



NEWSLETTER, MAY 2008

The First Congregational Church of Georgetown United Church of Christ

Come Share the Bounty of God's Love...

Grow With Us!

7 Andover Street, Box 200 • Georgetown, MA 01833 • (978)-352-8443 • www.georgetowncongregational.org

Dear Friends,

On Easter morning, during our 10:30 a.m. service, I shared an illustration about a character from one of A. A. Milne's classics, *The House at Pooh Corner*. In this, my last newsletter article for you, I turn once again to that stubborn, pessimistic, and lovable donkey, Eeyore. You may recall that in the chapter, "Eeyore Finds the Wolery," or Owlery if you are a competent speller, Rabbit encouraged his lonely friend to change his ways, to stop complaining, and to seek the company of his friends. And that is exactly what Eeyore did. He transformed his outlook on life and left his isolated corner of the 100 acre woods.

Such dramatic transformations can be short lived, it is easy to fall back into old ways, but that didn't seem to happen with Eeyore. In the last chapter of Milne's book, "An Enchanted Place," Eeyore and his friends bid farewell to Christopher Robin. Although Pooh, Piglet, Rabbit, Owl, Tigger, Kanga and Roo did not know where Christopher Robin was going, they knew he soon would be off and they wanted to present him with a good-bye poem (written by Eeyore). This is a touching scene. When they approached Christopher Robin, no one knew what to say, so Eeyore took charge and broke the awkward silence. He shared these heartfelt words. "Christopher Robin," he said, "we've come to say—to give you—it's called—written by—but we've all—because we've heard, I mean we all know—well, you see, it's—we—you—well, that, to put it as shortly as possible, is what it is." Overcome with emotion, Eeyore walked away.

Although very little was said, Eeyore said it all. If you have read the Pooh series, you know all the adventures and stories that live in those silent pauses. There were games of Pooh sticks, expeditions through the woods, picnics, conversations, laughter and songs. Saying good-bye to all of that was not easy, especially knowing that once Christopher Robin left, things would never be the same.

That is also the case whenever a Pastor leaves a Faith Community. May 23rd is our last day with you as your Co-Pastors. After that date, Sara and I can no longer provide you with Pastoral care and leadership; we must leave that in the hands of your Interim Pastor(s) and future Settle Pastor(s). Although we will no longer be called to that role, know that we will hold you in our thoughts and prayers in the years to come, trusting that you will live into God's future for First Church. And know that we do so with gratitude in our hearts for your friendship, mutual ministry, and the love and support you have offered over the years. Although I did not note them in this text, there are a lot of silent pauses in my writing. They are filled with memories of worship services, baptisms, weddings, funerals, hospital and home visits, church school lessons, teachers' meetings, youth group gatherings and trips, church fairs, coffee hours—the list goes on and on. A. A. Milne captured it beautifully. Saying good-bye is never easy and one can never completely name all that lives in those emotion-filled, silent pauses.

Of course, when our words fail us, we may turn to the Word. I leave you with this prayer, offered to a faith community in Ephesus by the Apostle Paul (or by one of Paul disciples who wrote in his name). "I pray that, according to the riches of God's glory, God may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through *the* Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:16-19)." Amen and God bless.

Pastor Eric

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Church School Class Schedule with Lesson Topics

Lesson titles and descriptions are taken from our church school curriculum, *Seasons of the Spirit*.

Sunday, May 4

STUDENTS BEGIN IN CLASS

Focus Scripture: John 17:1-11

Community of Prayer

Jesus offers a prayer that showers disciples—in that time and for all time—with vocation and unity in God through Christ. So prayed for, the community of Jesus becomes a community of prayer. Such prayer strengthens and empowers faithful witness and service. Such prayer holds up the vulnerable in word and for deed. Such prayer rejoices in God.

Sunday, May 11

STUDENTS BEGIN IN WORSHIP

Focus Scripture: Acts 2:1-21

Life-giving Spirit

This Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate God's life-giving Spirit poured out abundantly on the community of disciples. Rich images of wind and fire frame the proclamation of God's power in words that all can understand. Community is extended by the Spirit's blessing through a diversity of persons and gifts for the common good.

Sunday, May 18

INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE

NO CHURCH SCHOOL

Sunday, May 25

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

NO CHURCH SCHOOL

Sunday, June 1

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY

CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES LEAD WORSHIP

To learn more about our church school and sign your children up for classes, please speak with Pastor Eric.

NEXT TEACHERS' MEETING: Sunday, May 11, 9:30 a.m.

TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES!

