



First Congregational Church
of
Spencer, U.C.C.
207 Main Street
PO Box 187
Spencer, Massachusetts 01562
www.spencerchurch.org

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

Rev. William R. Wildman, Jr.
Pastor
wwildmanjr@verizon.net
Direct 508-885-5098

For emergencies after office hours
please call 508-885-5863

The Tie
Summer 2010

Church Office
8:00 a.m. to noon
fccspencer@verizon.net
508-885-2149

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ! It's now official summertime! I would like to thank you all for helping to make this a great year in the ministry of our church. Plans are already underway for the next programming year, starting in September. But in the mean time, let's enjoy the today that God has given us. The next couple of months are a Sabbath of sorts, a time to rest and consider all of the wonderful works which God has put before us. Jesus took time to rest and pray, so we should do likewise. So my hope for all of us is to have a great summer, full of fun, blessings and new insights.

Christi and I are gardening again this year. We are repeating the square foot gardening method for our vegetables, which worked very well for us last summer. We also have our herb garden, and have already harvested some chives and oregano, and have gotten quite a few strawberries as well. The switch to the square foot gardening blocks has left about half of the area that we have planted in the past. So last fall, We decided to try an experiment in this area, a wild flower patch. I've seen them along highways and in fields for years, and they bring a lot of beauty to an area, and require little work to create or maintain (or so we thought!) So last fall, I cleaned up the area, spread the seeds, patted them down, watered them, and waited.

This spring, lots of green began to sprout up in the patch area, but it was hard to tell at first what was a wild flower, and what was a weed. Talk about an exercise in patience! But with time and God's love, what first looked like a mess has evolved into a place of beauty. Some flowers have already bloomed. But there's still an area, the back part of the patch, that still looks kind of bare. Why didn't the whole patch explode like the front part? What went wrong? I did add some more seed and some sunflowers to the area, and in time, the area has begun to fill in and turn green. Maybe this is a reminder to me that all good things happen in God's time, patience is a virtue, and there are things in life that we cannot control, and that we cannot rush. It's still all about giving it over to Jesus Christ, even our gardens!

Summertime is the season for iced coffee and iced tea! I would love to get together and have a cup over some good conversation. If you would like a visit, or have some other way that I can be of help to you, please let me know. Also, if you know of anyone who is sick, or in the hospital or other wise home bond, please let me know so that I can pay them a visit as well. Feel free to call me at 508-885-2149, stop by the office, or e-mail me at revwilliamwildman@yahoo.com to set up a time to get together. I hope you all a happy and healthy summer, and enjoy God's blessings throughout!

In Christ,

Pastor Bill

Bible Trivia Contest restarts this fall!!!

Congratulations to Brenda Cloutier for winning last months' trivia contest. The correct answer to last month's trivia question, "How many of Paul's letters in the New Testament were originally sent to the church at Corinth?" is "two" (1 Corinthians & 2 Corinthians.) Thank you to all who took part in this year's Bible Trivia program. Watch for the contest to begin again this fall with new questions and lots of fun! Have a great summer!

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Steeple Repair - The Admin. Committee has contracted with John K. Leacock Co. to do repairs, paint and to re-shingle the top portion of the steeple. This work will cost about \$30,000.00. This should eliminate the leaking we are having at the steeple. John worked on the steeple when we had the major work done 20 years ago. We have the reserves in the steeple fund and the major maintenance fund to cover the cost.

Attention Church Members due to fire regulations there is no parking in the horseshoe area in front of the Prouty Housing next door or in any of the lined parking spaces in front of the Prouty building these spaces are for housing personnel's use only. Please notify family members and friends regarding this change in the parking areas available. There are parking spaces located in the basketball court.

Note from our treasurer – I will be on vacation in Vermont from July 2nd through July 11th. I can be reached at 802-888-6245.

Thanks,
Pat Anderson, Treasurer

From the Organ Console Capital Campaign Committee... Did you ever borrow money from yourself? For instance, did you ever take funds you had put aside for a rainy day to pay the oilman, fix the brakes on the car or pay that stupid speeding ticket? You make a solemn vow to put the money right back into the rainy day fund as soon as you have a little financial cushion. The problem for most of us, of course, is that the cushion never arrives, or if it does, it's needed elsewhere immediately.

