

# Herald of Good TIDINGS

"Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah,

#### October 2013

This is my third fall back in New England. I think of fall as the season that is uniquely New England. Many places have beaches and water for the summer. There is plenty of places for snow and skiing. But the fall with apples, pumpkins, and foliage are unique to New England.

Winter may overstay its welcome. Spring can not come soon enough. Quickly we want to transfer from spring into the summer. Even the summer heat can come on too strong and make us wish it was over. Only fall goes away too soon. We have a few days before the cool air becomes cold, icy winds, and snow falls on cold, brown grass. Winter soon comes to take us from sweaters to parkas.

I have lived in places without winter, and I do not like it. I lived in El Paso, Texas for 3 years. Winter days usually got to 60-70F. I might start and end the day with a light coat but at midday I would be in shirtsleeves. Sunny days were boring. They happened too often.

My Grammy Lizotte used to say, "A warm day in October is like cheating death." My Grammy Lizotte was full of sayings. If I say something that sounds old-timey it is probably something my Grammy Lizotte told me. I think Grammy Lizotte is right. In the fall we are reminded that time is passing and things are changing. We do not have forever. We do not have time to get everything done. What are the things that have to get done? What are the things we REALLY want to get done?

This is a lesson for life. It has become common to talk about bucket lists. What do we want to do before we "kick the bucket?" As often happens in our society, the bucket lists are too often filled with silly, even selfish things. I hope this fall you would look to the things God is calling us to do. Listen for the still, small voice calling us. The call to do God's "honey do" list.

Pastor Brian



#### **OCTOBER SERMON TITLES:**

Children's Sermons

		"God Loves a Worker"		
10/6	"The Ten Commandments"			
10/13	"The Human to Human Commandments"	"Only One Does the Right Thing"		
10/20	"The Sabbath"	"Wearing God Down or Do You Really Want It?		
10/27	"What We Owe to God"	"Fantasy Football (and Life) Teach Humility "		

#### PET BLESSING - OCTOBER 12TH

Pastor Brian is planning to have a Pet Blessing on Saturday, October 12th. Drop by the Pumpkin Patch anytime between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. We'll have a short time of blessing to thank God for our little, furry friends (and feathered and scaly). We hope to see you there!

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#### Go "Green" with the Electronic Tidings

In an effort to reduce printing and mailing costs, we are asking that anyone who receives a printed *Tidings* consider receiving the *Tidings* electronically. If you have an internet connection you can view the *Tidings* online at our website, <a href="www.AuburnFirstUCC.org">www.AuburnFirstUCC.org</a> by clicking on the **Newsletter** button on the left hand side of the home page. Not only can you view the current *Tidings* on our website, but you can also view past editions. And, if you prefer a printed version, you can print it out right at home!

Another advantage to viewing the electronic *Tidings* is that you get to see all the beautiful color that goes into the newsletter each month. If you would like to go green and start receiving the electronic *Tidings*, please send an email to <u>Tidings@AuburnFirstUCC.org</u> with the word "Subscribe" in the subject line. Each month you will receive an email notifying you when the *Tidings* has been placed on the website (in most cases days before you would receive the mailed version). If for any reason you do not enjoy the electronic version of the *Tidings*, you can go back to the printed version at any time by contacting the Church office. Thank you for considering this option.

October Birthdays include: Eric Rockwood - Oct. 21st Carolyn Slongwhite - Oct. 21st George DuHamel - Oct. 27th

Happy Birthday!



On October 8th Rich and Jean McPherson will be celebrating their wedding anniversary - Congratulations!

Happy Anniversary to George and Laura DuHamel who will celebrate their special day on October 31st.

## **JIMMY FUND WALK 2013**

Thank you to everyone who supported me in the Jimmy Fund Walk on September 8th. To date I have raised \$2,125 for cancer research. **There's still time to donate**. Either speak with me directly or mail a check (payable to the Jimmy Fund) to: 36 Linda Ave., Millbury, MA 01527.

**A huge thank you** to everyone who called, texted and facebooked me during the walk. It sure made the time go by faster. Thanks again —

Lori Stockhaus



## LOOK WHAT'S NEW!

Announcing the birth of Alexander Wyatt Pickard on September 3rd, 2013, weighing in at 7 lbs., 6 oz.!

Alex is the son of Jordan Pickard and Shyanne. Proud family members include: Grandparents,

Linda (Burns) and Tom Pickard, Great Auntie and Uncle, Lori and Nick Stockhaus, and Great-grandparents, Robert Burns and the late Flo and Don Aker. Congratulations one and all!

