

Federated Church of Ashland

“The Chimes” - October 2009

From the Deacon's Bench

As newly elected co-chairs of the Deacons, Nick Paternostro and I are happy to share a few of the exciting things that will be happening this fall in our church. We hope that you enjoyed the Homecoming/90th Anniversary celebration and we're sure you satisfied your palates at the brunch.

On October 3rd there will be a leadership retreat held at the UCC Convention Center in Framingham. We would like to encourage all of the leaders in the church and any members that are interested in the growth of our church to attend. It is a daylong program and lunch is provided. We will be led in the exercise by Sue Rivas and it sounds like it will be lots of fun as well as informative. Please join us if you are able. Just let Jason know if you are coming.

It was our pleasure to award scholarships to Gina Guidi, Jimmy Russo and Patrick Daly. They are attending UMass Dartmouth, Framingham State and Bridgewater State respectively. If anyone knows of any other church members that would benefit from one of our scholarships, please have them contact the Deacons for more information.

By the time this letter comes to you the Faith and Formation classes should be well under way and I hope that everyone is enjoying them and learning more about the Parables of Luke.

Now that the children are back in Sunday School and the Choir is once again singing the praises of the Lord, the Deacons are seeking new ways to make our church the “place to be” on Sunday mornings. Please feel free to offer any ideas you may have to any one of the Deacons. We would be happy to take your advice to our meeting for discussion.

We are having a wonderful start to this church season and hope that all of you will join us as we strive to make the Federated Church of Ashland a better and stronger place of worship.

Yours in Christ,

Nick Paternostro and Pam Dunham

Special Thanks To Our Summer Volunteers...

Alice Bixby and Dotty Clowes. Your willingness to help in the Church Office during the summer months is always appreciated. *Thank you again, Linda*

World Communion Sunday

October 4, 2009

We will be joining with other Protestant Churches worldwide partaking in Holy Communion and receiving the ***World Mission Offering; "Go Global"***. Much of this year's offering will be earmarked for disaster relief programs with the sister organizations. The World Communion Program is worldwide with the participation of more than 70 countries, all of whom are concerned for the well being of the people in their nations. Reaching out in love and generosity is a special mission to those in need at home and abroad.

By contributing to World Communion Sunday offering, our finances are pooled with all those other churches participating in World Communion Sunday Offering to make a real contribution towards spreading the word and the healing love of Jesus Christ.

Pray for our world...Give to our world. Please plan to join us in receiving Holy Communion and prayerfully consider giving generously to this special collection on **October 4th**.

Checks should be made out to the Federated Church of Ashland AND please write World Mission Offering on the memo line.

Thank you, The Missions Committee

Walk-A-Thon

Help Thy Neighbor

On **Sunday, October 4th**, 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:

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

Autumn Leaves Fair ***Saturday, November 7th*** **10 AM – 3 PM**

Wow... time sure does “fly” especially when you’re waiting for summer to arrive! By the looks of it, summer never did come this year; it was cold and rainy most of June & July. Yes, I know we had a few hot days in August, but that was it. Summer is over! Now we need to get busy for our ANNUAL CHURCH FAIR. I know, folks have been busy all summer creating all those beautiful creations for the FAIR, but it’s time for us to buckle down and get back to work, or in some cases...start working!

Because of a new federal law, we probably will not have the “Toys & Games” Room; too many regulations about paint, lead and some plastics. However, the other rooms will be in full swing, including the New-2-U Room. Margot has sent out postcards asking us to contribute items for baskets for the Silent Auction. Hopefully you’ve been busy collecting items for a basket or two. Remember, all you have to do is furnish the items. Margot and her crew will put them into a basket and wrap them up for the Fair. Let’s make the Silent Auction the big success that it was last year.

Remember! The AUTUMN LEAVES FAIR, our annual ALL CHURCH FAIR, is a MAJOR Fund Raiser for our CHURCH, and we continue to need funds for our Church Budget. We don’t want to have to continue to make cuts. **YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!** If you are not currently involved, **PLEASE** call Linda in the church office or me at 508-481-0746 and get involved.

REMEMBER! MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW AND SAVE THE DATE, NOVEMBER 7TH AND BE INVOLVED IN YOUR AUTUMN LEAVES FAIR!!

Thanks for volunteering.

Irene

Brown Bag Sunday

The Missions Committee donates **\$200** to the Ashland Food Pantry every month. ***Brown Bag Sunday is held the third Sunday of each month.***

With the “Holidays” fast approaching many people rely on our contributions, so it is even more important to remember those who benefit from our donations. Please remember to bring in non-perishable items and leave them in the box in the Narthex.

