

*Federated Church*  
*“The Chimes”*  
May 2009

**A Note From Council**

Hello All,

Well, it is time to start the Budget Process again. The current year has gone fairly well although in this economic crisis, some folks have fallen behind in their pledges and that has impacted our situation. Hopefully, we are on the way to a slow recovery. But, in our planning it is obvious that we need to be conservative. It will be tight.

We've had a calm year otherwise, one filled with really fun times, and great involvement in the Church and community. It has felt good. Let's repeat it again next year.

Our annual meeting will be held on June 10.

Smile and rejoice in HIM...HE has blessed us all.

Margot Ellsworth,  
Chair Council

**Annual Meeting**  
**Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**7:00 PM**

Please mark your calendars **NOW** and plan to attend. We need **YOU** to vote budget, leadership, programs and our future! The meeting will be held in our Sanctuary.

*Summer*  
*Office*  
*Volunteers*

*The Summer will be here before we know it!* Please think about **YOUR** summer schedule. We would like to have the Church Office open during July & August (**Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between 9-Noon**). The summer duties include answering the phone, distributing the mail and retrieving the messages off of the answering service (**YES!...you will be given instructions...it's very easy!**). If you are available at any time during the summer months (1 day, 2 days, etc.) please call Linda in the Church Office at 508-881-1355 and let her know when you would like to volunteer. Linda will start filling in the calendar as she receives the information.

**Nominating Committee**

With the coming of Spring our congregation is entering an important phase of activities that are essential to the continuance of church life. Stewardship involves not only fiscal support of the church through your pledges, but also supporting and participating on the various committees that are so important to continuing all phases of the life of your church.

Nominating is in the early stages of canvassing all committees to identify vacancies or openings they are anticipating. We are asking two things here, if you will be leaving a committee position would you please let your chairperson know. Those chairs are then requested to pass along that information to Nominating. Secondly, if you are interested and would like more information about one or more of the standing committees or Council, please fill out a card, located in the Narthex and drop it in the white church styled box. These will be collected and we will be in touch with you.

Remember, your church cannot fulfill its mission without your support and participation on the standing committees and positions of lay leadership.

For the Nominating Committee,  
Vickie Mancini, Leslie Kendall, Karen Wenzell, Glenn Rigby and Bill Wallace,  
Chair

# Generosity Makes Good Things Happen



“The World of the generous gets larger and larger”  
Proverbs 11:24  
The Message

## Stewardship Campaign for 2009/2010

Our campaign will be completed Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> which is **Dedication Sunday** when we will receive and dedicate our pledges (cards mailed April 22<sup>nd</sup>) as a visible act of our commitment to support the body of Christ which is our church.

For those who were able to attend our Palm Sunday service, we heard a very inspiring message from Frannie Poole, a member of our church, via video, which was filmed last November from the Mary Ann Morse Nursing Home in Natick.

This is a direct quote from Frannie who is 97 years old. “I encourage everyone to keep their faith and cherish the church in more ways than just giving. Build up that lovely church. The church that I have always known and I have stood by it through thick and thin. Whether the minister comes or whether the minister goes or what kind of difficulty they had, I have always stood by my church and kept my faith strong and I hope all you people listening will do the same. It means a great deal to have the Lord’s spirit with you and have it nice and firm as the great foundation is our God.”

Let’s take Frannie’s wise words to heart and use the following guidelines when pledging.

- 1) Give intentionally. Make a yearly pledge.
- 2) Give regularly. Don’t slip up if you are away or unable to attend church.
- 3) Give generously.
- 4) Give first off the top of your paycheck, not what is left over.
- 5) Love entails getting priorities straight.

- 6) Increase your pledge by 1% a year. This method has worked for millions of Christians.

“Such giving expresses our love for our God, for our neighbor and for our community”

We look forward to seeing everyone Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Lois Tougas, Chairperson  
Stewardship Committee

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY July 1, 2008 thru April 13, 2009

Income	\$123,974.74
Expenses	\$117,698.79
Net (Gain/Loss)	\$6,275.95
Anticipated pledges to date	\$90,693.21
Actual pledges received to date	\$83,323.76
Variance (Underpaid Pledges)	(\$7,369.45)
Income from fund raising From 2008 Fair	\$13,369.43 \$7,557.34

## Missions News

Brown Bag Sunday is held the **third Sunday** of every month. Food items are collected and donated to *The Ashland Food Pantry*.

