

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2007

The First Congregational Church of Georgetown

United Church of Christ

7 Andover Street, Box 200,

Georgetown, MA 01833

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Email: churchoffice@georgetowncongregational.org

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

Dear Friends,

Welcome back!!! Pastor Eric and I have missed seeing all of you this summer and we can't wait to be back together again as a church community. It's the beginning of a new church year with lots of fresh hopes and anticipations. We're looking forward to many months of joy and holy laughter with you all. This summer Pastor Eric and I have been busy scheming and planning, and we believe we have some exciting new programs and Sundays filled with energetic worship. The first is coming up!

Rally Day is September 9th. We will celebrate the kick off to the new year with an intergenerational worship service. On this Sunday we will introduce our theme for the year which is **"Fruits of the Spirit"**. This theme continues our reflection on our new vision statement, and expands Jesus' metaphor to give us some concrete examples of the fruit of our life in Jesus Christ. It comes from Paul's letter to the Galatians, chapter 5 verse 22, where he states, **"The fruits of the Spirits are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."** Throughout this church year in worship, in small groups and in church programs we will explore how, as individuals and as a community, we can foster these fruits within ourselves and each other.

We will do this in a special way in early October. **Saturday October 6th and Sunday October 7th** we will continue the excitement of Rally Day with our **All Church Retreat**. Since Harry Potter has been on many of our minds this summer, our theme for the retreat is **"Camp Hogwort's: Discovering the Fruits of the Spirit"**. At the beautiful Grotonwood Center in Groton, MA, we will gather to uncover the wisdom and fun held within the world of Hogwarts. There will be a Quiddich match or two, walks in the Forbidden Forest, dining at Hogwort's dining hall, and loads of other fun activities for young and old. (But, don't worry if you've never read a Harry Potter book or seen one of the movies, there will be many experts to fill you in on the important details!) You will receive informational packets in the mail, and there will be opportunities to sign up after worship on Sundays. Spots are limited so call the church office or mail your registration soon! And, if you have any talents, activities or ideas that you would like to share at the retreat please let Pastor Eric or me know!

Friends, we are blessed to have so many fruits of the Spirit here at the First Congregational Church of Georgetown, UCC. We hope that you will add your own particular fruit to the mixture at Rally Day and the Church Retreat. Let us make this a year in which we celebrate the bounty before us. Bring your families, bring your friends and join us as we cultivate the fruits of the Spirit in Georgetown!

With the fruit of love,

Your Pastor Sara Marean



THANK YOU



There just aren't words enough to thank all the members of my church family for the hospital visits, cards, and meals brought to my home after my return from the hospital. I was awed by all the attention and appreciated it all. Bless you all,
Helen Snow

Thank you, to my church family for remembering my birthday. The card had a great message and the rose was an added bonus.
Florence Hamelin



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Deadline for Sunday Bulletins

If you would like announcements inserted into the Sunday bulletin, please submit to the church office via email at no later than 10:00a.m. on the Wednesdays before. If information is not received by the deadline, it may not be inserted into the bulletin.

Deadline for September Newsletter

All articles for the October Newsletter must be received before the deadline, which is **Monday, October 22nd**. If articles are not received by the deadline it may not be inserted into the Monthly Newsletter.

Sunday Worship Hours

Fall worship services hours will begin on Sunday, September 9th at 10:30a.m.

Office Hours

Starting August 27th the office hours will be Monday through Thursday from 10:00- 2:30.

Giving and Devotional Calendar

To all families and individuals who participated in this One Great Hour of Sharing activity over the summer, thank you for your loving kindness and concern for the people of our world who suffer from not having even the most basic of needs. All contributions from this activity will be sent to the Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ in the name of our Church. Please see Diane Townsend anytime during the month of September if you have any donations.

Crafty People of All Ages

Calling crafty people of all ages - we need donations of handmade holiday decorations, large and small, to help us fill our table. We can also use your ideas for items that might be popular with fair-goers. Please contact us if there is any way or any thing that you would like to contribute. We look forward to hearing from you! Please contact Peggy Smith 978-352-8741 or Donna Desisto 978-352-7067

Georgetown Generations

The Georgetown Peabody Library will be opening the newly renovated library in mid September. As part of the fund raising activities for the new library, a tile wall with the theme "Georgetown Generations" will decorate the entrance. Because the First Congregational Church is such a prominent feature of Georgetown, a beautiful tile was created of the church. The tile costs \$900 and so far we have raised \$570. We only need \$330 more to purchase the tile. Please contact Michelle Brock (6832) for more information about Georgetown Generation tiles. Thanks

Women's Guild

The Women's Guild will be holding their first meeting of the season on Friday, September 28th. Please bring your own sandwich for an 11:30 a.m. lunch. Dessert provided. Judy Robillard will tell of her adventures in Spain. Plan to come and bring a friend!



Book Club



The meeting of the book club will take place on Thursday, September 13th at the home of Kirsten Davis, 30 Marlboro, Georgetown. The book of discussion will be **The Rapture of Canaan** by Sherry Reynolds. 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.



