

First Community Church

Newsletter

November 2011



Our Mission Statement

We are a community of faith believing in the power of prayer and seeking earnestly to deepen our spiritual life and share the love of God with others.

The Pastor's Message

It is difficult to believe that we are already entering into November, that Thanksgiving is almost upon us and that Advent is only four weeks away. It is even more difficult to believe that we have already had snow! I hope this isn't a hint of what is ahead of us this winter!

Darlene and I are looking forward to not traveling this Thanksgiving. Kristen and Mike are coming up from Florida, and Corey is coming in from Michigan. It will be nice to have some of our family together gathered around the table on Thanksgiving Day. Of course it would be better if everyone were able to make it, but we need to learn to be grateful for what we have. We are well aware that many people have much less.

I am reminded of a little Thanksgiving prayer I came across many years ago. I think it would be a nice prayer to say/read on Thanksgiving Day. I have been unable to identify the author, but whoever wrote it knew something about being thankful.

*As we pause for this moment of grace,
Let us realize our bountifulness.
It is good to be alive –
Seeking the best life can give,
Stretching to understand more,
Growing to become more complete,
And reaching out in love to others.*

I love the metaphors of this prayer. It calls us to pause in the midst of our busy lives to realize not only the bountifulness of our possessions but also the bountifulness of ourselves. It reminds us that it is good to be alive, and it tells us what it means to be alive. It is a reminder of the grace of God.

If we are truly alive, we will seek the best that life can give: the best in life and the best in ourselves. We will not only respond to the challenges that life places before us; we will also challenge ourselves. We will stretch and grow. We will stretch both our minds and our hearts. Our commitment to become disciples of the Way is what leads us into completeness as children of God. Jesus tells us that when this happens, we will find ourselves reaching out to others spontaneously and with joyous hearts.

We have a lot for which to be thankful, including the standard of living that we enjoy in this country. However, the bountifulness of our lives as Christians does not consist of material possessions. The true basis of our thanksgiving is the empowering, transforming experience of God in Christ flowing through us. It is the experience of God's presence, God's heart, as it seeks, touches, and stretches our heart.

In this Stewardship season, let us remember to be thankful for our church, for the many ways it has nurtured our souls, for how it has not only called us forth into abundant life but helped us to experience this bountifulness. Let us remember to be thankful for the resources it has given to us, the resources of faith, friendship and community that enable us to carry the burdens we carry with grace. Let us remember to be thankful for all that this little church has meant to this community over the past 146 years. Then let us respond with the kind of support for our church that witnesses to this spirit of thanksgiving, and that will enable our church to move forward into the future.

"I have come that you might have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Faithfully yours,
Reverend Paul D. Sanderson

Adult Bible Study

The Adult Bible Study group meets on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of every month from 9:15 – 10:30 AM in the Vestry. We are presently reading and discussing the Gospel of John, trying to discern its message for our own spiritual journey, for our society, and for the life and ministry of our church.

The Bible study is open to all. No background in biblical knowledge is required. You don't even need to own a Bible (Bibles are provided by the church). Please join us for a time of fellowship, study, and sharing as we seek to strengthen not only our understanding of our religion but also our personal faith.

Pastor's Schedule



On most weeks, the Pastor will be at the church on the following days/times:

Mondays	1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Tuesdays	2:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Thursdays	2:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Please call (508) 873-0534 if you wish to make an appointment with the Pastor.

Stewardship Sunday

Watch the mail the next few weeks for a letter from your Pastor and the Stewardship Committee inviting you to renew (and hopefully increase) your pledge for the coming year. Bring your pledge card to church on Sunday, November 20, Stewardship Sunday, or mail it back to us by that date so we can begin to prepare our budget for the coming year.

We traditionally celebrate Stewardship Sunday on Thanksgiving Sunday because of the deep connection between Thanksgiving and Christian stewardship. As we gather together to thank God for our many blessings, we also renew our commitment to share our time, talent, and treasure with our church. This is a very important day in the life of our church. We invite you to be with us as we celebrate what we have in this church and as we lay the foundation for the coming year.

Missions Offering

For the month of November, we reach out with our gifts to support the International Mission of World Vision.



The Need

No person or nation is exempt from the threat of disaster. Some catastrophes are man-made and may develop over months or years. Others, such as floods, droughts or earthquakes, can strike almost anywhere without warning, claiming thousands of lives in seconds.

Sadly, it is often the poor who are most affected, particularly the children. In the wake of a disaster, World Vision recognizes the vulnerability of children and gives priority to their nurture and care.

Major disasters increased thirteen-fold in the last 50 years. Current global weather trends and increasing political upheavals indicate that the needs will continue to grow. Disaster mitigation, immediate emergency response, and a commitment to long-term rehabilitation are critical.

