | Coffee (Instant & Regular) |
| Jan. 11 – 17 | Juice |
| Jan. 18 – 24 | Canned Mushrooms |
| Jan. 25 – 31 | Grape Jelly |

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

The First Congregational Church

1 Church Street

Stoneham, MA 02180

Telephone: 781-438-0097

Fax: 781-438-0238

E-mail: firstchurchstoneham@verizon.net

Website: www.forministry.com/usmaucofcfcis

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

Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

Staff of the Church

Sara Thompson, Church Secretary

John Piskadlo, Sexton

Joyce Simpson, Music Director

Heather Oliver, Messenger Editor & Treasurer

Lynnda Allard, Sunday School Superintendent

Donna Wall, Youth Director