



The First Congregational Church of Reading

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST • AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

Produced by our Church Family

November 2009

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November

First ChurchNEWS

Statement of Purpose

We gather as a faith community to love and magnify God.

Guided by the Holy Spirit, we will love our neighbors as ourselves, advocating for peace and justice.

We will go out and share our faith in Christ, inviting others to join us.

We will be nurturers of the spirit and

teachers of the Word.

We will welcome and provide sanctuary to all.

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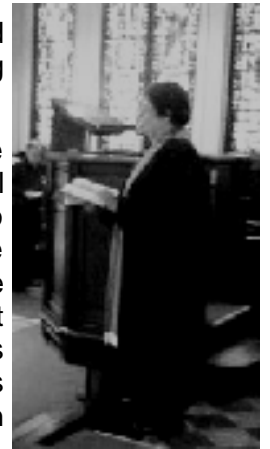
As gardeners of the spirit, we provide fertile soil to nurture both church and community, harvesting faith, compassion, and understanding of God's love, as taught by Jesus Christ.

God is keeping careful watch over us and the future. 1 Peter 1:5

Dear Friends,

I am overjoyed and humbled to have been officially called as your new Pastor and Teacher. I look forward to a long and productive ministry together!

I am eager to get to know you, and for us to explore the ways we may grow and serve together. I hope that you will call, email, stop by to visit me in the office, and invite me to visit with you in the coming weeks and months. I will be keeping regular office hours each week and will announce those times as soon as they are established. It is important to me to know when you are in need and celebrating, as well as when anyone in our extended church community is in the hospital, so please don't hesitate to be in touch when you have news.



Our ministry together will officially begin next Monday, Nov. 2nd and my first Sunday with you will be Nov. 8th. I hope to see you in worship, at meetings, and around Reading!

May God's peace be with you and God's love surround you!

with joy,

Lisa

The Rev. Lisa W. Stedman
Pastor and Teacher
First Congregational Church of Reading
United Church of Christ
Cell Phone: 978-314-4265
Email: RevLStedman1@verizon.net (until we set up my church email)



Cocoa and Cookies

Sunday, Nov. 29th at 4:30 following the town tree lighting
Our SIXTH year...made possible by you!
See page 3 for ways in which you can help.

Church Contact Information:

www.churchofreading.org

I am delighted that you have called the Rev. Lisa Stedman as your pastor and teacher! In the last couple of weeks, as you have been introduced to her by your Search Committee, I have noted a new sense of excitement and anticipation as you have begun to experience her competence, enthusiasm, compassion, gifts and graces for pastoral leadership. Your Search Committee is to be congratulated for their thoroughness, patience and vision. As one parishioner was overheard to say, "If this group chose her, I know she's good!" I hope that those of you who have been "waiting in the wings" to see who the search committee would choose, will now jump in with both feet in this exciting time for the church.

Some of you have been so kind as to mention to me your only regret – that your new pastor's arrival will mean my sooner-than-anticipated departure. Let me assure you that you have been a wonderful blessing to me in these two months and I am grateful for every moment we have had together. One of you, in thanking me for your mother's memorial service, used a wonderful analogy of a relief pitcher who is brought into the game to pitch to only one batter! (Here's hoping I did a little better than a certain relief pitcher did this post-season.) I cannot begin to thank you enough for the many ways that you have opened your lives to this one whom you knew would be a "short-timer" in your midst.

Having had not just one but two interim ministers in this period between pastors, we believe that it is essential for Rev. Lisa to begin her ministry with you as soon as possible. Therefore, this Sunday, November 1, will be my last day with you as your interim minister. I am grateful for the opportunity to say "goodbye", to ask your forgiveness for any failings, and to thank you for sharing your ministry with me in our brief time together. By a nice coincidence, it is All Saints Day when we will remember those whom "we have loved and lost awhile" and we will celebrate Holy Communion together "surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses."

Always remember that "goodbye" means "God be with you." May God bless you and your ministry with your new pastor!