I am happy to report that that is not the case regarding our organ console fund. This is due to the wise financial stewardship of our Administration Committee, and Steve Howe in particular. Basically we borrowed money from our own General Fund to pay the up-front cost of the organ

console. Thanks to your continued generosity we have just made the last \$5,000 payment back into the General Fund.

This does not mean that your pledges are no longer needed. They are indeed. These final six months of our three year capitol campaign are just as crucial to our success as the first six months were back in 2007.

At this point in time, we have had 65 individuals, families and church organizations pledge \$88,290. To date we have collected \$85,103 of that pledge total, leaving a balance of \$3,187. Forty-nine of you have already reached your pledged amount and four have gone beyond. Thank you.

As we enter the home stretch of our pledge drive, we encourage everyone to honor their pledges. Don't hesitate to phone Roger Foss at 508 885-6004 or contact him by e-mail at rfoss@charter.net if you've forgotten how much you've pledged or how much you've already given.

We will be sending out letters early next year detailing your contributions in 2010 for tax purposes.

CHOIR DIRECTOR

From our Choir Director: As our choir year draws to a close... THANK YOU to the choir and Greg for another wonderful season of musical worship. Your commitment and willingness to take on new challenges has been appreciated by our congregation and is a source of pride for us all. Your contribution to the ministry has been immeasurable, and your dedication-even in the face of loss has been inspiring.

Sincerely, and with gratitude,
Sarah

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

The Father's Day Tool Sale earned approximately \$ 325.00 these proceeds will go to Area Missions. The following is a list of fathers who were remembered and honored with the purchase of a tool in their names:

Carl G. Ahlquist
Robert O. Ahlquist
Mellen Albro
Len Amidon
Sid Amidon
Win Amidon
Mellen Albro
Helmer Anderson
Al Andrews
Sonny Andrews
William Batteiger
Bill Bloom
Poppa Burdett
Bill Burnor
William R. Chicoine
David Christian

Louis Fissette
Harry Fogerty
Dr. Richard Fowler
Norman M. French
William R. Chicoine
David Christian
Patrick Fanning, Sr.
Dad Gordon
Edward Griffith
Pepé Hames
Sid Harding
Bucky Harris
Joe Houston
Henry Howe
Elwin Ingalls
Melvin J. Johnson

Herbert MacMillan
Dut'ieh Masse
Robert Meacham, Jr.
Lionel O'Coin
Arthur O'Neil
Al & Bob Perron
Donald Proctor & Loved Ones
Albert Provencher
David Provo
Milton Rock
William Russell
Ben Rutkiewicz
Alfred Sampson
Darrell Snow
David Snow
Richard Snow

Clarence Cogswell
Vern Coutu
Bill Cundall
Stanley Durant
Charles Eddy
Albert Eselhorst
Patrick Fanning, Sr.

John Kowal
Arvo Lammi
Robert Landine
John P. Larson, Jr
Alphonse LeBoeuf
V. Arnold MacDonald

William Stark
Victor Tolis
Robert Vandale
Ralph Voelings
Lyle Wentworth
Ray Woodward

Hazel Ahlquist, Chairperson 2010

CHURCH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

This committee met on Sunday June 6th. We are looking for a new chairperson. Anyone interested in being chairperson, please notify Lisa Brown or Pastor Bill. Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday August 8th. We will prepare for our new Church School year.

Lisa Brown, Church School Superintendent

CHURCH SCHOOL

Children's Day Service was enjoyed by all. I was proud of the Church School children with all the hard work they put into presenting "The Flood and the Ark". I hope everyone enjoyed the crosses the children made.

We are always looking for help with Church School. Anyone interested in helping out or becoming a teacher, please notify Lisa Brown or Pastor Bill. If you would like to just be a guest to see how the lessons are presented, feel free to stop by.

Church School will start on September 12th. Registration for Church School will be on August 29th. Or you can pre-register by filling out the enclosed registration form and returning to the Church Office or putting in the collection plate over the summer. Church School will begin on September 12th. Have a great summer!

Lisa Brown, Church School Superintendent

DIACONATE

Diaconate meeting for August is August 8th following the Worship Service. (Diaconate will not meet in July)

Deacon of the month for July is Ken Landine, for August Hazel Ahlquist.

Pastor Bill is on vacation the weeks of July 4th and July 11th. Rev. Stan Possell will be covering during Pastor Bill's vacation. If anyone needs Pastoral care during these two weeks contact the church office, Ken Landine 508-867-6979 or Judy Chicoine 508-885-9362.

