

Federated Church of Ashland
“The Chimes”
June 2010

Hello Everyone,

In August, you will be receiving information regarding events happening at our Church in the Fall. Watch your Mailbox for details!

From the Deacon’s Bench

At our last meeting we heard that the newly rewritten scholarship application is on the website. We are so grateful to Nick for his research and for Kelly’s help in rewording. We hope that more people will now be aware of the scholarship program and will take advantage of it.

The Deacons continue to be impressed with the changes being made in our services. We feel that Jason has brought a renewed sense of spirituality back to the congregation and for that we are truly grateful.

As we approach the summer months we hope to keep up our enthusiasm and our attendance. We know that many of you will be away for parts of the summer and ask that if you go to other churches and see anything that you would like to see here, please let us know. We are always open to new ways of doing things!!

We would like to thank the board members for their dedication to church affairs this year and look forward to working with you and the new members next year.

Signing off with great hope for the future,

Pam Dunham and Nick Paternostro

Annual Meeting
Wednesday, June 9th
7:00 PM

REMINDER...

Please make sure your calendars are marked AND plan to attend! We need YOU to vote budget, leadership, programs and our future! The meeting will be held in our Sanctuary.

THANK YOU!!

A Note From The Office

*A friendly reminder... If you are the last one out of the building; **PLEASE** turn off **ALL** the lights; **SHUT** open windows **AND** make sure all the doors are **LOCKED**. The Church has been found to be empty, with the lights on, the windows open and the door unlocked.*

Thank you for your cooperation! Linda

Brown Bag Sunday

Brown Bag Sunday is held on the **third Sunday** of every month **including** the summer months (**July 18th** & **August 15th**). Food items are collected and donated to the **Ashland Food Pantry**.

The Food Pantry is continuing to prepare for the long summer months ahead. **With ever-increasing unemployment, the number of needy and hungry people increases daily.** During the summer, they see a large drop in donations and an increase in clients. *Please donate generously to help those in need.*

Thank you for your support.

Shelter Meals

On the **fourth Wednesday** of every month, a meal is prepared and served to the men at the **Crossroads Shelter** in Framingham.

Please note: This is an **Adult** Friendly Shelter.

On the **third Thursday** of every month, a meal is prepared and served to the **Women's Shelter** in Ashland.

Please note: This is a **Kid** Friendly Shelter.

If you are able to provide a side dish, bread or dessert, or if you would like to come help serve, please call Vickie Mancini at 881-3263 or Mark & Dee Heaton at 881-2968. Thank you!

Theta Phi Delta Women

Our next meeting will be held on **Monday, June 7th**.

Please bring flowers, gloves and gardening tools. We will plant flowers in front of the Church at **6:30 PM** before our meeting, which will begin at **7:00 PM** in the Church Parlor.

As always, we look forward to a fun time of fellowship together!

Thrift Shop

**June 1 - 10 AM - 4 PM
1/2 Price Sale**

Bag Day

**June 8 - 10 AM - 4 PM
\$2 Bag Day!**

The Thrift Shop will close for the summer on June 8th.

In September, it will reopen on Tuesdays under the direction of LaVonne Krishnan and the Theta Phi Delta Woman's Club. However, due to the limited number of available volunteers, it will be limited in hours of operation and anyone wishing to lend some time would be appreciated.

Additionally, anyone or any group affiliated with the Federated Church (i.e. any Committees, IHN, Coffeehouse, etc.) may request an opportunity to open the Thrift Shop for purposes of raising money for the General Church Fund or any Committee of choice. These times would be in addition to the established Tuesday times and the money raised must in some way go toward supporting the church programs as they exist. Any one interested in more information may contact LaVonne Krishnan or Sue Wallace via the church office.

From Hospitality

Thank you to **EVERYONE** who donated **altar flowers** and/or **goodies** for our Sunday morning Coffee & Fellowship this past year. You have helped our budget immensely and your generosity is greatly appreciated.

We will have the sign-up sheets again, starting in September!

GOT BOOKS

The container remains in the parking lot to recycle Books, CDs, DVDs and Video Tapes. We receive 5 cents per pound; when the container is full...it adds up fast!