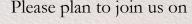
Thank you to everyone who donated and helped with my fundraising for my trip to Europe. I had an amazing time and learned a lot while I was there.

My favorite part of the trip was when I was in Ireland and got to stay with an Irish family. Some things I did while overseas were: see the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, Arc de Triumph, Buckingham Palace and Big Ben. We also cut peat, scaled a castle wall, and went to a sailing academy. I met a lot of new people on the trip and am still in contact with them.

Thank you again for helping me make this trip happen.

Sincerely

Cassie Stockhaus



Saturday, October 19th at 5 p.m. for our Roast Pork Community Supper

Adults ~ \$10 Children ~ \$5

Servers: Deacons & volunteers needed

We are looking for volunteers to provide pumpkin-themed desserts (any dessert that is made with pumpkin) for this supper. People can drop their goodies off at the Church on Friday, Oct. 18th during office hours (9 a.m. to 2 p.m.) or on Saturday afternoon.



Diane Moore is also willing to pick-up your desserts, just call her at 508-832-8078 —

Thank You!

## **Estate Planning?**

Have you included the church in your will or estate planning? Please prayerfully consider if the Lord would have you remember your church when completing your will.

"One of the greatest missing teachings in the American church today is the reminder to men and women that nothing we have belongs to us." Gordon MacDonald, American Pastor & Teacher

#### **October Fuel Fund**

This is a friendly reminder that in October there is a special offering envelope for the Fuel Fund. This is one of four Fuel Fund special offering envelopes that can be found in your offering envelope packets. All money donated through this offering envelope stays in the Church and goes directly towards the heating expenses of the building. With the continued rising costs of fuel, please consider making a donation to the Fuel Fund this fall to help offset these expenses.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## Happy Fall!



Due to busy fall schedules, the youth overnight planned for October 4<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled. However, we encourage all of our youth to join us on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> for the annual transformation of the church lawn into the great pumpkin patch. Any time you can donate would be greatly appreciated!

On October 13<sup>th</sup> the Sunday school will be carving pumpkins for the annual Pumpkin Festival at the Ecotarium. I have requested 35 pumpkins, so please sign up so I know that I have enough pumpkins. As always, for every pumpkin you carve you will get a free ticket to the Festival on October 19<sup>th</sup>. I have shirts for the kids to wear during carving, but please dress them appropriately for the activity. If this is going to work I will need to have MANY adult helpers and carving utensils. I will have a sign up sheet on the Sunday school bulletin board in fellowship hall. Please note if you will be able to help with the carving as well as your child(ren).

I am still in need of teachers and Shepherds for Sunday school. I have curriculum through December and I can give you the materials early so we can go over any questions you may have regarding your lesson. Please consider taking TWO SUNDAYS out of 52 to help the young people of OUR church.

Jean McPherson
Director of Religious Education

Featuring:

Interfaith Hospitality Network Benefit Concert CARRIE NEWCOMER

Saturday, October 19, 2013
The Congregational Church of Westborough
57 West Main Street, Westborough
7:30 p.m. - Tickets \$20 each
Tickets may be purchased online at
www.ihnworcester.org/concert

Tickets are also available for purchase after 6:00 p.m. at the door (cash or check only). Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

"Every day we are living moments of grace and wonder, shadow and light. These are the moments I write about."

Carrie Newcomer's music has always explored the intersection of the spiritual and the daily, the sacred and the ordinary. Over the course of her career she has become a prominent voice for progressive spirituality, social justice and interfaith dialogue. She has produced 13 solo CD's and has received numerous awards for her music and related charitable activities.

In 2009 and 2011 Carrie traveled to India as a cultural ambassador, including musical performances organized by the U.S. State Department. In 2012 she made a similar trip to Kenya on behalf of the Interfaith Hunger Initiative. Her range of causes, activities, collaborations and philosophies significantly influences her music.

Visit Carrie at <u>www.carrienewcomer.com</u>



#### Here We Grow Preschool

While we welcome in the beautiful month of October, *Here We Grow* begins its 25th school year. The staff and most of the children have settled into a nice routine. I am happy to report that the majority of crying has stopped, for the children and the parents, too.

**Here We Grow** began the school year with 50, 3-year-olds and 71, 4 and 5-year-olds. At this time we have a few openings in the P.M. 3-year-old class and a few openings in the 4-year-old P.M. classes. If you know of someone who is looking for a 2 day, afternoon program for their 3-year-old or an afternoon 3 day program for their 4-year-old, please have them call the school at 508-832-8184.