Ellis

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education Program Begins

The Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education program for High School (Grades 9-12) youth begins this month. Meetings will be on November 8 and 22 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM in the Youth Room, although the first meeting on November 8 will start with pizza at 6:00 PM. Parents of youth participating in the program will need to complete a permission form and return it to the church office before November 8.

The program has been developed by the UCC and UUA denominations and is based on the values of self-worth, sexual health, responsibility and justice and inclusivity; it also includes a distinctive spiritual element.

Facilitators are Ruth Richards and Dwight Baker, but we do need to recruit some additional adults to act as additional chaperones for the meetings. If you would like to volunteer as an occasional chaperone or have any questions about the program, please contact Ruth at rutherichards@gmail.com or Betsy Schneider at betsy.schneider@comcast.net

Nominate yourself or someone else...because our Visioning Team seeks a Facilitator. This person is one who can thoughtfully, spiritually and diplomatically guide the monthly Visioning Team meetings using neutral facilitation. In leading this group to think and function as a team—5 ministry and 2 at-large representatives, the church clerk, treasurer and pastor, with all their individual perspectives and needs—the facilitator will herd the Visioning Team and hence the church, toward its short and long-term vision. This key team member facilitates the meeting process, the participation of members, and keeps the group focused and on track. The pace of the facilitation is crucial to the creative planning process. Meeting prioritization, review and follow-up will be needed. The time commitment is 3- 4 hours every month as well as quarterly meetings devoted wholly to visioning.

To nominate someone or self-nominate, please contact Marilyn in the church office. Your Vision Team is Linda Ananian, Bev Cooke, Deidre Ryan, Joann Sanford, Betsy Schneider, Kathleen Taylor, Gay Williams, Ruth Richards (Seminararian), and the pastor, Rev. Lisa.

A Blessing of the Animals Photo Collage



Join us for Cocoa and Cookies

Sunday November 29th, after the Lighting on the Common

Join us for our 5th annual Cocoa and Cookies on **November 29th**. We continue our tradition of opening our doors after the Christmas Tree Lighting on the Common to share cocoa, cookies, and carols with our friends. Please plan to join us and be sure to invite your neighbors and friends to get us in the mood for the season of light!

This is a great opportunity to show hospitality to our neighbors. Please volunteer to help by....meeting and greeting, baking cookies, making cocoa, organizing and lighting the luminaries, singing, passing out flyers on the common and being extravagantly welcoming! Last year nearly 450 people joined us; and every year that number increases. Contact Joyce Burnham, 781-424-1595, email: jaeburnham@comcast.net, to help out.

Very Important Serve Safe Changes: We can continue to bake our cookies at home with no changes. If you are baking any bar cookies or brownies, please bring them to the church in the pan (disposable foil recommended) and we will cut them. When transported to the church by car, special care should be taken in enclosing the entire outside of the item in wrapping.

We greatly appreciate all of your contributions to this spirit-filled event.



Have you noticed? We've traded in "mission moments" for "ministry moments" during worship. The Visioning Team thought this might be one more way to communicate various aspects of our five ministries to the church body. Those ministries are Worship, Christian Formation, Mission, Congregational Care and Resources. In the event you miss a Sunday, or are serving elsewhere in the church on a Sunday morning, or just would enjoy the chance to revisit these offerings we will be publishing them in the newsletter for you. This month we have two to share.

10/4 Worship, by Judith Woelke: *God created this beautiful earth for us to live on and enjoy. He created the birds of the air and the fish of the sea and a wonderful world full of animals. We are very fortunate to have the companionship of animals; dogs, cats, birds, horses. They give us something to nurture and love and in return they give us unconditional love. They never judge us or find us wanting.*

10/18 Congregational Care, by Kathy Guyott: *Being a member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is a fun, rewarding and meaningful activity. It is a multigenerational group of women, although men are always welcome, who get together one evening a month in the Parlor. We make baby blankets as a gift for the families of babies who are baptized in the church and shawls to be given away to those who are having a difficult time in their lives. We also make "prayer squares" which are small pocket sized blessings. A prayer card is attached to each blanket, shawl or prayer square. At the end of each meeting we say a prayer to bless all the items to be given away.*

A parent of a newly baptized baby can wrap their baby with a blanket made with love and blessed with a prayer.