As always, thank you for your generous donations they are greatly appreciated!

Thrift Shop

We are open **Tuesdays** from **10 AM – 4 PM** and occasional **Saturdays** from **9:30 AM - 1 PM**. **Watch your bulletin for details.**

“FAIR Day” November 7th - we will be open from **10 AM – 2 PM**

November 24th - **CLOSED**

December 1st - **10 AM – 4 PM – All clothing ½ price**

December 8th - **BAG DAY**

DONATIONS - We will accept all donations on days we are open providing they are CLEAN and UP-TO-DATE. Jewelry and household articles such as blankets, towels, dishes and curtains will be accepted providing they are in good condition.

WE DO NOT ACCEPT – **Computers, Microwave Ovens, Toaster Ovens or Large Furniture.**
Books – we accept hardcover and paperback books - fiction, non-fiction, mystery, romance, and children’s.

*Items will be dated the day they are put out and every three or four weeks, items will be marked down to ½ price. **There will always be a BARGAIN!!!!**

Thank you for your continued support!

Theta Phi Delta Ladies

Our next meeting will be held on **Monday, October 5th** at **7:00 PM!**

We would like to remind all women of the church to join us each month!

Theta Phi Delta Club **College Student Aid Fund**

This fund is distributed on a basis of the pre-college participation at our church by the applicant. Applications will be accepted through **November 1st**. This assistance is available to college students who are/were active members of the Federated Church. Please write a request giving the name of your college, a brief account of your courses, and your prior participation in our church activities. **Address it to: Alice Bixby, Theta Phi Delta Club, Federated Church, P.O. Box 26, Ashland, MA.** Funds will be dispersed in time for second semester.

A Note From Hospitality

Welcome back every one!!!!

Hospitality is working on some terrific projects for this season. We are all excited to start off this season with our “**Tailgate**” theme Homecoming Brunch.

We have a bunch of things that we are scheduling. Just to name a few, we are planning a *Progressive Dinner*, for those who have not attended one or are interested, we will be bringing you more details. We will be having a *Pie Sale* for the end of November, in addition to a *Cookie Sale* for the end of December. In January, February and March we will have our *Community Suppers* that are sure to take away the chill.

Of course we will be doing our usual flower deliveries and fruit basket deliveries for Thanksgiving. Please use the sign-up sheet in the hallway, across from the Parlor, to donate flowers for the altar on Sunday mornings. Remember flowers are **\$20**. You may also bring in your own flowers or plants and place them on the altar.

I would like to personally thank *Nora Guidi* for her guidance and encouragement in me taking on the role as Hospitality Chair for the 2009-2010 seasons.

I, and the entire Hospitality Committee, could not begin to tell you how much we look forward to these events.

With warmest wishes,

Nick Paternostro, Chair

Peg Daly, Margot Ellsworth, Bob Ethier, Dee Heaton, Nora Guidi and Melanie Connor who is always willing to help out.

Altar Flowers

As you know, 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 Church 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.* Thank you to everyone who has responded to this. The response has been wonderful!

Please note: Deadline for bulletin information is Wednesday at 9:00 AM!

Coffee & Fellowship

Would you like to donate “**goodies**” for our Sunday morning **Coffee & Fellowship**? If so, please sign up on the sheet, outside the Parlor. Thank you to everyone who has responded to this. The response has been great!

Attention ...Committee Chairs, Etc.!

Please give your meeting dates and times to Linda **as soon as possible!** Your committee needs to be listed on the church office calendar, if you are planning to meet at the church.

Also, if you are no longer a committee chair, etc., your key MUST be returned to Linda as soon as possible. She will reissue another key to the new chairperson.

REMEMBER...YOU are responsible for the key(s) you are holding! They should **NOT** be given to anyone else!

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation!

ATTENTION: Veterans

If you would like your name included on the Veteran's List for our November Worship Service, please call the church office at 508-881-1355 and leave a message for Linda stating your name, branch of service, and the branch you served. Thank you!

Financial Summary

Summary of FY 2008/2009

The fiscal year 2008/2009 ended on June 30th with a loss of \$3,751.99.
The approved budget was under spent by \$4,952.00.
Amount pledged for 2008/2009 - \$117,902.00
Pledges received - \$107,725.