Our one new teacher has settled in nicely with the help of the returning staff. Deanna LeBlanc is working with Helen Ethier in the morning and afternoon 3-year-old classes. All of our returning teachers are doing what they do best, helping and supporting each other for the good of the children and the school.

During the month of September, the children became familiar with their teachers, new friends and new surroundings. They had a tour of the entire building and met Denise and Pastor Brian. Each child received homework the second week of school. Continuing on with one of our traditions, the children created a picture page of their families and added it to their classroom family album. It is one of the ways we become familiar with the many different types of families attending HWG. It is also a great way for the children to open up to someone, just by talking about their families.

We had a great parent turnout for Parent Orientation which was held a week before school started. Many questions were asked and answered with the hope that any and all fears were put to rest. For the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row we offered a "Meet the Teachers" time before the actual first day of class. Again, we had a good turnout.

Starting the first day of school all the children are taught our prayer that we say before our snack and lunch times. Many of the children teach their families the same prayer at home. I would like to share the prayer with you and, again, thank Gloria Whitehead for finding this prayer for us.

Thank You for the world so sweet Thank You for the food we eat Thank You for the birds that sing Thank You God for everything.

I would like to thank Marc Vandall, Wayne Prouty, and Sue and Stan MacPhee for all the help they did in preparing HWG for another school year. We wouldn't have been ready without their continued support. So, THANK YOU!

Upcoming events for the month of October: apple orchard field trips, visits from the police and fire departments, and Halloween parade and parties.

Until next month, stay healthy —

Dawn Murphy **Here We Grow** Preschool Director

#### Library Tidings by Gloria Whitehead

By chance, check if you have any library books that belong to the Children's Library or with the adult books at Church. If there's any damage, we're very forgiving — rather than to feel embarrassed, just help us keep our records straight. Also, as repeatedly said, <u>please</u> leave <u>your name</u> with <u>any</u> gifted books. There are boxes or other facilities in communities for books that you may no longer want.

Look for a great book in next month's review, *The Blindfold Horse* by Shusha Guppy (didn't finish it in time to give it a deserved review).



For Tickets Call: Betty 832-2019 - Ann 774-633-1123 - Wayne 832-3581

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Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all your positive thoughts, well wishes and especially all those prayers. It has been a long and tiring journey but the road has become easier now. Each time I received news that was not good I would think of all the prayers being sent heavenward and I would know that I was not walking alone. Many times there was only one set of footprints on the path. My health is now improving each day and with God's continuing grace, all will be well.

Every day I thank God for you, my Church family. Praying He sends you peace and joy.

God bless everyone, Carol Mangiacotti

#### **Coffee Hour Hosts:**

10/6 ~ Personnel Committee 10/13, 10/20 ~ Stewardship

10/27 ~ Prudential Committee 11/3, 11/10 ~ Financial Secretaries/Treasurers

#### FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

## -- Consecration Sunday

Consecration Sunday is October 20, 2013. It will be here before we know it! We are asking you to make a financial commitment to God and our church for 2014. Please prayerfully consider your commitment -- while keeping in mind how much we receive from a generous, loving God, and how sharing and giving can gladden our hearts.



Please plan to be in church on October 20 to return your pledge card and share in a light thank-you brunch.

Also, in October we'll be looking for your input about the ways in which First Congregational enriches our lives.

#### --Why the Pear?

You might have noticed that we often feature pears in our Stewardship notes or coffee hour decor. The picture for our "Delight in Giving" theme shows a little girl offering one perfect pear. The pear reminds us of her simple gift, given with an open heart.



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of this year's Relay for Life held on September 6th and 7th. To date, this year's South Central Worcester County walk has raised over \$106,000, with pledges still coming in.

At last count the D.U.C.K.S. (Dedicated United Christian Kindred Spirits) raised over \$4,000 for cancer research! Thanks for your support. Together we are partnering to help the world celebrate more birthdays.

#### LOVE IN MOTION PRESENTS

#### DAY FOR THE HUNGRY ~ OCTOBER 13, 2013

#### A ONE DAY EVENT TO FEED THOUSANDS FOR CHRISTMAS IN HAITI

On Oct. 13th you'll have the opportunity to put your faith into action by purchasing (and decorating) a bag to be filled in Haiti with locally bought food and distributed on Christmas Eve, all for a cost of \$20.

Love in Motion is a ministry of the Monadnock Bible Conference, and is the organization that the \*Bohns' trips to Haiti are with. Our youth group and past Confirmands have attended retreats at Monadnock.