Another meaningful part of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is the look on the face of someone who is receiving

a shawl from the ministry. The idea of a prayer shawl seems to ease their pain. They put the prayer shawl around their shoulders and get a warm hug of prayers.

I have had the privilege of giving two prayers shawls to people in need. The first was to Karl Gazarian, our seminarian from last year, whose 20 year old son was battling cancer. As his eyes teared up he said that it was truly serendipitous that we should give him this gift. He said that he was in the process of discovering the true power of prayer as a way to find strength to sustain him through this difficult time. The Holy Spirit was surely in the room with us at that moment.

The other person who I brought a prayer shawl to was Ken Charest, the father of Eddie Charest who past away last May. Upon receiving the prayer shawl only days since his son passed seemed to visibly lighten the burden of his grief. He was truly touched by the gesture and said that he would make sure that the whole family would take turns wearing the prayer shawl. Again, the spirit of God was surely in the room with us at that moment.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry, a part of the Care Ministry at First Congregational Church of Reading, is a tangible way to experience God's love. All are welcome ~ please join us. Thank you.

3rd Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Sunday November 22nd after church, we are again hosting our Thanksgiving Dinner for all of you. We are thankful for all our church does for us and would like to share a meal with you. There is no meeting agenda, just time to share a good meal with good friends.

We will have turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, squash, cranberry sauce and rolls. We would also like to ask that *some* of you bring a pie to share for dessert. We ask that not all families bring dessert since we only need one for every 6 people coming - so please check in with us if you want to bring a pie. There will be a sign up sheet for attendance outside the office or call us at 978-658-6829, or e-mail us at childcornr@aol.com - just to give us an estimate on the number of people to prepare for. If you do n't sign up you're still more than welcome and if you do sign up and find you can't attend, it's okay. We are just looking for an approximate head count. **Please join us, Jack & Judy Austin**

Many thanks to Jack and Judy for giving their gift of preparing and cooking a truly THANKS-giving meal! We invite everyone who can, to come and be a part of this now traditional event, and will invite your good-will donations at the dinner, to cover the expenses involved. Hope to see you there!



Thanksgiving Dinner
at the Church

This holiday season, the Mission Ministry will again be holding collections to help social-service agencies minister to needy individuals and families.

We will be collecting items for the Reading Food Pantry on Thanksgiving Sunday and Christmas Eve. Last year, our altar was overflowing with contributions—this year, we will be “decorating” the tree with food...you’ll see.

The first two weeks of Advent, we will be collecting items for the **City Mission Society’s** annual Christmas Shop. The CMS invites needy families and individuals to come and select gifts for themselves and their children. The gifts are donated by partner churches such as ours, and then sorted and packed by volunteers. In 2007 almost 2,000 adults and children benefited, thanks to the generosity of more than 45 local churches, groups, and organizations. On November 29th, we will collect items for children. The following Sunday, December 6th, we will receive items for adults. (Although, we will accept both the children’s and adults until December 13th). *Anyone interested in traveling to Winchester after the service to help sort should contact Sharon Ofenstein (skofenstein@charter.net).*

Gift Suggestions: City Mission accepts only NEW items.

- Toys, games, and books for all ages.
- Hats, mittens, gloves and scarves.
- Winter coats, sweaters and sweatshirts. (large sizes especially)
- Blankets, backpacks and socks.
- Gift cards from Target, Walgreen’s, CVS, Kohl’s or other merchants.

The third Sunday in Advent – December 13th – the Outreach Commission will be soliciting toiletries for the residents of Emmaus House and other clients of Emmaus Inc. in Haverhill. Services provided by this nonprofit organization include emergency shelter and meals, counseling and substance-abuse treatment, and job training and placement. Over the past 20 years, the agency has grown to become a significant service provider and developer of affordable housing. Emmaus House, its best-known facility, is a family emergency shelter.