Fast Facts

- 90 percent of all disaster victims live in developing countries, where poverty and lack of resources exacerbate the suffering.
- Every 21 seconds, someone in the world becomes a refugee.
- Disaster mitigation can help protect the 10 million people who live in areas prone to devastating floods.

World Vision's Response

World Vision knows that when disaster strikes, each life, and each second, is precious. That's why we invest in the following interventions:

Preparation

- *Relief supplies* - World Vision's Global Pre-Positioning Units are stocked with relief supplies for immediate shipment to a crisis anywhere in the world.
- *Preparedness* - We monitor nature's early warning signals — threats of typhoons, hurricanes, or famine — to anticipate needs and reduce the impact of a catastrophe.
- *Staff training* - In all regions of the world, our staff are trained in emergency preparedness.

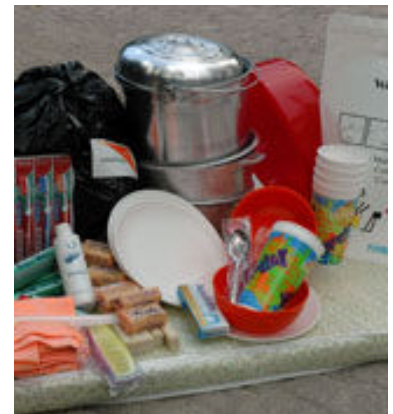
Response

- *Response teams* - World Vision's Global Rapid Response Team is ready to be deployed within 24 to 72 hours of a disaster.
- *Local partnerships* - Disasters are complex. World Vision often partners with other relief agencies and local leaders to determine appropriate courses of action.
- *Immediate aid* - World Vision provides urgent humanitarian assistance and support for children and their families.
- *Child-Friendly Spaces* - When possible, World Vision creates safe places for children to play, continue their education, and release their concerns.

Rehabilitation

- *Asset restoration* - World Vision aims to re-establish a "normal" life by restoring water sources, food, health care, education and housing.
- *Economic development* - To rebuild sustainable economies, World Vision hires local staff to develop microenterprise programs that provide microloans and agricultural support.
- *Peace-building* - In areas rife with civil conflict, World Vision engages in reconciliation, mediation, and healing efforts between opposing groups.
- *Long-term development* - Our emergency interventions often lead to development programs. World Vision is committed to long-term recovery.

In the wake of horrendous disasters — tsunamis, earthquakes, famines, and violent conflicts, World Vision is often one of the first organizations on the ground — working around the clock to provide critical supplies and life-saving care for survivors. Family Survival Kits provide critical supplies for children and families to meet their basic, immediate needs in the aftermath of disasters. Each kit includes life-saving essentials like water purification tablets, water containers, temporary shelter materials, blankets, cooking sets, and more.



When time is ticking in an emergency, our advance preparation saves seconds — and lives. In 2006 alone, World Vision responded to emergencies and helped mitigate disasters in 80 countries. Thanks to your support, World Vision stands ready to intervene whenever and wherever needed, that shattered lives may be restored and rebuilt.

Annual*Sale*

If You Bake It, They Will Sell It

No, they are not members of the Chain Gang -- just some crazy First Community Church guys lined up, ready to brave the elements -- the rain, the cold, the snow, the sun, whatever comes their way - "Pie Hawkers" Jim Holmes, David Lowry, Scott McKeen, Bob L'Heureux, and Bob Farmer are ready to face the mass of holiday shoppers who wait for all those homemade pies made by the wonderful chefs at First Community Church of Southborough.

Our annual Church Pie Sale, will be held on Saturday, November 19, from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM or until we are "sold out." Just in time for

Thanksgiving Day, the pie sale is held at Mauro's (the old McCarthy's i.e. "The Spa") in downtown Southborough with tables set up outdoors.



Over the years, we have been very fortunate to have a good variety of pies available for sale. We are often asked which pie was made by a particular, well known, chef. The people who have bought pies from our previous sales know just what they are looking for -- blueberry, lemon meringue, banana cream, pecan, and the always popular "apple pie." All breads are an added delight. Please label all your donations and make sure to indicate with or without nuts.

Please think about what you could bake for the sale and then consider doubling it. The pie sale is one of the biggest fundraisers in our Church. Last year \$832 was raised.

Mrs. PPW (Pushy Pastor's Wife) alias Darlene Sanderson, has again offered to coordinate the list of baked goods needed. If you are able to bake anything (including cookies, breads, apple crisp, etc.) please tell Darlene. If you don't, she will be looking for you!

Pies can be left at the church Friday night, or delivered to the "spa" before 9:30 AM.

