

MAY NEWSLETTER 2007

*The First Congregational Church of Georgetown
United Church of Christ
7 Andover Street, Box 200,
Georgetown, MA 01833
Tel. 978-352-8443*

Email: churchoffice@georgetowncongregational.org

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 10:00 – 2:30PM

Friends,

I have received my fair share of “Save the Date” cards recently. They were for the usual events. My college class is having a reunion this fall. A couple friends are getting married. Some graduation parties are being planned.

Then there was that note from the church asking us to save May 6th for Rev. Sara Marean’s installation. An installation is not your typical gathering. Some of you attended my own four-and-a-half years ago (how time flies!) so you have an idea of what to expect. For many of you, though, this will be your first installation. That begs the question, just what is an installation anyway.

When a pastor receives a call to serve a church, our denomination “confirms and celebrates the covenant between a local church and a newly called pastor and teacher and reaffirms the covenantal relationship of all the churches in the association (Book of Worship, UCC).” The First Congregational Church of Georgetown is a member of the United Church of Christ, some 6000 churches strong. We belong to the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC, which is broken into 11 associations. Our association, Essex, will send some representatives to participate on the 6th. They, and we, will formally recognize that the Spirit of God has led Sara to this church and that same Spirit led this congregation to call her as pastor. This is cause for celebrating!

So, on May 6th, the members and friends of this church, along with the members and friends of our sister churches around Essex Association, are going to celebrate this covenant through vibrant worship, music, singing, prayer, and, of course, food!

Save the date Friends! See you in the sanctuary at 4 p.m. on May 6th.

Blessings,

Rev. Eric Marean

Don’t forget these upcoming events as well:

May 20th, Senior High Pasta Supper (fundraiser for their upcoming mission trip)

June 3rd, Children’s Sunday (when our church school students will lead worship)

June 10th, Graduate Recognition Sunday



THANK YOU



COFFEE HOUR PENNY BOWL

The Women's Guild gives thanks to all of you who have contributed to the Coffee Hour Penny Bowl Collection. At our last meeting we counted and banked \$152.50! These funds will go a long way toward supporting our missions. We also voted to donate \$300 to our Senior High Youth Fellowship for their trip south this summer when they join with Habitat for Humanity in rebuilding homes destroyed by hurricanes. We are excited to be a partner in their humanitarian efforts. The Penny Bowl will continue to be evident at the Coffee Hours in case you still have collections at home that you'd like to donate!

Joan Chatterton, Secretary

Dear Church Family:

I appreciated the lovely Easter lily and a visit from Kristen, very meaningful to me. My heart will always be in Georgetown. Thank you.

Love,

Lillian Kelloway

Dear First Congregational Church:

Thank you for the Birthday Rose.

Dorothy Shea

Dear First Congregational Church:

Thank you for the Easter Plant we received it on Easter Sunday! It was greatly appreciated!

Jim and Helen Boynton

Dear Church Family:

How grateful we are for our supportive, loving church family. Beth and George Desrochers brought the lovely lily on Easter Morning. We enjoyed their visit immensely and the fragrant lily.

Thank you,

Barbara Morehouse

Dear Church Family:

Thank you for the beautiful Easter lily delivered by Beth Desrochers. Thank you also for keeping our family in your thoughts and prayers.

Love and hope,

Jim, Carol, Jaren and Corwin St. Pierre

Remember to get updates on Jim at our website. www.caringbridge.org/visit/jimstpierre

Dear First Congregational Church:

Thanks to all who contributed to the wonderful relaxation basket for the St. Pierre Auction. It was a big hit! Thanks also to all who attended in support of this successful fundraiser. We raised over \$50,000.00!

On behalf of the Jim St. Pierre family, we thank you for your generous donation to the fundraiser. As the organizers of this campaign to help Jim and his family as he continues his 5-year battle with Cancer, we have learned so much about the human spirit. Whether you know Jim as a family member, co-worker, classmate, neighbor or friend... you have reached out in support of him and given of yourself to help a great man! The success of this fundraising effort is credited to the legacy of Jim's life and all of the people that he has touched along the way. We know that as he continues his battle, he will draw strength from all the support that has been shown over the past months.

Thanks again for your contribution to this worthy cause!

Sincerely,

The St. Pierre Fundraising Committee

Dear Church Family,

We thank you for another successful drive for the troops in Iraq. On March 31, we shipped 90.5 pounds of items to benefit Jonathan and his unit. We are so grateful to our church family for their generous support shown toward our son Jonathan and his unit. He confirms the arrival of the many needed items and wishes to thank everyone for their support. The hot water dispensers went fast followed by everything else. Jonathan's tour of duty has been extended to November and he will miss his brother's wedding. So the timely arrival of the packages helps to confirm every one's support and blessings. We are so grateful and blessed.