On the fourth Sunday of Advent we will be collecting for Ecclesia Ministries, which offers social services to the homeless. Their list of needs includes what you might imagine the homeless are lacking—Socks, hats, mittens, underwear, coats.

We hope that all of you will join us in these collections to share our blessings with those in need this holiday season. Thank you!

November 22 and December 24 ~ Reading Food Pantry

Nonperishable food items, coffee (reg. and instant), tea (reg. and decaf.), juice and juice boxes, mayo, salad dressings, cookies, crackers, sugar, jam and jelly, brownie mix, pasta, and cereal. Also dish and laundry detergent, toilet paper, Kleenex, and paper towels. Cash donations are also welcome.

November 29 ~ City Mission Society

CHILDREN

New items for children: Infant clothing and layette items, stuffed animals, toys, games, brown/black/white dolls, backpacks, soccer or footballs, educational toys, art supplies, craft kits, clothing (especially larger sizes), hats and mittens, and gift cards.

December 6 ~ City Mission Society

ADULTS

New items for adults: Clothing, wallets, perfume, scarves, hats, gloves, socks, electric razors, bathrobes, afghans, fleece blankets, and gift cards.

December 13 ~ Emmaus House

All types of toiletries (including hygiene products) for men, women, and children. Shampoo, razors, toothbrushes and toothpaste, etc.

December 20 ~ Ecclesia Ministries

Socks, hats, mittens, underwear, coats.



Anton’s Cleaners is once again running the Annual Coats for Kids winter coat collection drive, with the goal for this 14th year of 60,000 coats. The program runs through Dec. 31.

In a year where people will be holding on to their used coats longer, there are more people who can’t afford to buy a new coat. Coats for Kids is collected for kids, adults and babies.

Look for the Coats for Kids box to donate your used coats for this worthwhile program.

Please Join Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is a program of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief and evangelical organization. Operation Christmas Child provides boxes of small toys, toiletries and supplies for needy children around the world. It is a way to reach those in need with the love of Jesus Christ. The Mission Ministry is organizing a collection with Christian Education on **November 8th and 15th**.

Everyone is encouraged to bring in items (see suggestions below) and/or shoeboxes. The Sunday school classes will be filling boxes during class and additional boxes will be filled during coffee hour after service. Individuals or families may also contribute filled boxes. **Cash donations** are also needed to defray the costs of the program. Checks may be made out to FCCR with "OCC" in the memo line, put in the collection plate or left in the office. Contact Joann Sanford (781-944-7805 or jo.take@verizon.net) with any questions. Information is available at <http://www.samaritanspurse.org/index.php/occ/>

Gift Ideas

Toys - small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky®.

School Supplies - pens, pencils, sharpener, crayons, markers, stamps and ink pad, writing pads, paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books

Hygiene Items - toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, wash-cloth

Other - Hard candy and lollipops (please double bag all candy), mints, gum, T-shirts, socks, ball caps; sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries)

A Personal Note - In a separate envelope, you may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. (If you include your name and address, the child may write back.)



Widening the Net

Each of you has particular connections at church – your friends over the years and church members who live in your neighborhood. You make up the FCCR Care Watch System! Those whose passion rests in various aspects of the Congregational Care Ministry always hope to be on top of things for members and friends of our church but the truth is, sometimes there is a need out there that we don't know about, or perhaps need to be nudged about.

So, we need your help. If every one of you keeps your ears and eyes open and alert to the folks you know in your particular circle and make sure that the leaders of the care ministries know about them, then we will have magically expanded our net, with fewer situations or needs falling outside its reach. Each month we will be posting the newsletter the box below, with contact information for various needs. Thanks for being a finely woven safety net!