(2010 Photo Courtesy of Linda Hubley, Editor and Photographer of Southboroughnews.com)

A Service Of Thanksgiving

This year Pilgrim Church will be hosting the annual United Parishes of Southborough Thanksgiving Service on Monday, November 21 at 7:30 PM. Clergy and Laity from all of the United Parishes member churches participate in this service and is sponsored by the United Parishes Lay Council.

Please take a moment out of a busy week to remember and celebrate all we have to be thankful for as individuals, as families, as a church, and as a nation.



Spiritual Exploration Reading

Monday afternoons with Rev. Sanderson

Our Spiritual Exploration Reading group is reading and discussing *Tales From the Magic Monastery*.

We meet every Monday afternoon (except Monday holidays) at 2:30 PM in the Vestry. All are welcome to attend.

The Season Of Advent



This year the sacred liturgical season of Advent begins Sunday, November 27. This is always a special time in the life and worship of our church. We begin to sing the Christmas carols that are so much a part of our tradition, one each week until Christmas Eve.

Our sanctuary is always decorated so nicely thanks to the artistic touch of David Sickles. And in our worship we focus on a theme that helps us prepare for the celebration and the experience of Christmas.

Each week, as we light one of the candles of our Advent wreath, we will explore what it would mean to receive the gift symbolized in that candle and then discover how, through us, these gifts might become incarnate in the world.

Please join us during this special and blessed season as we prepare to receive the Christ child into our lives.

The Advent Event **POTLUCK** *Supper*

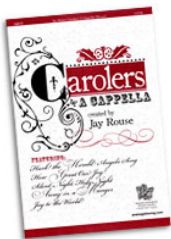
& Tree Lighting Sing-A-Long

Saturday, December 3, 2011 6:00 PM

Advent is approaching. An inspirational special season of re-awating Jesus’ coming as an infant in a lowly manger; whose mortal life as the Messiah changed everything, bringing great “Joy to the World!”



You are cordially invited to celebrate with us the beginning of this joyful season at our traditional annual Advent Potluck Supper, hosted by your own First Community Church “Entertaining” choir. The evening will begin with the potluck supper – so many choices it will be hard to pick.



Then a first time event – A Christmas Tree Lighting and Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long in the Sanctuary. Then we head back down to the Vestry for some special surprises. You may want to bring your thinking caps, just in case.

It is as easy as A B C....

A	<i>Anticipate</i> Advent,, bring your <i>Appetite</i> and a “dish” (<i>Appetizer</i> entrée, salad, or side dish)
B	<i>Bring a Buddy</i> (friend, family, or foe)
C	<i>Consume Culinary Creations, Celebrate</i> , be entertained
D	<i>Desserts Delivered</i> by the Choir, who never <i>Disappoint</i>
E	<i>Enjoy</i> the meal, <i>Exercise</i> your mind a bit, <i>Expect</i> fun
F	<i>Fellowship is Fundamental, Fun is First-rate, Friends</i> are in abundance
G	<i>Get</i> the idea? <i>Get</i> a move on! <i>Gratefully</i> acknowledge <i>God’s Generous Gift</i> - Jesus

Admission -- A dish of food, (entree, appetizer, side dish, or salad - your specialty)
Desserts and drinks provided by the Choir.

Please sign up on the posted sheet in the Vestry. If you would like a ride to the Advent Event, don’t hesitate to call Jim and Cheryl Holmes (508-460-0142)

A Blast From The Past

125 Years Ago

1886 – November

- ♦ A sympathizing Southboro friend who knows the condition of a newspaper man's wallet about Thanksgiving time, and also that if he could, after considerable difficulty, get enough money together to buy a turkey, it would necessarily have to as poor as Job's famous bird, sent in a liberal supply of Deerfoot farm sausages, as well as cream from that fount of good things, to which was added some lettuce from a sympathizing friend, which filled the "yawning chasm" quite satisfactorily. May they both live as long as did Methuselah –if they can and want to – and never be afflicted like poor Job of old.

100 Years Ago

1911 – November

- ♦ The music at the Ladies Aid at the home of Mrs. Gane, Wednesday afternoon was of a pleasing character and filled the hearts of the workers with joy, as Mrs. Fay and daughter and Mrs. Derby sang. They responded to many an encore. One purpose of the gathering was to plan for a fair to be held on the evening of Dec. 5 and 6, which will be a very pleasant occasion. Supper the first evening, and entertainment the second evening.

50 Years Ago

1961 – November

- ♦ The Women's Fellowship held a "Harvest Fair" November 17th & 18th. The vestry was decorated with pumpkins and corn stalks. The proceeds of the fair added much to the treasury. A most successful bake sale was held at the Marlboro Stop & Shop.

25 Years Ago

1986 – November

- ♦ The Women's Fellowship distributed 20 Sunshine baskets to members and friends of our Church. Funding was from the Bessie Blake Memorial Fund.
- ♦ Church Polity (Government): Of considerable concern was the evaluation of the effectiveness of the two-board system of government throughout the last year. Comments and opinions were elicited from members in November.

