



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

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Rev. Dominic Taranowski, Pastor
Kathy Troiano, Music Director

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More than a "Trip"

While it may appear that things have been quiet on the Youth Mission Trip front, things are indeed percolating. Everything looks in place—the youth, their chaperones, fundraising, paperwork—and now excitement is building about the departure of the trip itself at the end of the month.

The group will leave early on Sunday, June 27.

It is easy to consider that the annual Mission Trip is an opportunity for the church to enrich the lives of our young people through community service. That is indeed the case. At the same time, there are deep faith aspects to this trip that go far beyond the youth themselves. Remember, we send our youth as representatives of our church. As the Body of Christ the church, this is reflective of the Great Commission that Jesus himself gave his friends: to "go and make disciples of all nations."

While our youth are not going to "all nations", they are going to Denver, Colorado to engage in various work projects to aid the poor. They are going to "make disciples" by means of their witness and service. That is to say, they are sharing our faith with their actions. This trip--like every mission trip--is countercultural in the true spirit of Jesus. They are going not in order to earn money or to in any way better their own material position in life. They are not going to take, but to give and give freely. Their own faith will be deepened, yes, but the spirit of God will be magnified as well—often in ways beyond their knowing.

Be sure to make an effort to join us on Sunday, June 20th, when we Commission our youth and their chaperones for this vital ministry. It is critical that we do this because it really is more than a "trip"; it is a ministry--a way of drawing closer to God through Jesus Christ even as God's love is made tangible and the gospel is spread through their physical efforts.

See you in church,

Rev. Dominic

Sunday, June 13, 2010
Renewing the Covenant

10:00 AM – WORSHIP
and Church School Pre-K – 12
11:15 AM – Coffee Hour, Narthex

THE FRESH FLOWERS on the communion table are given in loving memory of Cynthia E. Henry by the Henry family and friends.

THE FRESH FLOWERS in the urn are in celebration of Grace Hart's 90th birthday.

DURING THE WEEK

Monday, June 14

7:30 PM – Common Threads at Lisa Jamison's

Tuesday, June 15

7:30 PM – Deacons and Trustees at the Packhams

Sunday, June 20

Church School Sunday

Youth Mission Trip Commissioning

11:15 AM – Calling and Visitation Action Team Meeting

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



CONGRATULATIONS:

Benjamin Konicek graduated from Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA with a major in computer science and minor in film studies.

Evan Iwerks has completed his undergraduate degree, Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, from MIT.



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



Looking For Talented Individuals to Help Execute Marketing Plan For Our Remarkable Church

Dan Hampson and Maura Packham have finalized plans to kick-off our marketing plan in September.

They are looking for folks with the following expertise:

- Graphic design (for t-shirts, banners, posters, etc.)
- Website design
- Email design
- Copywriting
- Communications
- Event planning
- No expertise at all and just want to get involved



You will become a welcomed member of our marketing team that will meet a few times over the summer then at regular intervals throughout our 2010 / 2011 Church Program Year.

You will be required to laugh often, be creative, have fun, and watch the magic unfold this Fall.



If you are interested please contact:

Maura: maurapackham@verizon.net

Dan: dph@fr.com

Thank You!



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.