The Christian Education Committee is recruiting individuals to team teach our church school classes from September to December, 2008. If you have been a member or friend of First church for at least one year, would like to learn more about the Bible and our faith in a fun environment, and can dedicate a few hours a month to support our children and youth, team teaching may be a good fit for you!

Please contact Pastor Eric to discuss this opportunity to learn and grow with our students.

Thoughts and Letters

Thank you for the plant from our Church Family. We are so blessed. Sincere thanks. Also, thank you for the many cards received during my illness.

Love, Florence and Bud Hamelin

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so very much for the beautiful lily delivered to our door on Easter. Your loving remembrance and hand of friendship warms our hearts. We are grateful for our supportive Church family.

Bob and Barb Morehouse

We have enjoyed the beautiful jonquils delivered at Easter. We appreciate being remembered with your thoughtfulness.

Thankfully, Helen and Jim Boynton

Dear Church Family,

A very special thank you for the Easter lily. It has added so much cheer. Very thoughtful to remember me, also a special visit from a good friend.

Sincerely, Lillian Kelloway

We wish to express our appreciation for the beautiful Easter lily that graced the pulpit on Easter Sunday. We have been blessed by the support of the church, its members, and our friends who have extended the prayers and written words of encouragement during the long hospitalizations and care that our family has experienced during the past several months.

Sincerely, Albert and Jean Perley

To My Church Family,

Thank you so very much for my Birthday Rose and the many lovely cards. Also for my Easter plant. I am so grateful for all of your kindness.

Isabel Gammon

To My Church Family,

Thank you for all the cards, food and attention you have provided me over the past few months. I feel very blessed!

Helen Snow

Heifer International

A Valentine Candy Sale was sponsored by the Board of Christian Education in coordination with the Church School. The proceeds of \$320 were used to purchase a buffalo, ducks, chicks and bees through Heifer International.

Dear Partners in Mission:

Thank you seems so inadequate to express just how important your donation to Heifer International is. Each day, a family struggling with hunger, poverty and despair is given new opportunities because of your kindness. Your support provides the foundation for a better future for those in need through increased nutritional and educational measures that will last a lifetime.

During this spring season, many families all over the world can look forward to a better tomorrow, rather than look back at a season of helplessness, because of your generosity.

Thank you once again for partnering with Heifer International to help make a better world - one family at a time.

Sincerely, Jo Luck, President and CEO

Prayers

Please keep in our prayers:

Florence Hamelin who is recovering at home from a recent hospitalization.

Karla Szkutak, who is at home and open to receiving visitors. Please call ahead.

Helen Snow who is continuing physical rehabilitation in her home.



Happy Birthday Wishes



Happy Birthday to all. Have a great special day.

May

Steven DeSisto	May 6 th
Charles Blanchard	May 8 th
JoAnne Kelly	May 15 th
Tyler Clift	May 19 th
Dorothy Blanchard	May 21 st
H. Nelson Pingree	May 22 nd
Jeff Moore	May 23 rd
Warren Young	May 23 rd
Cameron Davis	May 23 rd
Alan Gould	May 25 th
Kyle Gillen	May 25 th
Brad Chute	May 27 th
Jonathan Brock	May 31 st

Laugh a lots

Late for Bible Class

A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Bible class. As she ran she prayed, *"Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!"*

While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again. As she ran she once again began to pray, *"Dear Lord, please don't let me be late...But please don't shove me either!"*

New in Church

After the service a young couple talked to a church member about joining the church. He hadn't met the husband before, and he asked what church he was transferring from.

After a short hesitation, he replied, *"I am transferring from the Municipal Golf Course."*

Groups and Committees

Moderator's Corner

By Tom Stewart, Moderator

The Diaconate continues to work and make progress towards the goal of hiring an Interim Pastor. The Diaconate created a profile with United Church of Christ (UCC) Area Minister Carol Atwood Lyon that will be used in the search for an Interim Pastor. Chairman Jeff Fitzpatrick and the Diaconate continue to work diligently with the UCC Area Conference Ministers to obtain the profiles of the best candidates for the position of Interim Pastor. The UCC has proved the resumes of two candidates and telephone interviews have started. Personal interviews with prospective Interim Pastors will begin as scheduling allows. If an Interim Pastor is not recommended by the Diaconate to the Cabinet and hired by May 23, 2008, the Diaconate will utilize Pulpit Supply until an Interim Pastor is hired.

