

The Messenger

The First Parish of Bolton,
Interdenominational

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE

“Summer’s lease hath all too short a date.” Indeed! As I write, most of you have returned from the hills and the shore and are getting your children ready for school. And the First Parish is ready to welcome all of you back on Sunday, 12 September in great style.

*Prior to worship, we invite you to register your children for Religious Education, and pick up your reward — a bag of John Stephenson’s delicious cider donuts.

*We will have important guests at worship on 12 September — our NEADS dog, Ellie, and her adoptive family and the Rev. Dr. Peter Wells, our United Church of Christ area minister (for the Roman Catholics and Anglicans in our midst, think “bishop.”)

*Following worship, the Governing Board is providing a “welcome home” luncheon in Davis Hall.

Several exciting initiatives are planned for the fall, including a new RE curriculum which explores stories through cooking, art, drama, outdoor activities, and more. This way of “doing” RE is taking the country by storm because children love it. My thanks to Holly and the RE board for making this happen.

We have also decided to experiment with worship services on Saturdays. There are many families who are unable to set aside Sunday mornings for worship because of sports activities. We miss you! So once a month to start, beginning in October, the First Parish will have “Soulful Saturdays,” probably at 5 p.m. These services won’t be anything like Sunday morning. They will be short — 35 minutes max — and mostly music, provided not by organ and choir but by all sorts of musicians whom we will invite to share their music with us. We’ll keep you posted.

Other things underway this fall include updating and improving our web site — any web designers out there? — and constructing a bridge and new, accessible entrance to Davis Hall as well as an accessible bathroom on the Davis Hall level. We thank all who have made good on their pledges to the Capital Campaign for making these accessibility projects possible.

There’s much more to tell, of course, but this is enough for now. My thanks to my “summer constituency” who made worship and coffee hour in July and August feel more like family gatherings than anything else, to our deacons for “minding the store,” to Alexis Ventura and Bob Breidenthal for filling in for Bob Johnson when he was busy with the fair, and to Shirley Sefton and her helpers for sumptuous coffee hour fare.

See you in September ...” and, blessings,
Richard and Christi

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

Sunday, 5 September

10 a.m.: **Worship**, Bea Manning, officiant and preacher

Sunday, 12 September: Homecoming Sunday

10 a.m.: **Worship and RE**

*Register for RE in Davis Hall before worship

*Meet our NEADS dog, Ellie, and her adoptive family

*Hear a message from UCC area minister, the Rev. Dr. Peter Wells

*Stay for a "welcome home" luncheon in Davis Hall after worship

Sunday, 19 September

10 a.m.: **Worship and RE**

Sermon: "The Only Thing We Have to Fear is..." *With a mid-term election looming, the fear-mongers are in full cry, trying to convince us all to be scared, to be very scared. But is there more to fear from fear than their growing list of scary people?*

Sunday, 26 September

10 a.m.: **Worship and RE**

Sermon: "What Happens to One Happens to All" *In the debate that has begun about proposals for development in Bolton, the concept of what "community" means is being challenged and re-defined. Two stories from the Bible offer some perspective.*

OUTREACH NEWS

Soup Kitchen Update

On the second Monday of each month we serve a delicious dinner of American chop suey, salad and dessert to about 50 to 60 people at the Community Café at 242 High Street in Clinton. The meal is served from 4 to 6 pm. The food preparation may be done on the weekend before. During these challenging economic times, these services are in much demand and are much appreciated. In July, the meal was prepared by Karen Dorhamer-Fadden and Elaine Griffith, and Barbara Donato donated 3-bean salad. It was served by Bob Johnson, Elaine Griffith and Karen Dorhamer-Fadden. In August, the meal was prepared by Beth McGilvray, Kathryn Kaufmann and Lyn Slade, and it was served by Beth McGilvray and Maureen and Hannah Groudas. We are in need of people to cook and to serve for Monday, September 13th. If you would like to help out in September or in an upcoming month, please sign up on the sheet in Davis Hall or contact Karen Dorhamer-Fadden at 978-897-5088 or Karen.Dorhamer@hp.com. Thanks!

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY UPDATE

Small Group Ministry Update

Our Small Group Ministry program is a wonderful way to connect with other church members and nurture our spirits. We meet once per month in groups of at most eight people to share experiences about a specific topic. We are planning to start sessions for our third year of Small Group Ministry in October. Please stay tuned for info about meeting times and registration.

Games Anyone?

Shirley Sefton and Bea Manning's small group donated \$235.00 to the Hudson Food Pantry from sales of cookbooks and contributed 2 grocery carts of non-food items collected from congregational donations. The group has also developed a game, *In Out and Around* for congregational use.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR NEWS

SAVE THE DATE! The church bazaar will be held on Saturday November 22nd

Please mark your calendars and save the date now! For those of you who are clever with your hands, please be thinking about creating a donation for The Gallery. This recent addition has worked very well for us. Members who are artisans may donate a piece of their work and are asked to price it at fair market value. We sell it at what the art should sell for or the artist gets it back (no mark downs). We feel this is fair to those who are giving such a big piece of their time and talent. Last year we had a wide selection, from framed watercolors, pastels, and photos to hand made jewelry and decorative items for the home.

There are lots of other departments at the bazaar that need your contributions and much planning that will be taking place in the next two months. You'll hear more in the next Messenger and e-mail updates in the coming weeks. In the meantime if you have any questions, please speak to Brenda Baum 978-779-6483 or Linda Austin 978-779-6076 or boltonpan@verizon.net.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

ELLIE UPDATE



Nickolay and Ellie

We have some exciting news about ELLIE, our NEADS dog. She has been paired with Nikolay Stewart. He is a 10-year-old boy who was adopted from an orphanage at the age of three. He was neglected for the first years of his life and therefore struggles with social interaction. Ellie will be his social dog. Her presence is calming and will help Nickolay interact with his peers.