Summer service's starts Sunday July 4, 2010 at 9:30 am

Looking forward to greeting and meeting you on Sunday mornings.

Ken Landine
Chairperson

ECONOMY SHOP

The Economy Shop closed on June 25th and will re-open on August 19th. **We will need a lot of help**

hanging clothing on Tuesday, August 17th and Wednesday, August 18th. Expect a call for August 17th & 18th and if you do not receive a call come anyway. We'll be here from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. If you do not receive a call and would like to help with the setting up of the shop please call me, at 508-885-3884 so I can plan the schedule.

Mary Ingalls

MEN'S LEAGUE

Well, here we are again, with the beginning of the summer season. When you read this, the Calendar material should be on the way, or at the printers. Once again, thank you all for your continued support. The calendars should arrive late in August and should be delivered to everyone by September 1st.

Thinking ahead, the annual Beef Stew Dinner is scheduled for December 14th. Have a good summer and thank you again

Sincerely,
Al Orne

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Greetings! Well summer is finally here and therefore our music ministry shifts to a restful note. June 27th marks the end of many things. The choir will go on summer break, Lynn Danner will take over as summer Organist and as such we say goodbye to Greg Martiros. Over many long nights and difficult decisions Greg has given notice not to renew his contract for next year. We wish Greg and Mary good tidings as they begin some new projects together and we are thankful for the years of service and musical excellence.

On another note, we wish to thank the men who sang in rehearsals and the Father's Day service. By the way the choir is always looking for new members and Sarah will make sure it is an enriching and lifting experience not to mention those who join get to go to the coveted Choir Christmas Party! We also recognize the efforts of the church choir for continuing to praise God through song and enhance our worship service. Have a great summer!

Finally, the music committee in conjunction with the strategic growth committee is busy planning several events. On Sunday July 25th the barbershop quartet "Treblesome" will be singing an anthem during service and doing a 45 minute show following coffee hour. They are an award winning group, are a lot of fun, and feature member Diane Rutkiewicz. Tell your family and friends and we look forward to seeing you there!

Jazz night fundraiser at Kaboodle Pizzeria and Grille on Saturday, August 28, 2010 time 6 PM till closing. "Golden Ticket" will be performing. Admission tickets will be \$2.00 per person. All proceeds will go to the Music Search Committee for a new Organist.

Keith Rutkiewicz
Dave Wentworth
Phil Harding

STRATEGIC PLANNING & CHURCH GROWTH PROJECT TEAM

Just a reminder, if you have not filled out the survey please do so as soon as possible. We need your input so that we will be able to meet the needs of our parish family. Surveys are available from the office Monday through Friday from 8 A.M. to noon.

HAM & BEAN SUPPER & Penny Sale Tuesday, September 21st at 6:30 P.M.– Sponsored by the SP & CG. Tickets will go on sale August 22nd. Adults \$8.00, children 3 to 11 years \$5.00 and children 2 and under FREE. For information contact the church office Monday through Friday 8 A.M. to 12 P.M.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Next meeting of the Executive Board will be held on Monday, August 30th at 9:00 A.M.

The Women's Fellowship, like the public schools, schedules no summer meetings. Any necessary business will be handled with individual contacts. The next scheduled meeting is August 30 at church. Any necessary business please contact Jean Vandale, President at 508-867-7558 or Ann MacDonald Vice-President at 508-885-5698. Have a great Summer!

Jean Vandale
President

Sunlighters: The June meeting of the Sunlighters was held on Tuesday, June 15th. The meeting was a Pot Luck luncheon held at the home of Bev Wentworth. The food was delicious and a good time was had by all. No meetings in July, August and September. The next meeting is Tuesday, October 5th at 1:00 P.M.

WOMEN'S EVENING FELLOWSHIP

We would like to thank all who participated in our 2 annual "Flea Market", those who purchased tables (eleven tables) and the women who served "coffee and" and served lunch. Also our set up crew and clean-up crew, without you this would not have been successful. We would like to thank also the daytime Women's Fellowship Group for the funds raised at their tables. We made a total profit of \$448.60.

The date and time of our next meeting has not yet been set.