The time to say goodbye to our Co-Pastors, Sara and Eric Marean, is rapidly approaching with Sunday May 18, 2008 being the last worship service while Friday May 23, 2008 is their last scheduled day in the office. Saying goodbye can be challenging in any circumstance. Saying goodbye to members of the clergy can be one of the most emotional aspects of church life. For some, saying goodbye will involve giving thanks for the prayers, support and guidance provided. For others, saying goodbye will entail the offering and receipt of forgiveness. No matter the individual circumstances, each of us should draw upon our Christian faith and values to say goodbye in a proper, respectful and dignified manner. Sometimes, individuals who have played a significant role in our lives leave suddenly without any notice and we long for and wish we had one last opportunity to say goodbye. The thoughts and feelings we experienced in such circumstances can be evoked while saying goodbye in another situation. It is important we always remind ourselves who we are saying goodbye to and acknowledge contributions they have

made to both our lives and church. Our Co-Pastors, Sara and Eric Marean, has made many positive contributions to our lives and church. Some of these are obvious to many while others may not be noticed until after we have said goodbye. Perhaps this adds to the challenge of saying goodbye to pastors. Again, it is in the best spiritual and personal interest for each of us, the Co-Pastors and the future of our church to create an ending experience that is positive, respectful and Christian in nature. During this time, I suggest we draw upon the words that Jesus taught us and give thanks for and show appreciation for the ministry of our Co-Pastors Sara and Eric Marean. It is my prayerful hope that, in the future, we will look back with pride and dignity upon how we all said goodbye to Pastor Sara Marean and Pastor Eric Marean.

Lastly, I am interested in hearing the thoughts, feelings and opinions of all who are involved in our church. Please feel free to contact me if you have issues or concerns you would like to discuss. I look forward to continuing to serve as your Moderator.

Stewardship Committee

A Message from Stewardship Team:

We all love our church and want to do what we can to support it and its missions. Unfortunately, today's economy makes it difficult to be as generous as we'd like to be with our charitable contributions. The stewardship team has been tasked to come up with new ideas to make it easier to give. If you haven't already heard, [the US Congress and President Bush](#) have announced a tax rebate to be given out to eligible families in May. If you find it is possible, the team suggests tithing your rebate as an offering to the church in our time of need. Please keep the church in your hearts this May.

Blessings,

Richard Aberman, George Comiskey, Tim Clift, Tom Stewart and Pastor Sara Marean

Missions

Save the date!

Sunday, October 19, 2008, Bartlet Mall, Newburyport
The 17th Annual Walk Against Violence in support of the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center (<http://www.jeannegeigercrisiscenter.org/>)

Why such early notice? In past years that we have participated, the walk has happened in late April or Early May.

Ruth's House, Haverhill, MA, celebrates their 15th anniversary!

Our Church's Women's' Guild held a meeting on March 27th and a representative from Ruth's House discussed their fifteen year mission. The members were informed about Ruth's House interdenominational and non-profit community-based thrift store and ministry which works with over 80 human service agencies and faith-based groups in the Greater Merrimack Valley region and the surrounding New Hampshire communities. Ruth's House supplies clothing to individuals and families in need that are referred to it by human services agencies and faith based groups throughout the Greater Merrimack Valley and do so in the Spirit of faith and compassion. Their motto is: "Don't throw it away when so many go without."

Ruth's House is located at 30 Lafayette Square and takes donations of useable clothing items, furniture, appliances, bedding, curtains, toys and kitchenware during business hours on Thursday (10:00 am - 5:30 pm), Friday (9:00 am - 3:30 pm) and Saturday (9:00 am - 3:30 pm). It is requested that donations not be left at their door. For further information, please visit their website, www.ruthshouse.org or contact them by phone: 978 521-5575 or e-mail: donations@ruthshouse.org.

News from H.O.M.E. Inc., Orland, ME -Homeworkers Organized for More Employment

We received a recent letter from Sister Lucy Poulin that May 7th will mark their 38th year! Her letter tells us "For some of us we are here because we have no place, no home, no work, no health care, others because we want to make the world a better place and some because we believe in the Gospels in the risen Christ. No one is here for the usual reasons of money and status. We continue to struggle to make a world where it is 'easier for people to be good...' Visit their website, <http://www.homecoop.net/>.

Social Committee

Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, May 11th is Confirmation Sunday. Three of our youth will be joining the church as members. The Social Committee will be honoring them by hosting a coffee/tea service and cake.

Hosts Needed

Thank you for everyone who has contributed their time and energy to being Coffee Hour Hosts. We still have a few more Sundays to go before the summer arrives. If you haven't already had a chance to sign up to be a Coffee Hour Host, please consider becoming one. If you have already done one, think about doing it once again.

UCC Delegate

Nancy Aberman

Don't Forget!