Please note: Books in excellent condition **or** of questionable "old age" value should be circulated through the Thrift Shop. *Thank you for your donations - every little bit helps our general fund.*

United Church of Christ **Yearly Conference Dues**

UCC members are responsible for yearly dues to the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ. The conference provides us with many services including the guidance provided by the area minister, training sessions for Stewardship and Sunday School, and a large library including videos and books available to churches. If you are a member of the UCC branch of our church and have not paid your dues yet, we ask that you please do so. Without your contribution we are unable to meet our full financial obligation to the conference. **The dues are \$18.20 per member.** Checks are to be written to the Federated Church of Ashland with a notation of UCC dues in the memo section and can be left at the church office.

From Finance

Please try to keep your pledges up to date during the summer. This helps minimize cash flow problems. Contributions may be mailed to the office.

Thanks - Finance

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - July 1 thru April 30, 2010

Income	\$120,213.35
Expenses	\$118,190.05
Net (Gain/Loss)	\$2,023.30
Anticipated pledges to date	\$77,396.69
Actual pledges received to date	\$78,475.13
Variance	\$1,078.44
Income from all other sources	\$41,738.22

At this point the projected budget deficit is approximately \$7,800. As we progress through May and June and summer it is extremely important that we keep our contributions up to date. We are running with a very tight cash flow situation.

Interfaith Hospitality Network

(IHN)

We did it again! With God's help and many volunteers from the church and wider community we completed another host week with IHN. Joyfully, we provided meals and shelter for two families. Recently, we hosted a single mother with a one-year old son, and a single mother with two and six year old boys. I believe I speak for everyone when I say it was a blessing to serve these families.

Also, we hosted a MIHN-wide going away party for Troy and Kelly and their son, Katory, who moved into their own home May 1st! The meals were excellent and all the volunteers are such a blessing! We welcomed pizza again from Deb & Jim Bauchman of Framingham Street Ministry. Also, a number of first time volunteers brought meals thanks to the hard work of Lois Tougas. First time volunteers for meals this week included Vauntina Franklin and her mother Delores Wright, Melanie Conner, Judy Leavey, and Stephanie Greenblatt. Also, faithful volunteers continue to bring delicious home cooked meals from the Federated Church as well as our support congregation, Sha'arei Shalom.

Many repeating overnight volunteers continued to sign-up and we are blessed by you. First time overnight volunteers included John Ellsworth, Naomi George, and Dave Wenzell. So many of you continue to help set-up, break down, launder, and mingle. Thank you!!!

If you have not yet signed up to help, please consider becoming a volunteer. It is rewarding, and training sessions are offered every month by one of the host or support congregations. And, remember if you wish to stay overnight or have direct contact with the guests alone, the Federated Church requires you fill out a CORI request form (criminal background check), and participate in a training session (about one hour).

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Nancy Lynch, Coordinator

Walk-A-Thon Help Thy Neighbor

On **Sunday, October 3rd**, the *Federated Church* and the *Ashland Emergency Fund* will co-sponsor a walk-a-thon themed, "Help Thy Neighbor". This fundraising event will benefit the Ashland Emergency Fund. The five-mile walk will begin at the Pavilion on Summer Street and end at the American Legion Hall on Summer Street, where we will serve bagels, coffee and juice to the walkers.

Registration and sponsor sheets will be available at:

- Federated Church of Ashland
- The Homes Connection of MetroWest, Inc., 91 Main Street, Ashland
- St. Cecilia's Church, 54 Esty Street, Ashland
- Ashland Family Chiropractic, 171 Main Street, Ashland

The registration fee is **\$15** per person **or** **\$30** per family and will include a T-shirt.

We hope you will join us (**rain or shine**) for a walk through Ashland to support this worthy cause.

A Note From Our Pastor

The time Jesus spent on earth evoked a lot of response from people. One inspirational story from the Gospel of Matthew is what happened when Jesus was retreating to a solitude place to mourn the death of John the Baptist. Matthew 14 tells us that a crowd of people followed him around the lake. When he saw them coming he had pity on them and began to minister to them and heal the sick. Then, as it was getting late, the disciples suggested that Jesus dismiss the people so they could go back into town and buy food. Jesus responded by telling the disciples to feed them. The disciples hesitated, saying they didn't have enough food to feed so many people. And then, well, you know, Jesus fed the five thousand.