Free CPR and Auto Defibrillator Training

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, the First Congregational Church of Spencer UCC, will be receiving an Auto Defibrillator devise (AED) and will also be offering a training course for CPR and Auto Defibrillator use. The course, taught in one 3 hour session, will be offered free of cost! Dates and times will be set starting this summer. There is a sign-up sheet posted in Mary Porter Hall for anyone who wishes to take the training. You may also sign-up by calling the office at 508-885-2149. Please call or see Pastor Bill with any questions.

Know Somebody in the Hospital? Please let us know...

Do you know of someone from the church who is in the hospital or some other health care facility? Please let us know at the church office so Pastor Bill can pay them a visit. Due to the Federal Health Insurance Privacy Protection Act (HIPPA), hospitals and health care facilities can no longer tell us if anyone from the church is there, even if they have made their church membership known to them. In other words, we have no other way of knowing if someone is in the hospital other than word of mouth. Please let us know the full name that they were admitted by, what the facility name is, and if possible, what their room number is. Thank you so much for your help with the visitation ministry of the church!

FYI

First Congregational Church of Leicester: Our Admin. Assistant gave her notice, and we are trying to find someone, preferably not a member of our church nor a family member of a

member to take on the duties. It would be about 2 hours per week most weeks, and an extra 5 hours or so to prepare the newsletter, so about 15 hours per week.

Our Clergy Committee of Support group suggested that perhaps another UCC church in the area has a member who might be interested, or even if their part-time admin would be interested in the additional hour with us. It is a benefit to have someone who understands the church, it's rhythms and language, so I thought I check.

If you think of anyone who might be interested, please suggest they call me at 508-892-3274 or 978-846-6498.

Thank you and blessings,
Doreen Oughton

ATTENTION ALL CHURCH MEMBERS!!!

PLEASE notify the office of any **changes** to your **mailing information and phone numbers**. It is important for us to keep an accurate mailing list. So please make an effort to contact the office with any **changes**, either **temporary** or **permanent**.

THANK YOU NOTE

Thank you doesn't seem to be enough to let you all know how much your prayers, kind words and actions meant to us when we lost Bill. Pastor Bill came to the hospital with little notice to pray with and console the family. He put together a lovely service that let everyone get to know Bill a little better. We loved having the choir be a part of the service as singing with them was his favorite part of the week. We know how hard it must have been. Many people, led by Jean Vandale, put a lovely reception together. We thank each and every one of you for your hard work.

Many of our family members and friends commented on what a warm community of people we have at our church. We certainly couldn't agree more. We are truly blessed to have you all in our lives.

Helen Cundall, Lynn, Rick and Dan Harris

CALENDAR

July 1st – 31st Office hours are 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M., Monday through Friday.

July 4th **HAPPY 4TH OF JULY**

SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICE will start today at 9:30 and will continue until Sunday, August 29th.

July 5th **OFFICE CLOSED** – staff holiday.

July 19th **PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE** meeting 7:00 p.m.

July 25th The barbershop quartet "**Treblesome**" will be singing an anthem during service and doing a 45 minute show following coffee hour.

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE - will not meet in the month of July.

DIACONATE will not meet in the month of July.

CHURCH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE no meetings in July

SUNLIGHTERS no meetings in July or August.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP EXECUTIVE BOARD will not meet in the month of July.

Aug. 8th **CHURCH AND EDUCATION meeting**

Aug. 18th **TIE NOTICES** due for September Tie.

Aug. 17th & 18th **ECONOMY SHOP:** We will need a lot of help hanging clothing for the re-opening of the shop on August 19th.

Aug. 28th **JAZZ NIGHT** fundraiser at Kaboodle Pizzeria and Grille – 6 PM until closing

Aug. 29th **2010 CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION**

Aug. 30th **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP EXECUTIVE BOARD** will meet at 9:00 A.M.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sept. 5th **WORSHIP SERVICE** returns to its regular time 10:00 A.M.

Sept. 10th **MILITARY WHIST PARTY** and Penny Sale 7:00 P.M.

Sept. 12th **CHURCH SCHOOL** begins.

Sept. 21st **HAM & BEAN SUPPER** & Penny Sale 6:30 P.M.– Sponsored by the Strategic Planning & Church Growth Committee. Tickets will go on sale August 22nd. For more information contact the church office Monday through Friday 8 A.M. to 12 P.M.

HELD AT THE CHURCH

Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon and Al-A-Teen meeting every Monday at 6:30 p.m.

Deacon of the month for July is Ken Landine

Deacon of the month for August is Hazel Ahlquist