Many times we make donations to worthwhile causes, but don't really know where or how the money is spent. When you purchase these bags you KNOW without one shred of doubt that you will be providing food to a hungry family on Christmas Eve. What better way to celebrate the birth of our savior?!

"If anyone has this world's goods and sees his brother in need but closes his eyes to his need — how can God's love reside in him? Little children, we must not love with word or speech, but with truth and action."

I John 3:17-18

\* Please be in prayer for Jennifer and Randy Bohn as they are currently on a medical mission trip in Haiti and will be returning on October 9th (thank you for your support).



#### "Driveway Fund Update"

We are still looking for approximately \$13,000 in pledges to fund the Driveway Project. Our goal is \$30,000 for the total cost of the driveway (including seal coating the rear parking lot) and we have received pledge commitments of \$16,800 so far (thank you).

Remember, the driveway project was not fully funded, requiring us to take a loan out (using invested funds) to complete the project.

**George L. DuVerger**, 92, a longtime Auburn resident, died peacefully on Thursday, September 19, 2013 at Saint Vincent Hospital, Worcester. He leaves his beloved wife of 67 years, Grace F. (Lonie) DuVerger; his daughter, Lois G. Therrien and her husband Russell; his brother, Roy DuVerger and his wife Trudy; his 2 grandchildren, Lisa Cove and her husband, Eric, and Leslie Wilson and her husband, Peter; and his great grandchildren, Julie and Stacy Cove, and Emily, Grace, and Colin Wilson.

George was born in Worcester, son of the late George A. and Hazel M. (Statton) DuVerger. He graduated from Auburn High School. After school, George was called to serve during World War II, assigned to the US Army in the Pacific Theater. Upon his return, George began a long career as a carpenter. He worked for many years with his father and brother building homes in the Auburn area. Later, he worked for Joseph Grignaffini Construction in Wellesley, where he worked until the age of 87. George loved photography and he spent many hours shooting pictures in the area of South Woodstock, Vermont, where George spent time as a young boy. He was a member of the First Congregational Church of Auburn.

His funeral was held on Monday, September 23rd at Britton-Wallace Funeral Home. Burial, with Military Honors, followed in the Hillside Cemetery, Auburn.



**Jack Andrew Skog**, 74, of Auburn died Sunday in St. Vincent's Hospital after a long illness. He is survived by his wife of 50 years Sheila (Genis) Skog, their children: Timothy Skog and his wife, Kim, Tammy Skog Roach and her husband, Kevin, and Tracee Skog, 5 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren, and by his sister, Sandra Felts, and brothers, Frederick, Robert and David Skog, and several nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his siblings; Earl, Pauline, and Roy Skog.

Jack was born in Hudson and raised in Westborough. He graduated from Westborough High School, and WPI School of Industrial Management. Jack served for 4 years in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Canberra, where he endured the initiation rites to become a "Shellback." He worked for 40 years for the former Bay State Abrasives, and later he worked for ReMax Realty. Jack was an avid golfer and woodworker, who loved spending time with his family.

A celebration of Jack's life was held Friday, September 27, 2013 in our Church. Burial plans were private. In lieu of flowers, please feel free to make a donation in Jack's name to the Driveway Fund, c/o the First Congregational Church, 128 Central Street Auburn, MA 01501.

## PLEASE HELP ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

In January 2014, I will be participating in Walt Disney World's Marathon Weekend by running in the half marathon. I am running to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. At this hospital no child is ever denied treatment because of the family's inability to pay. It costs over a million dollars a day for this organization to operate. I have a fundraising goal of \$2,500 but there is no such thing as a small donation. Any amount would be greatly appreciated. Please go to the website listed below to donate on my page and to read more about St Jude's. Thank you!!

http://heroes.stjude.org/ShannonVayo

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## PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER AT APPLEBEE'S IN AUBURN

OCT. 27TH 8-10 A.M. TICKETS ARE \$10 EACH

Pancake Breakfast

-Shannon Vayo

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



Happy Fall! Happy Halloween! October has many health observances. Some are as follows: Breast Cancer Awareness, Chiropractic Health Awareness, Dental Hygiene, Domestic Violence Awareness, Eye Injury Prevention, Health Literacy, Patient-Centered Care Awareness, Pharmacists Awareness, Physical Therapy, SIDS, Pregnancy and Infant Loss, and Talk About Prescriptions.