Congregational Care Ministry

Care Ministry General Concerns:

Nancy Ballantyne (781.944.7564) or Gay Williams (781.944.5140)

Meal Needs:

Eleanor Grant (781.944.1736) or Carol Johnson (781.944.1347)

Transportation for Appointments, or Errands:

Nancy Ballantyne (781.944.7564) or Carol Patterson (781.944.6592)

Visitation, Companionship:

Flo Sorenson (781.944.2272) or Liz Swallow (781.944.5878)

Prayer/Prayer Shawl:

Carol Patterson (781.944.6592) or Gay Williams (781.944.5140)

Cancer Treatment Support:

Marcie Atkins (781.245.1993) or Barbara Philbrick (781.944.7037)

We are thrilled to announce that ReadingCares once again has been awarded a Barnes Fund grant for our work with local non-profits and volunteers. The Barnes Fund for Mission and Justice Ministries is funded by a gift from the estate of Arthur and Sidney Barnes to support the mission and justice ministries of the Massachusetts Conference UCC (MACUCC). Barnes Fund grants are intended to provide seed money for the startup of new mission and justice initiatives. ReadingCares will use this money to help publicize and address needs within our community, and to help volunteers find appropriate opportunities to serve. If you would like to help in this program, or would like to receive our electronic newsletter, please contact betsy.schneider@comcast.net.



Reading Cares held its second annual Volunteer Job Fair on October 17 to match volunteer organizations with potential volunteers. Reading Cares is also hosting the Halloween Party & Food Drive at Old South Methodist Church in conjunction with the Reading Ecumenical Youth Ministries.



The Book Group Choice for November 3

- Barbara Brown Taylor, a spiritual writer and an Episcopalian priest who no longer pastors a church, has written the book An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith. She guides us to potentially sacred meaning in everyday life. Her personal candor adds to the depth of the book. The writing is clear with strong images and memorable phrases. The discussion will take place in the church parlor from 7:30 – 9:00. Mary Ann Lape will be the leader.

December 1 – Reason For Hope: A Spiritual Journey by Jane Goodall. Jennifer Souza will be our guide as we consider the faith and the works of Jane Goodall. We know of Jane Goodall as an influential person. We know of her concerns for the environment. In this book her personal faith story is also told.

Read ahead to January 5, 2010 – Nine Parts of Desire: The Hidden World of Islamic Women by Geraldine Brooks. The book brings better understanding of Islam through stories of the progress and struggles of women in the Middle East. Judie Williams will be the leader.

Everyone is welcome to book group gatherings. Come for all books or just the ones that interest you.

We invite you to send one holiday greeting card to church for the WHOLE church - which we will hang outside the Main Church office. Consider donating the monies saved on cards and postage to benefit one of your favorite charitable organizations (or some that the Mission Ministry is supporting, see pages 5 and 6).



The ACE group, the church's on-line prayer and study folks, continues through the autumn. Why not plunge into the digital world and join them?

The most popular activity is daily prayer. These are original or found prayers supplied by ACE volunteers according to a randomly assigned schedule. A few are below.

In addition to the prayers, we post the weekly lectionary readings, and occasionally, someone communicates his or her thoughts on the readings. You can view the archives of this e-mail group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FCCR-ACE>.

Other activities or options include a prayer blog (<http://fCCR-ACE.org/>), for more frequent or spontaneous prayers; a psalm-o-matic, for those wishing to start the day with a random psalm in their inbox; and a place to share flash prayers on twitter (http://twitter.com/fCCR_ace).

Become involved! e-mail Larry Piper (Larry@LGPiper.net).

----- Some Recent ACE Prayers -----

October 7, 2009

Hi God,

So we're to have a new pastor after all. That's nice ... I guess. Even changing from interim to so-called settled is still change. And we don't seem to do well with change, even when it is appropriate and desired.

So my prayer today is that we be able to greet Rev. Lisa with good grace and embrace her without suspicion; and that Rev. Lisa will be able to accept us with good grace, and embrace us as we are, not as she wishes we were. I also pray that together we grow into what you would have us be.

