



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

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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VOLUME 92

May 28, 2010

Number 38

What We Need

Hank: "God, I was wondering, how long is a million years to you?"

God: "A million years is like a second to me."

Hank: "God, how much is a million dollars to you?"

God: "A million dollars to me is like one penny to you."

Hank: "God, can I have one of your pennies?"

God: "Just a second."

So often we want God on our terms. We, like Hank, figure that if we play the game right, we can get what we need out of God. The wonderful yet hard truth of our faith is that we already have all that we need.

This is wonderful news in the sense that we can stop worrying and cease our incessant striving for material security. The threshold for having "enough" is usually lower than we think it is. At the same time, it is hard news in the sense that to accept this truth we need to re-order our priorities. That means we need to place greater value on the unseen, intangibles of life than on the embodied, perceptible world around us.

Last Sunday we celebrated Pentecost. We now worship in the season of Pentecost right up until Advent beginning at the end of November. The star of Pentecost is the Holy Spirit—that manifestation of God that came down to those first disciples and empowered them to build the church that exists today. It is appropriate that Pentecost be the longest season of the church year because the Holy Spirit is the last gift left to us by Christ after his ascension. It is the Holy Spirit that is God at work in our lives and in the world today.

In some ways, however, it is a little ironic that Pentecost is the longest season of the church year because we have so much less agreement on this element of the Trinity than on the other two elements of Creator/Parent and Christ/Child. The Holy Spirit is, not surprisingly, much less definable. And that is as it should be. Yet this ethereal quality of the Holy Spirit should not cause us to discount its active presence in the world (and especially in our church).

It is the Holy Spirit that gives us the strength to alter our priorities from the tangible to the intangible so that we can accept the good news that we have all that we need. It is the Holy Spirit who opens our eyes and our hearts to know that love is the ground of all being and it is all around us. It is the Holy Spirit who reminds us that we belong to God and God will not let us fall.

Sunday, May 30, 2010
Renewing the Covenant

9:00 AM – Chancel Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM – WORSHIP

and Church School Pre-K – 12

11:15 AM – Coffee Hour, Narthex

THE STEEPLE is lit this week in memory of Claire Davis and Circle 18 members through a gift given by Marion Ewell.

DURING THE WEEK

Monday, May 31

Memorial Day

Tuesday, June 1

Yard Sale set-up begins and continues throughout the week, narthex

7:15 PM – RIM Meeting, Seminar Room

7:30 PM – Welcome Committee at Jim & Lisa Oosterman's

Wednesday, June 2

7:15 PM – Bells Rehearsal, sanctuary

Thursday, June 3

7:30 PM – Deacons and Trustees meet at church, help with Yard Sale

Friday, June 4

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM – Yard Sale, narthex

Saturday, June 5

9:00 AM – Noon – Yard Sale, narthex

Sunday, June 6 – Graduation Sunday

Spring Congregational meeting after worship



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

Cub Scouts – Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays

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

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

Most importantly, it is the Holy Spirit who calls and equips us to build up the church of Christ. Week in and week out we accept that call and act upon it at First Congregational Church. Our lives, our church, and our world are made whole and empowered to the extent that we are receptive to the work of the Holy Spirit in our midst—that presence that gives us the good news of untold abundance and that calls us to share that good news with everyone.

See you in church,

Rev. Dominic



Marilyn McComas, Anne Wing,
George Burrell, Bud Pendleton,
Barbara Jones, Rayma Sargent
(Anne Wing's sister).

Let Us Know

A reminder that privacy laws regarding hospitalization are very strict today. This means that area hospital chaplains cannot call our church to inform us that a member of our church is in the hospital as they once could. Consequently, it is up to the patient or a family member to let us know that someone from our church family is hospitalized. If you or someone from our church is in the hospital, be sure to call the church office so that we can add that name to the prayer list and Rev. Dominic can provide pastoral care.



IT'S YARD SALE TIME!

**Friday, June 4, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM and
Saturday, June 5, 9:00 AM to Noon.**

Items may be dropped off any time beginning this Sunday, May 30.

Lots of help is needed every day and evening beginning June 1st to set up.

Any questions please contact Jim Oosterman, OostermanJ@melrosecoop.com.

Please do not bring clothes, electronics, computers, exercise equipment, bicycles, large appliances, building materials or machinery other than hand tools.

Please do bring your discarded jewelry and any collectibles such as glassware, china, plates, silver or any interesting old items, etc.



DO YOU HAVE A COLLEGE GRADUATE IN YOUR FAMILY THIS YEAR?

Please let Susan in the office know so that we can share our congratulations in a future Messenger. 781-665-2111 or info@fccmelrose.org.