The Essex Association Annual Meeting will take place at the Byfield Parish Church on Saturday, May 3, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The theme of the meeting is Communication. Following the business meeting and a worship service, Keynote Speaker, The Rev. Dr. Jim Antal (MACUCC Conference Minister & President) will give a talk on "God Is

Speaking, But Are We?" Workshops on various topics relating to communication will follow.

Our Church's UCC Delegate, Nancy Aberman, will be attending this meeting and urges **anyone** who is interested in any of the workshop topics to join her. Topics include stewardship; using technology to enhance the Church's message; growing membership through marketing; hospitality; and leadership. Registration materials are available at the MACUCC website, from the Church office, or from Nancy Aberman.

Church Office

Hello all,

It may not have seemed like April was here, but there were a few signs of spring in and around the Church Office. I noticed Allan Barlow out on the front lawn tapping our wonderful old Sugar Maples for their delicious sap. He and Pat have been busy boiling and packaging all that yummy sweetness. They tell me it will be a bumper crop this year. I can't wait to taste some of it at Fair time. The daffodils and crocuses have been showing us their sunny faces out in front and the sides of the church. I was very glad to see them, considering the amount of gray days there were in April. However all those April showers are bringing May flowers!

I have a couple of wish lists for the office. If you have a paper shredder lying around the house that you are not using, please consider donating it to the Church Office. We are recycling our paper at the schools to help with their fundraising efforts but we may be able to do more if we could shred some of our more confidential papers. Also, if you haven't been to the office lately, there are a lot of beige walls staring at us. If you have any framed pictures that you would like to donate, please bring them in, we would love to see them. I will be poking around the Yard Sale but I hear the pickings for pictures are pretty slim.

Come by and see us if you are ever in town during the day. We would love to see you.

Sincerely, Michelle Brock

The Women's Guild

GUILD ANNUAL OUTING

Note change of plans from the information given in the Guild program.

Thursday, May 29th, Guild members, who have made reservations, are asked to meet at the Church at 11:30 a.m. for carpooling to Leah Mae's Tea Room in Haverhill. A luncheon choice and check in the amount of \$13.00 must be made by May 15th. If anyone has misplaced the menu, or needs any information about this outing, please contact Marion Harding (8785) or Joan Chatterton (8033).

Youth Group

Senior High Youth Group

Sunday May 18th we will meet at 6PM at Henborg's ice cream next to Nunan's. We will enjoy ice cream together and have our last official meeting for the year. Please bring \$\$\$ you will be getting a discount on anything you order. We are still planning a year end trip in June more details to follow. Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Susan Stead 352-8907

Middle School Youth Group

Sunday, May 4th 3:00-5:00 Emmaus House Dinner

Our group will make the dinner at church, deliver and serve it to Emmaus House.

Sunday, May 18th 1:00-4:00 Hike Mt Agamenticus, York, Maine
Meet at the church at 1:00.

Announcements

Save the Date....

Pastors Sara and Eric will hold their last service with us on Sunday, May 18th. Please join us in a reception to remember their years of service and wish them well in their future calling after service at 11:30am.



Peggy and Dave Smith have picked a date for the Church Yard Sale. May 31st, rain or shine, they will be setting up tables, hauling out boxes, emptying them onto tables/blankets starting at 7:30am. They are looking for helpers to be movers and shakers as well as to collect money. Help will also be required for the reverse of the process (not giving back the money:)) to put the things away (but we are going to sell it all, right!). Clean-up will start at 2:00pm. Our wonderful food people (Pam, Emily and Kirsten) are thinking about doing something good to eat and there will probably be a cookie walk, so we'll need bakers. Please try to pick one or all of these things to help out. More hands means less work. You can reach Peggy and Dave at 352-8741 to sign up.



Book Club



The Book Club has only a few more book discussions before they go on hiatus for the summer. The next book to be discussed is *A Patchwork*

Planet. Anne Tyler tells the story of a lovable loser who's trying to get his life in order. Barnaby Gaitlin has been in trouble ever since adolescence. He had this habit of breaking into other people's houses. It wasn't the big loot he was after, like his teenage cohorts. It was just that he liked to read other people's mail, pore over their family photo albums, and appropriate a few of their precious mementos. Sound interesting? Give it a try, maybe you'll want to give the Book Club a try. The Book Club is opened to anyone who would like to gather together with Church Family and friends. The group meets monthly at member's houses to discuss the selected books. No need to call ahead to book yourself a seat. Just show up and have a cup of tea and good discussion. The meetings start at 7:00pm

May 8: *A Patchwork Planet* by Anne Tyler at Donna DeSisto's home, 15 School St, Georgetown

June 12: *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson at Nancy Aberman's home, 199 West Main St, Georgetown



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

*The church was lit for the month of **April** in memory of George L. Kelly from his wife Sheila Kelly and family*

Lighting of the Church

*The church is being lit for the month of **May** in celebration of Pam Sheehan's wedding on May 17th to Dean Gray and for Joe and Carol Sheehan's 52nd wedding anniversary on May 26th. The lighting is also in memory of Joe and Carol's parents and deceased siblings.*

Church Fair

Imagine, it is already time to start thinking about this year's fair! The Church Fair Planning meeting was held on Sunday, April 27. The group has nominated Deb Lamoureux and Michelle Brock as co chairs for the 2008 Fair. We will be having an International Theme.