2010-2011 — Fundraising Project — The Ellie Fund

As many of you know, Ellie's family will need to pay \$9,500 to NEADS for Ellie. Thankfully, our \$1000 we donated to "adopt" Ellie goes toward that amount, so it gave them a good start. However, they still have quite a ways to go to reach their goal. The RE Committee has decided to pledge to raise \$1000 to help them adopt Ellie. This will be done through their weekly collection as well as some special fundraising projects throughout the year. If anyone would like to contribute to the ELLIE FUND, please contact one of the RE Board members.

Homecoming Sunday — Ellie Will Be There And We'll Introduce The New Curriculum

Homecoming Sunday is **September 12th**. This is going to be a VERY eventful day! Most importantly, ELLIE will be there!! Nickolay and his parents have agreed to come visit us and bring Ellie to show us how wonderful she is doing.

We will be also running a modified version of the new curriculum. The theme for homecoming Sunday will be "Community". The children will have four 10-minute lessons about community taught through cooking, theater, outdoors and crafts. During the luncheon after service, the children will present something from each of the four lessons. If any parents would like to be a spectator for the lesson,

NEW CURRICULUM STARTS SEPTEMBER 19 — WE NEED YOUR HELP

We will be starting the new curriculum on 9/19. The new curriculum is called “Rotation” curriculum. Basically, we will be teaching the same lesson four weeks in a row in four different means (Drama, Games, Cooking, etc.). The children will “Rotate” through the curriculums each week. Holly is currently recruiting for teachers for the first three sessions. Holly will email the curriculum to teachers ahead of time and work with you to ensure that you have everything you need each week. Following are the sessions Holly is recruiting for:

Session 1 — September 19th through October 17th — “Jesus as a Child in the Temple” — Cooking, Photography/Drama, Games and Banners

Session 2 — October 24th through November 14th—“Stewardship”—Carpentry, Games, Drama, Cooking

Session 3 — November 28th through December 19th — “Jesus’ Birth Through The Eyes of Isaiah” — Cooking, Games, Art, Drama

If you are interested in learning more about these lessons and possibly teaching them, please contact Holly Ventura at theventuras@yahoo.com.

Birthdays in September

Richard Corley	9/1	Rhoda Magazu	Peter James
Adam Hornbaker		Romey McCracken	Jane Silverman 9/19
Steve Beckwith	9/2	Carlina Tesini	Emily Bieber 9/21
Rick Fadden	9/5	Kathryn Pekkala 9/10	Tyler Bonazzoli
Rachel Wendler		Wyatt Pearson 9/12	Katelyn Keane
J. P. Henderson	9/6	Eben McCormick 9/13	Kathryn Kaufman 9/22
Nicole Evans	9/7	Rhys Schoepke	Abigail McCaffrey
Rebecca Duffy		Joel Lindsay 9/14	Grace Romeo
Oscar Sanden		David Campbell 9/16	Chris Tuck
Erik Schoepke		Donna LeBaron	Matthew Lewis 9/23
Evan Tarullo	9/8	Scott Powell	Victor Normand
Sophie Fleck Teague		Alycia Ventura 9/17	Cindy West
John Austin	9/9	Valerie Burdette 9/18	Mark Curry 9/26
Peggy Hines		Frank Celeste	Jeremy Colon 9/27
Riley LeFrancois		Rudy Goad	James Hamilton 9/28
			Pam Chapman 9/29

Anniversaries in September

Christine and Michael McCarthy	9/1	Bill and Lela Keysor	9/15
Curt and Holly Plante	9/6	Duncan and Caroline Robertson	9/16
John and Linda Austin		Barbara and Richard Corley	9/17
Barbara and Mark DuBois	9/7	Wendy and Eric Dwinells	
Don and Brenda Baum	9/8	Mark and Terry LeFrancois	9/18
Gigi and Shirley Bonazzoli		Nicholas and Johanna Katsonis	9/19
Bob Breidenthal and Roxanne Palmatier		Sophie Fleck and Daniel Teague	9/20
Bob and Charlene Rausch	9/10	Chris and Bonnie Broders	9/22
Chris and Pam Miller		Victor and Jackie Normand	9/25
Richard and Penny Dickson		Lou and Beth Colon	9/27
Jason and Kathy Romeo	9/12	Greg and Trish Childs	9/28
Liz and Erik Schoepke		Sam Peirce and Nancy Federspiel	
		Bob Davis and Jeff Durachta	9/29

OUR SYMPATHIES ...

...go out to **Charlotte Santos** and her family on the recent loss of her husband **Sam**. Charlotte and Sam were longtime parishioners who relocated to California a few years ago.

...go out to **Roberta and Chris Blake** and their family on the recent loss of **Roberta's sister**. Our thoughts are with all of you.

SOME DENOMINATIONAL NEWS ... MORE TO FOLLOW SHORTLY!

The Nurture & Fellowship Committee of the Central Association, MACUCC, invites all pastors, members, friends, and families to an all-church picnic, September 18, 2010 at Camp Putnam, 141 Rutherford Road, New Braintree, MA 01531.

The picnic will begin at 2:00 PM and continue until ?? Please bring your own hot dogs, hamburgers, or meat of choice as well as something to share. Grills will be provided and we will meet rain or shine or anywhere in between.

The camp has an excellent swimming pool as well as other recreational facilities. Bring your balls, bats, gloves, etc. or simply come prepared to enjoy an afternoon of fellowship with people from other churches in the association.

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