Sincerely,

Karen and Warren Young.

PS. The Easter Lily given to us in Jonathan's honor is beautiful. When we walk by, the aroma is wonderful and reminds us of how blessed we are.

Thank you to the trustees and everyone who helped clean the church on March 30th.
It looks great!
Thank you,
Reverend Sara Marean and Reverend Eric Marean

We would like to thank everyone who gave so generously to help defray the cost of running the church. Out of the 83 envelopes on the Giving Tree, 51 were returned for a total of \$3,089. It is the kindness of each and every one of you that makes this church such a magnificent place to worship.

Please accept our sincere gratitude.

The Fund Raising Committee:
Kurt Hogan, Kristen Arsenault & JoEllen Fielding

Dear Friends:

You have been so helpful to us! We send you our heartfelt thanks for all the various ways you have helped us for the Fall right through Easter Sunday.

Thank you for your prayers, your cards, your phone calls and your visits and the most generous delicious meals. Most recently the beautiful fragrant plant for Easter.

It has meant a lot to us to have the support of our church family during our times of Dorothy's health crisis. We also appreciated the warm welcome when we were finally able to worship with you once again on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

Sincerely,
Charles and Dorothy Blanchard



Thanks to all for your participation in our most recent collection for donations in support of our troops in Iraq. We shipped 7 large boxes and one small box, a total weight of 90.5 lbs., to Jonathan Young for distribution to the unit in which he is serving. Money donations in the amount of \$100.00 were received to help defray postage costs. Some money was left over and we were able to purchase an international phone calling card as well. Special thanks to JoEllen Fielding and Karen and Warren Young for their assistance. Our drive was a success! Thanks again for your loving support and generosity.

Diane Townsend
Missions Coordinator

Thank you to all who participated in our Maundy Thursday service, and especially to Janice Murphy and all the deacons for their hard work in preparing for the service.

Dear Church Family,
Many Thanks for the lovely Birthday rose for my 90th Birthday and the Easter Plant,
honoring my grandson that is serving in Germany.

Isabell Gammon

Dear Church Family:

Thank you all so much for your prayers, cards and notes while I was sick. I surely
enjoyed them, I miss you all.

Love,

Ruth Jones

To the Girls Scouts:

Thank you so much for cleaning the sanctuary and polishing the pews, we greatly
appreciated it.

First Congregational Church Trustees



ANNOUNCEMENTS



2007 Family Roster:

We are updating The First Congregational Church Family Roster for 2007. Please
e-mail me at churchoffice@georgetowncongregational.org or call me between the
hours of 10:00am and 2:30pm Monday through Thursday at 978-352-8443 with your
updated birthday, email addresses and cell phones for all the members in your
immediate family. Also, if you have recently moved, please let us know your new
address, and/or home phone number.

Thank you,

Sheryl Doucette, Office Manager

The Women's Guild

Will meet on Thursday, May 24th for their annual luncheon
outing. All members will be notified soon regarding the time and place. In
the meantime, please set aside the date as this will be the final Guild
get-together for the season. Meetings will resume in September.

Coffee Hour:

Coffee Hour Hosts are needed for May, June and July. There is a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour. If you have never done a coffee hour and would like more information please contact Kirsten Davis (2157), or Janice Murphy (7454) and we would be happy to answer any questions.

Thank-you,

Kristen and Janice

Future Mission Projects, Events, etc.

If anyone has any ideas/suggestions for any mission projects, please contact Diane Townsend, Missions Coordinator (978-373-0619).

Information meeting for Confirmation Class

There will be an informational meeting about next year's confirmation class on Sunday, May 20th before church at 9:30 in the third floor chapel. All youth in 8th-12th grades who have not been confirmed are invited to attend, along with their parents. Please join us!



Book Club

The meeting of the book club will take place on Thursday, May 10th at 7:00 at the home of Kirsten Davis. The book of discussion will be *The Other Boleyn Girl*, by Philippa Gregory. Everyone is welcome.

Books Available

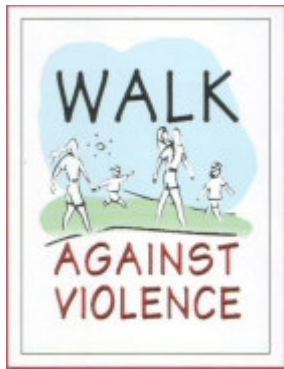
There are books available for the taking, from the small meeting room next to the Long Room. Help yourselves and pass them along to friends, or return them, as you wish.



