



Concern In Action

July/August 2009 The monthly newsletter of Union Congregational Church newsletter@churchbythepark.org

Union Congregational Church
55 Rhoades Ave., Walpole, MA

Worship 10:30 a.m.
handicap accessible

Office hours
Tuesday-Friday 8 a.m.-2:15 p.m.

www.churchbythepark.org

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All's fair

We want YOU Sept. 19

Hard to believe, but it's almost here. The Apple Harvest Fair at our church is Saturday, Sept. 19.

Please contact the following people if you'd like to help out their area. Or contact any fair committee member.

Silent Auction - Cathy Feeley
Timeless Treasures - Phyllis Nixon & Lynn Wassel
Baked Goods - Nancy Aicardi
Country Kitchen - Pam Doty
Attic Treasures - Grace Earl
Books - Carolyn Guid
Toys - Lauren Durso
Plants - Christine Cofsky

Ticket sellers and the midway will still have a sign -up sheet outside of the office.

Hopefully, you were able to use all the rainy days in June (and July - ugh) to clean out your closets and find attic treasures, books and toys to bring to the stage.

Stage clearing will be on Tuesday, Aug. 11 at 7 p.m. We need everyone to help move tables, set up the Sunday school rooms, get signs out of the shed and clear all the treasures off the stage.



Toward the end of August, you can start dividing your perennials for the plants table.

Anyone willing to hang signs on telephone polls the Saturday of Labor day weekend please contact Laurie Kerns.

Silent Auction - Remember what Ben & Emerson told you on Children's Day? We're looking for 100 percent participation. We will be making phone calls to help people with ideas on the best ways they can donate. Also, remember to pick up the donation letters to use with your favorite businesses. They don't cost us anything but will bring in great funds.

Your fair committee,
Jimmy Cofsky, Peter Nixon, Doug Gustafson, Kristen Syrek, Laurie Kerns, & Joanne Totten

Paper or plastic? Bring your own!

On Children's Day, we learned all about the not so great choice: paper or plastic. The best choice to keep God's green earth GREEN is to bring your own! After worship, the children of our church decorated canvas bags which they gave to the more senior members of our congregation. We're still working on decorating more over the summer — so not to worry if you haven't received one yet, but would like to. Let the church office know and

we'll happily get a beautifully decorated bag to you.

Introduced 25 years ago, our society now consumes an estimated 1,000,000,000,000 (that's one trillion!) plastic bags annually. The result is unnecessary pollution that litters our landscapes and negatively impacts our environment. A global effort is emerging aimed at significantly reducing this number. Some countries have even banned (yes banned!) plastic bags.

Resources

To get involved in this movement, check out reusablebags.com (also a great place to buy reusable bags of all sorts, even ones to keep your lettuce in). And if you're a kid, check out www.rootsandshoots.org/campaigns for more helpful information.

Food

Veggie sloppy joes

Kathy Hinds made the following veggie sloppy joes for our GoGreen for God Children's Day Picnic. They were a hit!

- 2 T oil
- 4 T Worcestershire sauce
- 3 onions – chopped
- 4 T sugar
- 3 green peppers – chopped
- 4 12-oz packages of vegetarian meat substitute (“Textured Vegetable Protein or TVP” – find with frozen vegetables at the grocery store. NOTE: 12 oz of meat substitute is equivalent to 1 lb ground meat)
- 2 6-oz tomato paste
- 1 28-oz crushed tomatoes
- 1 cup ketchup
- 3 t chilli powder
- 4 T prepared mustard

May altar flowers

- May 3** In Memory of June by Al Miller
- May 10** In Memory of Our Mothers, Bertha Sandahl & Ruth Norcross and in Celebration of All Mothers by Ken & Carol Sandahl
- May 17** To Addy & Caden for their Birthdays from Mom, Dad & Colton
- May 31** In Celebration of Ken & Carol Sandahl's 46th Wedding Anniversary

June altar flowers

- June 7** In Celebration of Kirsten & Jacqui's Birthdays from Bob & Joanne Stratton
- June 14** In Celebration of This Year's High School Graduates from Dennis Riegel & Judy Hamilton
- June 28** In Memory of Hazel from Les Tarbell

Congratulations

Congratulations to Chad Thomas. Chad advanced to the finals of the US Army Reserve's Best Warrior competition, finishing in the top 28 soldiers out of 200,000+. The competition consisted of physical conditioning, military knowledge, combat skills, medical assistance, day and night orienteering, and marksmanship. Obviously, Chad did extremely well. Be sure to congratulate Chad when you see him.

Just for laughs

A new pastor was visiting in the homes of his parishioners. At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door.

Therefore, he took out a business card and wrote "Revelation 3:20" on the back of it and stuck it in the door.

When the offering was processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message, "Genesis 3:10."

Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he broke up in gales of laughter. Revelation 3:20 begins "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." Genesis 3:10 reads, "I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid for I was naked."

Meet and greet

Have you met Nadka? Nadka has been worshipping with us for several years now. She sits in the back, on the pulpit side, but she's kind of hard to talk to. Nadka is Bulgarian, and she doesn't speak much English. As you now, we don't speak much Bulgarian. But still, in the spirit of Pentecost, Nadka worships with us and prays with us and feels the spirit with us. Recently, she wrote a note for us which her daughter, Elena, translated:

Thank you God for your blessings. You help me every day. I feel your strength. Thank you God and thank you all brothers and sisters for your prayers. I am happy and blessed to celebrate with you God's name.

Pastor picks

QUOTE

"Christianity is a sign that enables you to live when you know no solution." –Stanley Hauerwas

BOOK

For 10 years, William Sloane Coffin comforted the afflicted and afflicted the comfortable from the pulpit at New York City's Riverside Church. Now you can read his weekly exhortations in "The Collected Works of William Sloane Coffin," from Westminster John Knox Press. Coffin was deeply engaged in the political and social questions of our time; in a sermon on the sin of nuclear weapons, he wrote, "I can hear [Jesus] saying, 'Let the nations without sin among you aim the first missile.'"