Coffee Hour



Coffee hour host/hostesses are needed for September and October, If you would like to host Please contact Kirsten Davis (352-2157, chuckd100@verizon.net) or Janice Murphy (352-7454, jmurphy7@keyspanenergy.com).



Flower Donations



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 978-352-7932.

Future Mission Projects, Events, etc.

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



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.



IN OUR PRAYERS



Carol, Jared and Corwin St. Pierre, and all the family and friends of Jim St. Pierre who died on July 29th, 2007.



Happy Birthday Wishes



September Birthdays

Pam Sheehan - September 9th
 Earl Johnson - September 11th
 Richard Brock - September 19th
 Peggy Smith - September 24th
 Betty Rosene- September 30th



Birthday Roses



Florence Harrington - September 10th
 Sheila Kelly - September 20th
 Betty Rosene - September 20th
 Alberta Rogers- September 24th



****OFFICE HOURS****



Monday - Thursday 10:00a.m. - 2:30p.m.

REMEMBER TO CHECK THE MONTHLY CALANDER FOR
 COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEETING TIMES AND DATES!!!



Welcome



HOSPITALITY TEAM UPDATE

What makes you feel welcome? That's a question that the new Hospitality Team is pondering. At the Team's first meeting, we discovered that hospitality isn't just coffee hour after service. We discussed the different components of hospitality and how they work together to make you feel "welcome". The church building itself is a large component of feeling welcome. It can be intimidating to someone coming to our church if they don't know what door to use to enter the church, or where the service is, and it can be downright embarrassing if you have to ask a total stranger where the restroom is.

Another component of welcoming is being "greeted". The idea of greeting and identifying newcomers to our church in order to welcome them is important. Sometimes when we're comfortable in a place, we forget what it was like to first approach it. A smiling, helpful person can dispel feelings of discomfort in a newcomer.

The Hospitality Team has been meeting through the summer, looking at our physical surroundings and reviewing our practices, trying to make them more friendly and welcoming. Some of the changes you'll be seeing this fall are: new nametags, a nametag holder, and more directional signs inside and outside the church. If you have any suggestions for the Hospitality Team, please let us know.

Kirsten
Janice
Deb
Sara
Laura



Thee Olde Colonial Faire

October 26 – 27, 2007

“Fair Time Is Almost Here, We Need Your Time And Talents!”

Sign-up sheets will be available starting September 23th.

Next meeting: September 23th

Seasonal Decorations– Peggy Smith(8741) and Donna DeSisto(7067)

Handmade holiday and everyday decorations are needed.

White Elephant – Dave Smith(8741)

The White Elephant table will be accepting donations of items in good condition Please, **no** sports equipment, computer equipment or stuffed animals.

Books and CD's – Karen Flom(5911)

The Book Corner is looking for gently used fiction, non-fiction, and children's books. CD's and videos are also appreciated.

Country Store – Kathy Hogan(7909)

The “Ye Olde Country Story” needs donations of crafty item, breads, strawberry and blueberry jams, pickles.

Food Table – Pam Sheehan(6329) and Emily Knapp(7489)

Pie baking

Monday evening, September 17th, 6:00PM,

AND

Saturday morning, September 29 at 10:00 AM

Cookie Walk – Divan Rasmussen(4954)

Experiment now and have some great cookies to share at the new cookie walk table.

Snack bar – Tracy Southwick(6391)

Tracy needs cookies, whoopie pies, muffins, squares, cupcakes, rice crispie bars– try out some recipes this summer!

Raffle - Kristen Arsenault(603-382-6076)

Donate a theme basket - picnic - beach –movie- sports - gourmet – car – toys- seasonal - are some ideas. Also, if you have an item or gift certificate to donate please contact Kristen.

Friday Lunch – Kirsten Davis(2157)

Saturday Lunch – Joan and Donn Chatterton(8033), Tracy and Dwight Southwick(6391)

Saturday Dinner – Steve DeSisto(7067)

If you'd like to help out with the church fair or need more information about the fair, please contact

WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

September 2, 10:00 a.m.: SUMMER UNION WORSHIP SERVICE

This is our final summer service held with the Second Congregational Church of Boxford, UCC in W. Boxford.

September 9, 10:30 a.m.: RALLY SUNDAY

Join us as we kick off the church school year with a family friendly worship service. This is our first Sunday back home in Georgetown (note the time change to 10:30 a.m.).

September 16, 10:30 a.m.: MEMBERSHIP CELEBRATION SUNDAY

Today we recognize the blessings of church membership and those individuals who have been long time members of First Church.

September 23, 10:30 a.m.: MISSION TRIP SUNDAY

The Senior High Youth Group will help lead worship this morning and teach us about their summer mission trip to North Carolina with Habitat for Humanity.

September 30, 10:30 a.m.: HOSPITALITY SUNDAY

Our newly formed Hospitality Team will help focus our attention on what it means to offer hospitality as individuals and as a church community.