Flower Donation:

If you would like to donate flowers for the Communion Table for a birthday, anniversary, or a special occasion, please contact Michelle Brock at 978-352-6853 or Jaime Krenn at 978-352-2321.

WALK AGAINST VIOLENCE



Save the Date!
16th Annual
Walk Against Violence
Sunday, May 20, 2007
Bartlet Mall, Newburyport
Registration 11:00 - 1:00 PM
Walk starts at 1:00 PM

A fundraising event to support...
The Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center
(Formerly Women's Crisis Center)

16th Annual Walk Against Violence
Bartlet Mall, Newburyport, MA
Sunday, May 20, 2007 -
Rain or Shine - 1:00 p.m.

Registration available at location from 11:30 until walk time.

Warm up begins at 12:30 p.m.

Post Walk Party and Celebration at 2:00 p.m.

The walk is 3.5 miles, beginning and ending at the Bartlet Mall. Individuals, couples or families; all are encouraged to participate. This organization in Amesbury & Newburyport serves the communities in the Merrimack Valley. The mission of this organization is "to empower members of our community to live free from fear, intimidation, violence, or the threat of abuse by providing support, advocacy, and education."

Want to support this worthwhile cause and our mission outreach to the local community? If interested in doing this as a Church group, pledge sheets and a signup sheet will be available after Church services in Fellowship Hall or contact Diane Townsend (978 373-0619). Information also available at www.jeannegeigercrisiscenter.org. Please join us!



Light the Church Fund



Contributions for lighting the church edifice can be made on a monthly or weekly basis, either in memory of loved ones, or in honor of someone special. Contributor and names of loved ones will be listed each week in the bulletins and also in the Monthly Newsletter. For one month's listing, the suggested donation is \$100. You may send contributions to the church (P.O. Box 200) and to the attention of our Collector.

Lighting of the Church for the month of April was made in memory of Gregory L. Kelly by Sheila Kelly and family.

Lighting of the church for the month of May is in honor of the birthdays of Dorothy and Charles Blanchard Birthday by the Felhmann Family.



Pantry In Need



This time of year can be a little tough on some people who depend on others for help. Many in our church may not know that our Food Pantry is available for all in our community who require a little help in times of need. The Pantry (located off the kitchen) is low on supplies at this time. Please consider donating some non-perishable items to the shelves. Items needed are wholesome foods, such as cereals, pastas, canned tuna, soups, and vegetables, as well as canned juice and juice boxes. Please make sure any dates have not expired. Donations can be made anonymously, just leave them in the Pantry at any time.

Thank You!

Star Island

The Schedule for Star Island is now available. The following are the conferences that UCC is sponsoring:

United Church of Christ Family Conference I

Sunday, August 5 through Saturday, August 11

United Church of Christ Family Conference II

Sunday, August 11 through Saturday, August 18

More information is available in the church office and on their website at

www.starisland.org.

Scholarships are available through The Christian Education Committee. For more information please speak with Pastor Eric.

*You are invited to attend and participate in the
Installation of*

The Reverend Sara E. Marean

*As Pastor of the First Congregational Church of Georgetown,
United Church of Christ in Georgetown, MA.*

Where:

*The First Congregational Church of Georgetown, UCC
7 Andover Street
Georgetown, MA 01833*

When:

Sunday, May 6, 2007

Time:

*4:00p.m. in the Sanctuary
Followed by a celebration in the Fellowship Hall*



*Clergy are invited to process and wear red stoles.
Laity are asked to wear a touch of red.*



The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
Love your neighbor as yourself. "Matthew 22:39"

God is still speaking through your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing

Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing carry God's message of love and hope to the people in more than eighty countries! The United Church of Christ works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and healthcare, small business, micro-credit, emergency relief, and advocacy/resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. Your gifts also support domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

One Great Hour of Sharing has an amazing history. Since 1949, a number of Christian denominations have participated in this life-changing offering. Today, the UCC is one of nine denominations that support One Great Hour of Sharing in cooperation with Church World Service.

Read about transformed lives at <http://oghs.ucc.org>.

Let us here at The First Congregational Church of Georgetown, UCC help communities suffering from poverty, illiteracy, illness, and the dangers of wars and disasters, by participating in:

One Great Hour of Sharing which takes place on
Sunday, May 6th.

Together we can make a world of difference!