Finally, I pray that you have mercy on all our souls, sinners though we continue to be. — Amen

October 9, 2009

This is a traditional Native American prayer I found in "Earth Prayers from Around the World"

O Great Spirit,

Whose voice I hear in the winds,
and whose breath gives life to all the world,
hear me! I am small and weak.

I need your strength and wisdom.

Let me walk in beauty, and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset.

Make my hands respect the things you have made and my ears sharp to hear your voice.

Make me wise so that I may understand the things you have taught my people.

Let me learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock. I seek strength, not to be greater than my brother, but to fight my greatest enemy — myself. Make me always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes. So when life fades, as the fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame.

October 19, 2009

Yes Lord thank you for bringing me into contact with folks from other places and times. I mean whether it is in a historical novel that helps me escape into the 18th century or even in modern day when I can escape into another culture even if just for an evening of music and dance.

Thanks for a sense of adventure and for helping to fulfill that longing for newness and wonder at the unfamiliar.

— Amen



Remember, **Saturday November 7th is Fall Clean Up Day.** Many hands make light work. We begin at 8 A.M. and will finish at 1 P.M. Please come for some or all of the time. Thanks. Questions? Contact Gary Hylan 781.942.4853, or by email at gehylan@comcast.net.

CWF ANNUAL MEETING

The 2009 – 2010 Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, October 18th in the chapel. Thank you to all who provided baked goods and a special thanks to Kathleen Taylor for helping with set up and clean up! Once again, it was a lovely hour of fellowship.

HAM AND BEAN DINNER AND COFFEE HOUSE

The Ham and Bean Dinner and Coffee House will be held on Saturday, November 7th. For details, see the separate announcement in this newsletter (page 11). CWF members are asked to provide 9" x 13" cakes with frosting and 9" x 13" cornbread. If you can bake one of the items needed, please contact Diane Wilson at 781.944.4202 or dew145@comcast.net. This important CWF fundraiser would not be possible without the help of all of the Circles, especially Circle 5, with Joan Kingston and Shirley Holden at the helm in the kitchen. Thank you to all who will contribute to the dinner, which is open to the entire community and along with the Coffee House hosted by the Music Ministry, has become an autumn tradition!

CWF BOARD MEETING

The next CWF Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 11th, at 7:30 in the Church Library. CWF is still seeking a candidate to fill the position of Vice President on the 2009 – 2010 board. CWF members who are interested in serving in this capacity are invited to attend the November 11th meeting.

On behalf of all of the members of CWF, the Board wishes to thank Lorna Knapp for her service as CWF President for the last two years. Lorna's dedication to and leadership of Women's Fellowship has been greatly appreciated!

LOOKING AHEAD:

Additional details and dates for the following activities will be provided at November CWF meetings, weekly bulletins and upcoming newsletters.

CWF Sock and Mitten Tree

The Sock and Mitten Tree will once again make an appearance in the dining hall after Thanksgiving. Members of the congregation are invited to purchase (or make) socks, mittens and/or hats to "decorate" the tree. All items will be donated to the City Mission Society. Thank you to Circle 8 members, Jean Carr and Eunice Degal who coordinate this mission activity.



Christmas Care Bags for Congregation Shut-Ins

Continuing our long-standing tradition, CWF assembles and delivers Christmas Care bags to members of the congregation who are not able to get to church. Each Circle contributes items to fill the goody bags, and this bit of Christmas cheer is always very much appreciated. We would like to extend our thanks to Flo Sorenson and Circle 8 for congregation care activity.

Circle Sunday

Breakfast and Worship will be held on Sunday, February 7, 2010.