The fair will be held the weekend of October 24th. Please mark your calendars for this fun Church Family event. If you missed the meeting, it is still not too late to help out. Our next meeting will be Sunday, June 1st after worship in the Chapel. Hope to see you there.

BOARDS, COMMITTEES, OFFICERS AND STAFF

2008

MODERATOR

Tom Stewart

CLERK

Emily Knapp

TREASURER

Peggy Smith

COLLECTOR

JoEllen Fielding

ASST. COLLECTOR

Vivian Rasmussen

AUDITORS:

Dwight Southwick & Jeff Moore

FINANCE COMMITTEE

George Desrochers, Robert Knapp and Tim Clift

SAFE CHURCH ADVOCATE

Pam Sheehan

DIACONATE

Kristen Arsenaunt

Gladys Kneeland

Brett Davis

Chuck Davis

*Jeff Fitzpatrick

Tracy Southwick

Barry Games

Cheryl Gould

TBA

Betty Bruce

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Kirsten Orender

Lauren Kalfin

*Joanne Kelly

Michelle Wilson

Carol Lutes

Karen Young

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Allan Barlow

Jo Stewart

*Rich Brock

Glen Cryan

Chris Pinto

Jeff Gillen

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Donna DeSisto

Dwight Southwick

*Joe Rawlins

Pam Sheehan

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Michelle Brock

Pat Barlow

*Joan Chatterton

Marion Harding

COORDINATORS FOR:

USHERING

Donn Chatterton & George Comiskey

MISSIONS

Diane Townsend

SOCIAL

Kristen Davis & Janice Murphy

UCC DELEGATE

Nancy Aberman

FLOWERS

Michelle Brock & Jaime Krenn

*Denotes Chairperson

STAFF

Co Pastor/Co-Directors of Christian Education

Rev. Sara E. Marean

Rev. Eric M. Marean

Acting Office Manager

Michelle Brock

Director of Music

Robert Knapp

Organist

Emily Knapp

Junior Choir Director

Marion Harding

Sexton

Rachel Edwards

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May 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Joyce Dance 3-6p TOPS I 6-9pm	2 TOPS II 9-11:30am Women's Guild 12-2 AA 7-9pm	3
4 11:45 Junior Choir Practice 11:45 Diaconate MS Youth Group Emmaus Dinner	5 Senior Center F 9-12 7:00 Girl Scout Leaders 7:00 Trustee Meeting	6 Senior Center F 9-12 6:30 Finance	7 Senior Center F 9-12 Band/Choir 7-9p Boy Scouts 7-9p F	8 Joyce Dance 3-6p TOPS I 6-9pm	9 TOPS II 9-11:30am AA 7-9p	10
11 Mother's Day Confirmation Sunday Junior Choir Perform 11:45 Music Committee Meeting	12 Senior Center F 9-12 Music Masters 1-3p Fellowship Hall	13 Senior Center F 9-12 7:00 Cabinet	14 Senior Center F 9-12 Band/Choir 7-9p Boy Scouts 7-9p F	15 Joyce Dance 3-6p TOPS I 6-9pm	16 TOPS II 9-11:30am AA 7-9p	17 Wedding 10-1pm Piano Recital 2pm
18 After Worship Marean Reception 6:00 Senior Youth	19 Senior Center F 9-12	20 Senior Center F 9-12	21 Senior Center F 9-12 Band/Choir 7-9p Boy Scouts 7-9p F Newsletter Deadline	22 Joyce Dance 3-6p TOPS I 6-9pm	23 TOPS II 9-11:30am AA 7-9p	24
25 9:00 Board of Christian Education Meeting No Church School	26 MEMORIAL DAY	27 9-12 Senior Center F 6:30-7:30 Planning Meet	28 Senior Center F 9-12 Band/Choir 7-9p Boy Scouts 7-9p F	29 Joyce Dance 3-6p TOPS I 6-9pm	30 TOPS II 9-11:30am AA 7-9p	31 7:30am-2:00pm Yard Sale Day