October 6-12 is Emergency Nurses Week, Fire Prevention Week, Healthcare Resource and Materials Management Week, Healthcare Security and Safety Week, Mental Illness Awareness Week, and Physicians Assistants Week

October 7-13 is Healthcare Food Service Workers Week and Pediatric Nurses Week

October 12-20 is Bone and Joint Health Awareness Week and the 20th-26th is Pastoral Care Week

October 9 is Stop America's Violence Everywhere (SAVE)

October 11 is Depression Screening Day

October 11 is Arthritis Day

October 18 is Mammography Day, and

October 23 is Lung Health Day

There will be information about the above mentioned on the table in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you to all who participated in the flu shot clinic. It was a positive experience once again, and each year we increase the amount of flu shots given. Jim, the pharmacist from CVS in Auburn, administered 28 flu shots this year.

A reminder about the closet with medical equipment, some parishioners were able to borrow items recently and that's what the closet is all about. If it's there, borrow it, if it isn't.....sorry! I also recently lent out my electronic blood pressure cuff to someone on a new medication. I'm willing to lend it out. It's not in the closet, so please see me.

Last, but not least, Happy, SAFE, Halloween!

God Bless! Debbie Pranaitis, Parish Nurse

#### MEMORIAL SUNDAY ~ 10 A.M. OCTOBER 27TH

We have designated October 27th as Memorial Sunday. At this special worship service we remember church members that we have lost in the past year. Also during this service, congregants will have an opportunity to come forward and receive a flower and light a candle in memory of a loved one.



This service of remembrance has proven to be moving and very special to those who have lost loved ones, so please mark your calendars for October 27th, and plan to join us on Memorial Sunday.

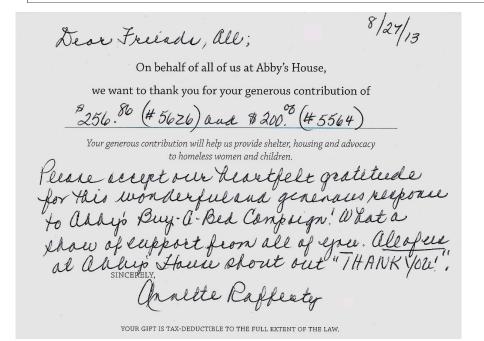
## **Potluck & Movie/Book Discussions**

We have resumed our monthly potluck supper get-togethers in the vestry (old kitchen) area. The potlucks begin at 5:30 p.m. on movie nights with the movie viewing during dinner, and discussion to follow at its conclusion. On book discussion nights, the potluck will begin at 6:00 p.m. with the book discussion beginning at approximately 6:30-6:45 p.m. You do NOT have to read the book, if you just want to come for food and fellowship, please do!

Tuesday, Oct. 22 - The Book of Ruth - (Old Testament Book of the Bible) 6 p.m. start time

Tuesday, Nov. 19 - Prince of Egypt - 5:30 p.m. start time

Please look for updated schedules in future newsletters and bulletins. We welcome suggestions for movies and/or books.



#### October 27th Bible Study

We had our first monthly Bible study on September 29th. We will be meeting once a month after church in the green room, off fellowship hall. This will allow us to get refreshments, visit with people for a while, and then retire to the green room to read and talk. We won't need to make a special trip to Church and drop-ins will be more likely. Pastor plans to wrap up the Bible study before noon. Please bring any translation of the Bible you like. There will also be Bibles available. No prior reading/study will be necessary.

The October Bible study will be about Adam and Eve. Please plan to join us.



## AUBURN WALK FOR HUNGER TO SUPPORT AYFS FOOD PANTRY AND KATERI'S KITCHEN

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20TH AT I P.M.

Registration is at 12:45 P.M. at Auburn Youth & Family Services, Pheasant Court, Auburn. The route begins and ends here. The walk is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles long.

#### All money raised is used to help local families who need the services of these food banks.

We are looking to form a First Congregational Church team of walkers and Sue Campbell is the contact person for our church. You may obtain a walker envelope from Sue which you can fill out and return on the day of the walk (along with one non-perishable food item). If you're unable to participate in the walk, won't you please consider donating to this most worthy cause? (Checks should be made payable to AYFS Hunger Walk.) Please see Sue or call her at 508-799-2718 if you have any questions. THANK YOU for being generous with your time and donations! \*\*\*Look for the Celtic sneaker collection during the Sunday service on October 6th.

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TIDINGS is a monthly publication of

#### First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ 128 Central St., Auburn MA 01501

Phone: (508) 832-2845 Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Email: secretary@auburnfirstucc.org or PastorBrian@auburnfirstucc.org

God's church in Auburn Center doing Christ's work in the world.

Web:auburnfirstucc.org



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