WARRANT FOR THE SPRING CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH in MELROSE, UCC

To the Members of the First Congregational Church in Melrose, United Church of Christ:

In accordance with the by-laws, the 162nd Spring Meeting of the First Congregational Church in Melrose, UCC is called to be held in the church on Sunday, June 6, 2010 at 11:15 am. This meeting is called by the Deacons and Trustees to act upon the following Articles:

- Article 1: To receive and act upon the reports of staff members;
- Article 2: To receive and act upon the reports of the Deacons and Trustees;
- Article 3: To receive and act upon the reports of other committees and affiliated boards;
- Article 4: To receive and act upon the report of the Deacons and Trustees acting as a Nominating Committee and to elect Deacons and Trustees for terms beginning July 1, 2010.
- Article 5: To transact such other business as may legally come before the meeting.

Beth Hampson and James Oosterman,
Co-Trustees of Congregational Records / Clerk



WE MET AND WE E'T

Meet and Eat gatherings a success!

Over the past two weekends the church community took advantage of 7 separate opportunities to "meet and eat" in small groups with folks we see in church but might not otherwise have had a chance to get to know better. Well over 100 people participated in these gatherings, enjoying good food and wonderful fellowship, and hopefully strengthening the sense of community we feel as a church. Many thanks to the hosts who opened their homes and planned the meals: Ron and Donna Miner, Chip and Kara Larzelere, Nancy Gift and Phyllis Lanni, Paul and Barbara Sinisgalli, Bob and Lisa Jamison, Brian and Maura Packham, and Jim Sugrue and Candy Brower. And thanks to all of you who made these groups so successful by taking part. If you didn't have a chance to meet and eat this time around, watch for another "reincarnation" of this idea in the future (now that we've done "Nine to Dine," "Groups for Grub," and "Meet and Eat," we're taking suggestions for a catchy slogan for the next one!)

- The Welcome Committee



The deadline for items to go in the last Messenger before the summer is Friday, June 11. Be sure to send in anything that you want in this newsletter before summer, to advertise for summer or fall.



Join Circle 4 in Donating a Table!

The Christmas Fair Committee has identified the need for 12 new lightweight rectangular tables; six 6' tables (\$50 each) and six 8' tables (\$80 each). Any additional money raised will be put toward new round tables! Donations in any amount can be given to any member of Circle 4. Checks should be made out to First Congregational Church with "Table Fund" written in the memo line. As with other church fund raisers, this donation will be in addition to your pledged tithe.

HALLMARK HEALTH SYSTEM'S



Hallmark Health Announces Annual Stride for Health Walk

Hallmark Health will host its 3rd annual *Stride for Health* Walk on Sunday, June 6th at 5:00 PM at Lake Quannapowitt in Wakefield. Proceeds will teach valuable CPR and choke-saving skills to high school students in Malden, Medford, Melrose, Stoneham and Wakefield. This family-friendly sunset walk will include massage, music, face painting, a "sole" searching scavenger hunt, and a light picnic by the Lake.

To register, volunteer or pledge go to www.hallmarkhealth.org and click on *Stride for Health* or call 781-979-6116. You are also welcome to join the Walk's fan page on Facebook.



Christopher Dixon, an Eagle Scout candidate from our Troop 615, is working on his project and has asked for help from us. His project is to help Shriner's Hospital for Children in Boston.

An excerpt from his letter:

"Shriner's is a burn center, and they have kids from the age of toddlers to teenagers. Often the kids who stay at the hospital are there for long periods of time. Sometimes the kids are at the hospital during the holidays, their birthdays, and cannot go home. So I want to make their time more enjoyable. I also want to help them because I am a patient at Shriner's and I want to thank them for the help that they gave me.

My project is collecting toys and items that the kids at the hospital can use. I will be setting up a collection box at First Congregational Church in Melrose. Shriner's Hospital gave me their Child Life Wish List. It's a list that tells what they need for the kids. .. One important thing all items **MUST BE NEW**. The reason is because of the risk of infection to the patients. Please note that unfortunately due to the high risk of infection, no **PLUSH** toys may be accepted."

Wish lists are available at the church in the narthex, where the collection box is located, and will be through June. Scouts will be here to answer questions and empty the box about every other week.

If you would like to have a copy of the wish list, please call the church office. (781-665-2111) Items are many and varied, for infants through teenagers, including toys, arts and crafts, games, music players, toiletries, gift cards, books. Reminder: they **MUST** be **NEW** items.

Thank you for your support of one of our future Troop 615 Eagle Scouts.



Give to those in need

John the Baptist spoke to a crowd, telling them they should be fruitful. When the crowd asked how they could be fruitful, John the Baptist responded with some specific ideas.

Unscramble John the Baptist's reply from Luke 3:11 (NIV), and write the words in the blanks below.

★ WORD BANK ★

with food him who should with man share do the should
two tunics has the who none and one the same has



Answer: "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same." (Luke 3:11, NIV)