PRAYER

*Hear our prayer, O Lord.
Incline thine ear to us,
And grant us thy peace. Amen.* -traditional

SCRIPTURE

"Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation — if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good." -1 Peter 2:1-3

Worship

Do you know how to podcast?

Some members of the church would like to listen to our weekly worship services, but we don't even record them yet! If you know how to record and podcast, then please contact the office so that we can set that up, and better serve our sick and shut-ins.

Thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you, for I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you, because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you.

Did you know?

How our church business gets done

Sixth in a series.

The **Christian Ed Committee** provides for the planning and implementation of an effective program of Christian Education for the congregation.

The **Christian Outreach Committee** is charged with the development, conduct, support and encouragement of Christian and humanitarian service activities, both local and world-wide. They make recommendations of projects and services to be supported by the church.

The **Church Fair Committee** offers leadership in an assortment of responsibilities which provide for a successful fall fundraiser.

Good news from above and below

The Prudential Committee is working with T-Mobile to possibly place a cell phone signal system hidden in our steeple. If a contract is finalized, our church will get \$1,500 a month for rent, with incremental increases.

The church's ancient boiler gave way in spring. The Prudential Committee has OK'd the purchase of a new boiler and work will begin soon. Thanks to Prudential for all the research and hard work.

Our church family

CONDOLENCES

Our sympathies, thoughts and prayers go to Judy Hamilton, Dennis & Adam Riegel on the death of Judy's mother, Henrietta Hamilton, who passed away at 95.

WELCOME

On Pentecost Sunday we welcomed Kistra Damaso, Deidre Donaldson, Daniel Drake, and Julie Callagee & Ken Wertz as new members of Union. A warm welcome to each of you!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Al Miller, who has been given the highest award from the Massachusetts Masonic community – the Warren Award.

Congratulations to Arthur MacBride on the wedding of his daughter, Sue Ann MacBride to Richard Bartecko on April 26.

In addition to the graduates mentioned in the June CIA, we'd like to congratulate:

- Benji Challis who graduated from Walpole High School and will be attending Bridgewater State.
- Emily Geishecker, who graduated from Lehigh University with a degree in Bioengineering. In the fall she will be at Lehigh working towards her Ph. D. in Materials Science Engineering. (A note from Emily can be found on the bulletin board outside the church office.)

AWARDS

The Outreach Committee is pleased to announce Chris and Jeff Lucia as the recipients of the "Faith in Action" award for 2009. The award recognizes youth who have responded to Jesus' call to serve. Fifty dollars will be donated to each The Jimmy Fund for Chris and and The Ronald McDonald House for Jeff.

The plaque outside Herbert Harrison Hall honors those who receive the "Faith in Action" award. Chris and Jeff's names will be added.

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” Hebrews 13: 2

Invite an angel over for shortcake

My childhood summers were an endless parade of fabulous meals eaten on my family’s back deck that overlooked our back woods to one side and our growing hay fields to the other. My mother could make an extraordinary meal in what seemed an effortless half an hour. She would always send me out with stacks of dishes and checkered table cloths and ask me to tie the cushions on the chairs. I rarely knew who was coming, but someone extra always seemed to end up at our table: boyfriends, girlfriends, relatives, family friends. We would sit down to the usual fair of local corn, hamburgers, salads galore, minted ice teas, and usually some exceptionally good fruit pie or shortcake. Did I mention my mom was a good cook?

My guess is that my family’s summer hospitality was not rare. Summer seems to be the time to invite everyone you know over to sit on the back deck and enjoy the evening slowly fade into darkness. Maybe it’s because summer offers the best things to eat or maybe it’s simply because you can fit a whole lot more people on a deck or picnic table than in your dining room. Whatever the reason, summer is the season of easy hospitality. It is the time of year when you can say to your neighbor at half past five come on over to dinner and really mean it.

But what if we expanded our invite list this summer? What if instead of inviting the well-loved neighbor to our table we invited the neighbor

most people rarely see? What if we invited the fellow church member we often see alone in the pew? What if we created a list of all the people who have taken good care of us in small ways over the past year — a hairdresser, teacher, bank teller — and invited them over for

of Jesus parables invites all the lepers and tax collectors to his table; and in another of Jesus’ parables, a father throws an elaborate party for his prodigal son. The letter to the Hebrews tells us that if we show hospitality to the stranger, we may discover that we have entertained

angels after they leave. What a beautiful image.

So why not try it. You might discover you have had angels chomping into corn or over doing the whipped cream on the short cake at your table this summer. Angels or not, one thing is sure, when we extend hospitality to all of God’s people, God presence will abound at out picnic tables. So dig in, enjoy, eat maybe a little too much, and be sure to extend God’s hospitality.



strawberry shortcake?

The scripture has endless stories of surprising hospitality: Abraham and Sarah entertain three strangers who some Biblical scholars say represented the trinity; a rich man in one

Grace and Peace,

The Rev. Abigail Henrich

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August 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10:00 Worship	3	4	5 7-9 AA Mtg- Chapel	6	7	8 5:00 John Thayer Wedding
9 10:00 Worship w/ Jack Hazeldine Baptism	10	11	12 7-9 AA Mtg- Chapel	13	14	15 St. Paul's Team C
16 10:00 Worship	17	18	19 7-9 AA Mtg- Chapel	20 CIA Info Due	21	22
23 10:00 Worship	24	25	26 7-9 AA Mtg- Chapel	27	28 Camping	29 Camping
30 10:00 Worship Camping	31					