This story is inspirational on many fronts. The disciples, like many of us today, were afraid. Actually, the disciples were afraid that they couldn't provide for the people who came looking for help and were entrusted to their care. We have that same fear today. The Federated Church in its purist form is a part of the Body of Christ, organized to meet the needs of people in Jesus' name. But scarcity exists. Lord, we don't have enough to meet so many needs. This is a natural and expected reaction to learning of so many needs around us, not to exclude our own need of renewal and salvation. However, I caution all of us to remember that it is the Lord that responds to people's need, and our job is to listen for guidance. It is the Lord that calls us to a focused, faithful action. We become the conduit (can-do-it) for this to happen. I ask you in all sincerity, do we believe that our role in meeting the needs of people around us will be provided for by God? Do we believe the power, resources, inspiration, and vision will all come together in the spirit of Jesus Christ? The testimony of scripture and call of the spirit of God in our lives says "Yes!"

Also, this is a story of community. Jesus, the disciples, and the evolving multitude of people realized their need and Jesus' ability to help. We, too, are an evolving community. Henri Nouwen, author of Making All Things New, speaks of community as being grounded in God, not in similarities of status, background, or education. In this context, our functioning together as a church goes against much of mainstream culture as we are ultimately bonded by our faith in God, not similarities and interests. We realize that we are a living miracle, and as people of faith, can live by this amazing truth.

In the upcoming weeks and months there will be opportunities for us to exercise our faith in God. The belief that our truest vocation is realized in our effort within the Body of Christ is liberating, and this draws us together in a miraculous way. Each of us knows that a part of our life draws us to humility as well as a reason to boast in our calling. Working this out within our community of faith is when we really begin to see sparks fly and miracles happen! May God bless you in your striving,

Jason

What is a father?

Being of the male species does not make a man a father, for a dad is a special blend of hero, disciplinarian, a friend, someone to look up to, someone to model ... someone with a touch of the "mother" in him, someone who is big enough to say, "The fault was mine" ... someone who lives the kind of life that makes you want to say, "I, too, shall follow him!"

-Dr. Alton Kaul

“The World of the Generous gets larger and larger”

Proverbs 11:24 The Message

The names listed below are for pledge commitments as of **Sunday, May 16, 2010** for the July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 fiscal year. The amounts currently are **\$90,116** for general expenses and **\$5,282** for mission work. There are a number of anticipated pledges remaining to come in.

Pat Adams
Elaine Bethel
Alice Bixby
Bob & Irene Brown
Wayne Buckley
Sid Buma
Henry Carlson
Dotty Clowes
Melanie & Mike Conner
Dick & Lois Cotton
Kathy Craib
Mavis Crawford
Pam & Bob Dunham
John Ellsworth
Margot Ellsworth
James & Lisa Goldsberry

Boksoon Hahn
E. Glen & Joan Hamilton
Dave & Nancy Hansen
Beverly Kenney
Steve & Tina Kingsbury
Lavonne Krishnan
John & Michelle Lee
Daniel & Nancy Lynch
Alan & Vickie Mancini
Busi Maswoswe
Muriel Mayotte
Terene Micciche
Mark Nelson & Nick Paternostro
Ruth Norton
Bob Richards
Sue & Mike Rieck

Arlene Ripley
Susan & Eduardo Rivas
Sue Robertson
Peter & Linda Russo
Jason & Kelly Rutherford
Bruce & Sue Scotland
Joanne & Douglas Scotland
Doug & Phyl Shelburne
Liz Shuter
June Stephens
Bill & Lois Tougas
David & Karen Wenzell
Guy Williams
Robert & Cynthia Winterhalter
Arden & Pauline Yorke

Although the formal stewardship campaign has ended, stewardship is on going in the life of our church. **If you haven't submitted your pledge card yet, we would appreciate it if you could turn it in soon.** Annual meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 9th** and knowing the amount of anticipated income is essential in planning for the new fiscal year beginning July 1st.

Lois Tougas, Chairperson
Stewardship Committee