**Thank you to all of our members
for volunteering your time to support CWFs mission!**

Christmas Pageant



It's hard to believe, but it is time to start thinking about the FCCR Christmas Pageant. This is another important event coordinated by the Christian Formation Ministry because it helps remind all of us about the true meaning of Christmas. Not to mention, the kids love it and it's lots of fun! We are planning to have the pageant on the Sunday before Christmas this year rather than on Christmas Eve. Flyers will be coming out November 22nd to sign up for parts, both speaking and non-speaking. As with any other theatrical production, we need lots of hands to make the pageant a success. In addition to the cast, we are looking for:

Costume Designers - to clean, organize and assemble costumes from our abundant supply

Set Designers - to assemble and decorate the stage and manger scene

Production Crew - to herd the livestock, shepherd the shepherds, provide wisdom to the wise men, and keep the angels angelic

Caterers - to provide refreshments for the rehearsals and after the pageant

Please contact Lesley Kerr at lesley.kerr@comcast.net or 781-670-9096 with any questions or to volunteer to help.



3rd Grade Bible Presentation

October was a wonderful month in CE as always because of the special presentation of gift bibles to the entire 3rd grade class as they prepare to begin joining the congregation for communion. It was made even more special this time around since the children were able to receive their new bibles from Rev. Lisa on the day she was officially welcomed into our church. We are very proud of all the 3rd graders for reaching this point and look forward to having them with us in the sanctuary on November 1st when they first participate in communion. Many thanks to Rev. Ellis for leading the children in a communion workshop so they are prepared for this next step on their Christian journey.

The 3rd Grade Class:

- Jared Myles Burke
- Casey Chabra
- Vincent Patrick Faucon
- Holly Ann Gilson
- Emily Jean Imrich
- Samantha Lynn Imrich
- Brianna Makayla O'Loughlin

MEET YOUR
JOURNEY PAL!



Journey Pals Party!

Come find out who your secret Journey Pal really is after worship service on November 15th (note new time). We will be meeting in Guild Hall and enjoying special treats while talking with our new/old friends. If you cannot attend this celebration, we will help you arrange another meeting time. Please contact betsy.schneider@comcast.net.

Ham and Bean Dinner, followed by Music from the Air Force's Liberty Bay State Winds

November 7th



You've read about the Ham and Bean Dinner on page 9. After you are filled and satisfied please join the Air Force Band of Liberty's Bay State Winds clarinet quartet for a memorable afternoon/evening of music on Saturday evening, November 7th. Dinner starts at 6 p.m. and the music comes shortly after there's been a chance to clean up and move some chairs. Stationed at Hanscom Air Force Base, MA, these four musicians bring audiences of all ages to their feet with a program that features something for all musical tastes: classical, Broadway, patriotic, jazz and folk music, as well as original pieces for clarinet quartet. This program is free and open to the public—please do invite your friends and neighbors!.

We CARE!!

It's that time again! CARE PACKAGES FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS. We'll need snail mail addresses for them so you might send an email to Gay Williams at ggwill@aol.com with your student's snail address.

Many thanks to Carol Johnson who will again be masterminding content of the boxes. If you'd like to help by baking cookies, please coordinate with Carol at 781.944.1347 or via email at johnsonmoe@comcast.net.

If you'd like to help with a donation, let Carol know. We typically send out over 20 packages!!



Self-Help Groups at FCCR

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS meet in the **Music Room** on Saturday mornings, from 7:00-8:00 am, and from 10:00-11:30 am in the **Music Room**.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS meet on Sunday evenings, from 8:00-9:30 pm in **Pilgrim Hall**.

EMOTIONS ANONYMOUS meet on Saturdays, 10:00-11:30 am in the **Conference Room**.

Deck the Halls

On **Saturday, November 28 at 9:00**, the Altar Committee will gather to decorate the Sanctuary for the Advent/Christmas season. We need more hands this year because our committee is smaller than usual. If you would like to help, please join us to hang wreaths, to hang the greenery around the altar, choir loft and the chapel. Also join us on Friday, November 27 at 9:00 to assemble and decorate our 7 foot tree, purchased with donations in memory of Jacquie Little. Please call Mary Ann Higgins (617-347-8346) if you plan on helping. Thanks!



Help Delivering Flowers is Needed

Please sign up to deliver altar flowers. There will be a calendar of available dates during Coffee Hour. If you want to sign up, and don't go to Coffee Hour, call Mary Ann Higgins 1-617-347-8346. This is a great family activity!