The Food Pantry is beginning to prepare for the long summer months ahead. *During the summer, they see a large drop in donations and an increase in clients.*

*The following items are needed:*

Tuna	Pasta Sauce
Peanut Butter	Grape Jelly
Paper Products	Shampoo
Canned Fruit	Pasta
Jello & Pudding	Juice
Soup	Soap
Mayonnaise	Ketchup
Mustard	Baked Beans
Rice	Canned Vegetables
Cereal	Baking Mixes
Potato Mixes	Macaroni & Cheese

*Thank you for your continued 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.

**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.

**Note:** This is a **Kid** Friendly Shelter.

**Would YOU like to help?**  
**Call Dee Heaton @ 508-881-2968.**

***Reminder...***  
**Walk For Hunger**  
**Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
*Starts on the Boston*  
*Common 7-9 AM*

## Theta Phi Delta's

This year, the banquet will be held on **Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>** at the **45 Restaurant** in Medway. It is located at the corner of route 126 and 109. *The room will be available at 6 PM and dinner will be served at 6:30 PM.* If you have any questions, please call Linda in the Church Office @ 508-881-1355.

## Thrift Shop

MAY 5 - RED TAG SALE

MAY 12 - WHITE SALE

MAY 19 - 25% OFF ALL CLOTHING

MAY 26 - 50% OFF ALL CLOTHING

## Bag Days

**10 AM - 3 PM**

**June 9, 10 & 11**

Everything **MUST** go!!!

All you can carry in a large bag **\$5.00**

**The Thrift Shop will close for the summer after the June 11<sup>th</sup> Bag Day.**

The Thrift Shop will be in need of a Director beginning in September. Anyone who is interested may leave their name with Linda in the office or contact Elaine Bethel, Alice Bixby, Sue Wallace, Joanne Scotland.

## 6 Months 'Til... The Autumn Leaves Fair Saturday, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>

The Fair Committee met recently. Thank you to all of you who made an effort to attend. We will be continuing to call our annual event the **AUTUMN LEAVES FAIR**. By now, folks recognize it as the name of our Federated Church Fair, so why change a good thing.

With only 6 months until our Fair we all need to keep busy or get busy! Many folks continue to stay busy creating those always popular items, such as scarves, aprons, Christmas crafts, baby items, etc. as well as new creations for the folks that regularly attend our fair. Thanks for all your hard work! Soon the cucumbers and squash will be planted. I already have pickle orders!

Summer will be coming soon and so will vacations and travels. Many churches in other areas hold their Fairs during the summer. Visit them and bring back ideas for our Fair. This is the best compliment we can give to them. So, let's do it!

Remember the Fair is a major event for our church. The Fair needs everyone to do their little or big bit, so save the date and plan to get involved. There are openings in some of our areas, so think about it, pray about it and get involved. Whether you have a lot of time or just an hour or two, the Fair needs YOU!

Whereas we will be offering some of our New-2-U treasures for sale at the upcoming yard sale, we will need to have new contributions for the Fair, so keep on cleaning out those closets, attics, sheds, etc. If you find a “**real**” treasure, let me know because we have someone who is willing to check out its value and price it accordingly. That means a little more money for our Church. Thanks!

God Bless You All.

Irene

## Coffee & Fellowship

Goodies are always welcome at our Sunday morning Coffee & Fellowship? If you would like to donate, please sign up across from the Parlor. Thank you!

## Altar Flowers

*The cost has changed from \$15 to **\$20***

The Hospitality Committee does not have a flower budget. Therefore, we have a **flower sign-up sheet** outside the Parlor. You may sign up to place flowers **or** plants on the altar for a designated Sunday. You may order flowers through Linda in the Church Office. The cost is **\$20** for two bouquets. Your check should be made out to **The Federated Church of Ashland. Please be sure to write Hospitality Flower Fund on the memo line!** You may also provide two of your own plants and bring them to the Church and place them on the altar **by 9 AM on Sunday morning**. Flowers are usually given to sick and shut-ins, however, you may choose to take them home with you, following the service **or** you may designate to whom they should be given. *Please call Linda in the Office at 508-881-1355 and let her know your intentions, so that your flower information will be listed in the church bulletin on Sunday morning.*

**Please note: Deadline for bulletin information is Wednesday @ 9AM!**

*Mother's Day...  
Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>*

# Breakfast-Style Brunch May 17<sup>th</sup> - 11:00 AM

Please fill out the information below and put it in the offering plate or leave it in the Church Office. *Thank you!*

The Hospitality Committee is asking the congregation to help with the Brunch, which will be held upstairs in Fellowship Hall.

**Will you please bring one of the following:** An Egg, French Toast or Breakfast Casserole, Muffins/Breads, Bagels & Cream Cheese or Fresh Fruit

*Hospitality will provide the Coffee, Tea, Milk and Juice!*

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I/We will bring:  
\_\_\_\_\_

# of Adults \_\_\_\_\_ # of Children \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your willingness to help in this way. We look forward to a fun day of food and fellowship!

