



MESSENGER
of the
**First Congregational
Church**
United Church of Christ
Melrose, Massachusetts

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Rev. Dominic Taranowski, Pastor
David Richardson, Music Director

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A Journey of Discovery

With the departure of our Music Director David Richardson, we sail into new waters. On this journey we move from **sadness** to **concern** to **exploration** to **excitement**.

With the wonderful turn out and energy shown at last Sunday's celebration of David's ministry, we were able to express our **sadness** at David's leaving as well as our appreciation for all he has done. As we head into next Sunday without David at the helm of our music ministry, many will be moving into the next phase on the path: **Concern**. How are we going to operate on Sunday mornings without a Music Director?

We are blessed in our church to have an abundance of musical talent. This exists in music groups like our Choir, Bell Choir, New Day String Band, and Treblemakers. All of these groups will be active in the weeks ahead to provide continuity to our liturgical life. Evan Leontis, our Soloist, will remain on staff and she will be working with the Choir to perform anthems and she will also be singing herself.

In addition, we will be inviting other musicians to our church to lead the music on Sunday mornings. This is one component of the next leg of the journey: **Exploration**. By having guest music leaders with us, we will have the opportunity to experience different styles of music and varying approaches to Sunday morning music. These guests will not be candidates for the position of Music Director, but will help us identify our own musical "personality" as a church as we discover what "resonates" with us and what does not.

The second aspect of the **exploration** phase of the journey is the work of our Music Director Search Committee. This group has already been formed and has begun meeting. The members include Choir members Sallie Klemm and Beth Hampson, Bell Choir Director Jim Oosterman, Senior Deacon and Director of the Treblemakers and New Day String Band Brian Packham, and myself. Beth and Jim, by the way, are also your Trustees of Staff Ministry which places them in a great position to lead this search process. This group has been unpacking the uniqueness our music ministry and has begun posting for the position of Music Director. They will also be honing a job description and, when the time

September 27, 2009

9:00 AM – Senior Choir Rehearsal

9:15 AM – Middle & High School Youth Potluck

Breakfast, Narthex

10:00 AM – WORSHIP –

and Church School Pre-K – 12

**11:15 AM – Welcome Back Cookout,
Playground area**

THE FLOWERS on the communion table are in loving memory of Ruth and Ernest "Ducky" Erickson, given by their daughter, Astrid Oosterman.

DURING THE WEEK

Monday, September 28

7:30 PM – Common Threads at Sallie Klemm's

Wednesday, September 30

7:15 PM – Bells Rehearsal, sanctuary

Sunday, October 4

Food Pantry Sunday

The following groups meet here regularly:

Boy Scouts – Tuesdays at 7:00 PM in the basement

Girl Scouts – Sundays at 5:30 PM, Rm. 1 and lounge, Mon. at 7 PM, Rm. 7/8, Wed. at 6PM, Rm.7/8, Fridays 2:30 and 5PM, 7/8

Pre-PAL – 9 11:30 AM – M, T, Th, Fri, Room 7

PAL – 3:00 PM, Room 7/8

Cub Scouts – Wednesdays, 3rd Thursday

Al-Anon – weekdays at 12 noon, Sunday at 1 & 7 PM – Rm. 8

Blue of a Kind – Mondays at 7:00 PM in the Music Room

S.A.R.P. – Tuesdays at 6:30 PM, lounge

A.W.O.L. – Tuesdays at 7:30 PM, 7/8, lounge, Rm. 1

Mothers' Group meets Wednesdays 9-11 AM, lounge, 1, 7/8

CODA – Wednesdays at 7:30 PM, lounge

Vital Cycles - Thursdays at 7:00 PM, lounge

O.A. – Fridays at 7 PM, lounge

A.A. – Wednesdays at 7:30 PM, Fridays at 8:00 PM and Saturdays at 3:00 PM – Rm. 8

comes, they will recruit a slightly larger group to aid in reviewing candidates. As with any such search process, the members of this Search Committee will happily hear any feedback you may wish to share.

The **excitement** phase arrives with the conclusion of the process when we welcome a new staff member to the church and watch as our music ministry evolves and expands. In the meantime, we ask your patience and flexibility as we move along this journey. There is no doubt that we are in period of transition. With deliberate work and open hearts, however, we will reach our goal of unwrapping the exciting future God has in store for us.

See you in church,

Rev. Dominic





Marilyn McComas, Betty Crane
 (Rosewood Nursing and rehab
 Center, 22 Johnson St., West
 Peabody MA 01960), Kate
 Watson, Anne Wing, George
 Burrell, Bud Pendleton, Jennie
 Way, Barbara Jones.

*How good
 and
 pleasant to
 dwell
 together in
 harmony*

Temple Beth Shalom
 Rededication

Please join our celebration

*Erev Shabbat & Sukkot
 Rededication Service
 Friday, October 2nd at 7:30
 PM*

*Sanctuary (Mezzuzah Hanging)
 Community Open House
 Sunday, October 4th
 From 11:30 AM to 3:00 PM*

*Nancy Kukura
 President*

*Arnold M. Fertig
 Rabbi*

21 East Foster Street, Melrose MA



After worship on Sunday September 27th
 on the church back lawn—
 kids can play on the playground.

Come celebrate the start of another exciting
 program year at our church!

Hot Dogs and Hamburgers hot off the grill!
 Come and enjoy! - Rain or shine.

**MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH
 WELCOME BACK POTLUCK BREAKFAST!**

Sunday Sept. 27th - 9:15 AM in the Narthex.



Bring a snack to
 share and your ideas
 for Youth Group
 Activities for the
 coming Church year.
 Adults welcome!
 Any questions,
 contact Martha and

Jason Jancaitis, 781-979-9292 or
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