Summary of FY 2009/2010 through August

As of the end of August the expenses exceed income by \$1,717. Part of this is due to people being away over the summer and not keeping their pledges current. In addition, there are several people who have pledged in prior years who, for whatever reason, have not made a pledge for the current year.

Notes from the Christian Education Coordinator:



Sunday School Needs You!

Nursery/Preschool Volunteers Needed

Please sign up on the Sunday School Bulletin Board in the Parlor. A rotating schedule will be emailed to volunteers, and posted in the hall outside the parlor. Please let Chris Taylor know if you are interested in helping, or have any questions.

Children's Communion Education Workshop

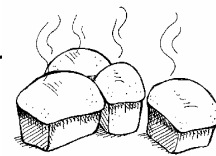
Thursday, Oct. 29th

6:00 - 7:30 PM

How can families share in communion, and have it be a meaningful experience for everyone? All children and youth in grade 1 and up are invited to participate in an evening of activities, crafts and food to learn more about communion and how our congregation practices this important rite together.

Christine Taylor, Christian Education Coordinator will be leading Activities, and Margot Ellsworth will bake bread with the children.

That will be used for communion on Sunday, Nov. 1st.



Please register for the Communion event on the Sunday School bulletin board by Sunday, October 25th.



Sunday School 2009-2010

We have almost 30 children enrolled so far!
(This is 10 more than we had 1 ½ years ago!)

Nursery/Preschool: (see above)

PreK - 3rd Grade and 4th - 6th Grade will be using "Rock Solid" curriculum again, which has posters, music, games and other materials to go along with each Bible story that they will be studying. The fall stories are Joseph and his Brothers, and Moses.



The 7th -8th grade class will be using "Rock Solid" and Bible stories, puts more emphasis on applying concepts we learn in the Bible to our lives outside of church.

The Youth class (Grades 9-12) uses a discussion-based format, and service based learning. We will be meeting with the youth to decide on format, activities, etc.

See the Sunday School Bulletin Board to:

- Sign up to volunteer
- Register your child
- Sign up for special events
- Get a CE/SS Calendar

Email Chris Taylor at fcoa-ce@verizon.net if you have any questions, or would like to volunteer.

MetroWest Interfaith Hospitality Network Update

As I write this message, we are hosting three delightful IHN families who remind us of the reasons we originally decided to participate in this wonderful program: Helping our neighbors in their greatest time of need.

It has been an incredible hosting week, with tremendous support from Pastor Jim and his wife, Debbie Bauchman from Framingham Street Ministries. They helped us set up, provided a meal, spent time in fellowship with our IHN families, and stayed overnight. They have already committed to providing two meals, overnight support, and additional help wherever needed during the November 15th hosting week and subsequent hosting weeks, as well.

Lois Tougas did another masterful job coordinating meals for our 13 guests. Sue Lankton-Rivas, with the help of her family and several of our younger youth families, orchestrated a delicious Labor Day BBQ in the church parking lot. All the children, the guests' and ours, played together outside for hours, creating a thoroughly enjoyable evening of "normal" activities that were relished by our guest families. You can imagine how difficult it is to find "normalcy" for children during their tragic time of homelessness.

The three families we are hosting consist of 6 moms and dads, and 7 children ranging in age from 4 to 20. The families include one or both working parents, one is attending night school while working days, and another family is managing to shuttle their two teenagers from football practice every night at Milford High School. Their hectic schedules are, in fact, just like ours, except they no longer have a place to call home. They are people just like us. It is very rewarding for our volunteers to help ease their pain by providing warm, friendly, sincere hospitality.

The families told us that they immediately felt sincerely welcomed at the Federated Church, and they appreciated how "normal" we made it for them during their difficult time of homelessness. It was rewarding to hear the families tell us that the Federated Church is by far their favorite place to stay.

We had the pleasure of sharing a week of celebrations: the Labor Day BBQ party, a guest dad's birthday, and another guest dad's graduation as valedictorian of his class.

As many of you know, Glenn and I are following our calling to another church, which has raised some doubt about the Federated Church's ability to continue in the IHN program. No worries -- Nancy Lynch and Lavonne Krishnan have stepped up to take over my coordinator responsibilities. Nancy Lynch and I have been working closely together and will continue to do so. Glenn and I are committed to continue volunteering to support the Federated Church in any way necessary to ensure the current outstanding level of hospitality to the IHN families continues in the months and years ahead.

With the substantial support from Framingham Street Ministries and the additional Federated Church volunteers who have stepped up, I am confident the Federated Church can continue participating as the most hospitable church in the MetroWest IHN network.

Blessings,

Cheri