*The Hospitality Committee*

# MetroWest Interfaith Hospitality Network Update

We began our most recent hosting week on March 15<sup>th</sup> with two families; on Tuesday one family left the program and on Thursday another family joined. We learned that we must remain flexible throughout the week, and our volunteers certainly demonstrated that we are. We also learned that the dynamics of the week change based on the personalities and preferences of the individual guests, as well as the ages of their children. By the end of the week Fellowship Hall was filled with the laughter of two three-year olds and a two-year old, plus the children of our volunteers playing together.

Volunteers from Sha'arei Shalom provided and hosted dinner Sunday night and stayed for the evening fellowship. It was delightful to meet and get to know Robin Maher, her two daughters, and several others from their congregation that night. It was enjoyable for all of us; Robin asked if Sha'arei Shalom could participate every Sunday night of our subsequent hosting weeks.

Thank you sincerely for volunteering to support this wonderful program and for making our second hosting experience so successful. It would not have been possible without those of you who cooked a meal, donated supplies, stayed overnight, did laundry, set up or broke down the classrooms, cheered us on and prayed for us. I would be remiss without a special thank you

to *Lois Tougas* for her masterful meal planning coordination.

Within two weeks after our hosting week, two more families joined our network, now a total of 4 families comprised of 10 individuals, including 5 toddlers. **Our next hosting week begins June 14<sup>th</sup>, followed by September 6<sup>th</sup> and November 15<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars! We will need the help of all of our volunteers to accommodate 10 guests.**

Please spread the word to your friends and neighbors about the IHN program and our participation. Do not hesitate to refer families in need to our director, Beth Cooper at 508-318-4820. I met with Cara Tirrell, who manages the Ashland Food Pantry, to present the IHN program and provide a stack of MIHN brochures.

I have volunteered to help recruit three additional host congregations in Ashland and Framingham and will begin contacting them over the next few weeks. Stay tuned for updates on our progress.

There are many ways to help our MIHN network. If you are interested in driving the IHN van or volunteering at the Day Center for a few hours on a regular or one-time basis, please contact Beth Cooper or Marcia Praver @ 508-318-4820.

Thank you for granting me the opportunity to serve the Lord, members of our congregation and our neighbors in need.

~ Cheri Vallone

# Yard Sale

## Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>

### 9 AM - 3 PM

*SPRING IS HERE!!!* Time for Spring Flowers, Budding Trees, **SPRING CLEANING...ugh!**

**DON'T WORRY!** We have the solution for getting rid of all your special, lightly used treasures.

The Federated Church is having a **YARD SALE!**

**Bring your treasures to the church Monday - Friday between 9-Noon or Tuesday until 6 PM.**

Please bring them downstairs to the Cocoa Room (located behind the Coffeehouse).

### **PLEASE NOTE**

**We cannot accept** TV's, Microwave Ovens, Computers or any other Electronic Equipment.

**NO** Weights or Ski Equipment.

We welcome **Books** of all kinds!!

**Plants** and **Baked Goods** will also be featured.

All items should be clean and in good, saleable condition. *When you bring in items, ask yourself, "Would I buy this item as it is now"?*

All proceeds will be contributed to the Church Budget. If you have questions or furniture pieces, please call Lavonne Krishnan at 508-881-1088. **Thank you!**

## Federated Church of Ashland

### 118 Main Street

### Ashland, MA 01721

**Office Hours:** Monday – Friday  
9:00 AM – Noon

**Office Phone:** 508-881-1355

**Web Site:** [federatedchurchofashland.org](http://federatedchurchofashland.org)

**E-Mail Addresses:**

[fcoaoffice@verizon.net](mailto:fcoaoffice@verizon.net)

[fcoapastor@verizon.net](mailto:fcoapastor@verizon.net)

[fcoa-ce@verizon.net](mailto:fcoa-ce@verizon.net)

*Reverend Jason Rutherford, Pastor*

*Linda Iarussi, Office Manager*

*Christine Taylor, C.E. Coordinator*

*Joe Skorupa, Organist*

*Laurel Imhof, Sexton*

*Karen Mallon, Diaconate*

*Margot Ellsworth, Council*

*John Ellsworth, SPRC*

*Lois Tougas, Stewardship*

*Liz Shuter, Music*

*Henry Carlson, Properties*

*Dee Heaton, Missions*

*Nora Guidi, Hospitality*

*Bill Tougas, Finance*