Poinsettias

Just a note to remind you to begin thinking about ordering a poinsettia in memory of a loved one or to honor someone special to you. Order forms will be in the bulletin starting on November 22nd and in the December newsletter.



Thank You Notes

To all church members:

First of all a big "Thank You" to all the members who sent cards or made a phone call. To Gay Williams for her special visit at Woodbriar in Wilmington, and Brian Tucker for his special technique to rid me of the hiccups. Also to Mary Ann Higgins who visited with Altar flowers on Sunday, and as an additional show of support and love Gay Williams brought Evilo a beautiful prayer shawl from the F.C.C. Such caring people at FCCR is just overwhelming.

Ernie and Evilo Livingstone

To all my church friends.

This church has done so much for me and my family as we walked through my mother's illness...from the prayers at the start and the memorial service at the end, I can never express the support and comfort we have received from the church.

My mother so enjoyed when she worshipped with us and everyone made her feel so welcome. And now you have made my family and friends feel your love and hospitality at my mother's collation.

Thank you all for the kind thoughts, warm cards, delicious desserts and even clean dishes. No gesture has been forgotten.

The Ananian and Vickery families



Thank you to our Search Committee!!

Ginny Davenport, Joyce Burnham, Jane McCord, Craig Taylor, Steve Viegas, Laurie Tucker, Christine Hylan (and earlier Bob Svensson)

Daily prayers are invited for all of our friends and members-especially those who are dealing with these special joys and concerns. They and their families are most grateful for your spiritual support and cards of greeting.



We pray for healing, recovery, and strength for:

- ✓ Gary Hylan's brother, Richard who is experiencing some unexplained medical problem.
- ✓ Glenn Miller who is at Beth Israel hospital.
- ✓ My son-in-law's father who is losing his battle with cancer.
- ✓ Curt Nitzsche for continued recovery of knee replacement.
- ✓ A brother who is having thyroid surgery and all who are having knee surgery.
- ✓ A friend at school's sister who is coping with Type 3 Lymphoma.

We also pray for the following special concerns:

- ✓ Jeremy Pickens, and Army Chaplain in Iraq, whose wife is pregnant with a baby girl.
- ✓ Jan, who was diagnosed with stage 5 cancer.
- ✓ The Wyman family of Newton.
- ✓ My sister who is filing for an extension for her unemployment and possibly a job.
- ✓ All our brothers and sisters who are searching for jobs.
- ✓ Fred and Barbara Green as Fred is in intensive care in New York.

There is much in our community for which we thank God and we pray in celebration for:

- ✓ We praise God for our Church Family, a Lord's Blessing.
- ✓ Chad's 8th anniversary at FCCR.
- ✓ The safe return of Shirley Osborne's nephew from Iraq.

We pray for comfort for those who have lost loved ones:

- ✓ Evilo Livingstone, whose brother Lester passed on.

Our prayers continue for those who are in need of ongoing nursing care or assisted living:

- ✓ Bertha Babb (Susan Suarez's mother) at Bear Hill.
- ✓ Doris Torppa (Susan Torppa's mother) at Bear Hill.
- ✓ John Weston at Longwood Place.
- ✓ Libby Hodges at her son's in Connecticut.

And those who are cared for at home:

Jane Rice Peter Thorstensen
Molly Rowe Grace Faulkner

Please call the church office for these addresses if you would like to send a card or visit these friends.



Altar Flowers

**Thanks to those who donated flowers
to beautify our worship space in October:**

In loving memory of Thomas Allen by Barry and Judith Mitchel.

In loving memory of her husband, Robert Gray, by his wife, Sandra and their family.

In loving memory of Ruth and Donald McCord by Tom and Jane McCord.

In loving memory of Dora Evans by Kieran and Judythe Meagher.

Reading Art Association Art Exhibit and Sale



At our Church

Friday, November 13th—7:30-9:30pm
Saturday November 14th—10:00am-4:00pm
Sunday, November 15th—12:30pm-3:30pm