The general feeling was that the Board had too much responsibility and was only handling the fiscal aspects; acting much the same as a Board of Trustees, and little or no attention being paid to other areas of church concern. It was also felt that a twelve (12) member Board was too cumbersome. It was difficult to find a meeting night suitable to all and it was impossible to allow adequate discussion from all members on issues before them and still cover the items on the agenda.

Recommendations include a basic two-board system; a Board of Deacons comprised of six (6) members, and a Board of Trustees comprised of six (6) members, and the Treasurer ex-officio, with the addition of a Church Council to coordinate the Boards and be responsible for Nominating, Stewardship and Ad Hoc committees. The Music program will be planned by the Choir Director, organist and an appointee of the Church Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Elders
Martha Hubley, Recording Secretary

10 Years Ago

2001 – November

- ◆ A spaghetti supper was held on November 10th with enough proceeds to purchase the Knox box which will be mounted outside the downstairs door and contain keys to the church for use only by the Fire Dept. in case of emergencies. The supper was a tremendous hit, however the ticket prices will need to be raised next year since the profit was basically generated from the sale of raffle tickets.
- ◆ The Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service was held on Nov. 20 at St. Anne’s Church. It was well attended. Jim Holmes sang in the choir.

ON A SPECIAL NOTE

From the minutes of July 30, 1950, clerk, Winifred Stone: Two candidates were presented. A Baptist and a Methodist, neither with “much preaching experience.” First vote was 16 to 13 in favor of Larsen. This not being a large enough majority, a second vote was taken and it was 19 to 10 in favor of Larsen. Being a 2/3 vote, the pulpit committee was dissolved and the board of directors was authorized to see that the Pastor and his family are brought here in the proper manner (re: money, etc.).

On January 21, 1951, a special meeting was convened with 33 members present to “act on the resignation of Mr. H. Allen Larsen as our pastor.” A pulpit committee was appointed with Mr. William Merchant, chairman; Mr. Burton Derby, secretary and Messrs. Robert Nelson, Louie Hoisington, Ronald Nelson and Kenneth Moyer, members.

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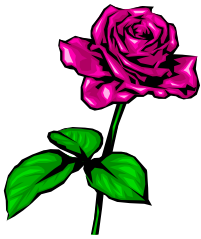
If you were fortunate enough to attend our Church service on September 18, 2011, Rev. H. Allen Larsen, pastor of our congregation from 1950-1951 and his wife, Margaret, were in attendance.

Rev. Larsen wrote Rev. Sanderson a letter after his visit expressing their appreciation of the reception they received on their recent visit “a memorable event for us. We are most grateful for your thoughtfulness in giving us the history and most recent annual report volumes. The appearance of the Church, the sanctuary and grounds is very impressive and attractive. May the Lord continue to bless the Southville congregation and you, Paul, in your pastoral leadership.”

The Larsen’s now live at 3 Glen Rock Drive, The Hills, TX 78738.

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## *With Our Sincerest Sympathies*



We were saddened at the recent loss of Patricia A. (O'Claire) Willis, our friend and long time member of First Community Church of Southborough who joined in 1972. Pat, a long time Southborough resident, died at the age of 78 on Wednesday, October 26 at Wingate at Haverhill Nursing and Rehab Center, after a period of declining health.

Pat was the wife of the late Robert Willis who passed away in 2009. She leaves her son John Willis of Ashland; her brother-in-law, William Willis & his wife Pam of Atkinson, NH; a brother, Leonard O'Claire and wife Gerda of Massapequa, NY, as well as several other family members.

A funeral service was held on Friday, October 28, at the Morris Funeral Home in Southborough.

Our deepest and heartfelt sympathies go out to all of the Willis family for their loss.

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## *Women's Fellowship*

*"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."*  
**Matthew 18:20**

The Women's Fellowship met on October 18 with eight members present. We finalized plans for our Bake Table at the church Flea Market to be held on Saturday October 22. Sandy McKeen and Pat Grogan offered to oversee the table and others said they would bake. At the time of this writing, I can say we were successful in raising over \$60.00 for our effort, a good beginning for participation in our very first Flea Market Fundraiser.

Thanks to everyone who brought in large and small baskets needed for our November 15 meeting. We will be filling our Sunshine Baskets with lots of homemade baked goods, fruits, and special diabetic choices for some very special members of our church. It is my hope to see all of our Women Fellowship members there to help with this special outreach.

On Wednesday, December 7 at 7:00 PM, the Women's Fellowship will host a very special guest speaker. Joanne Koenig Coste has accepted our invitation to come and speak on the subject of Alzheimer Disease (AD). She is very highly qualified in this field and will help us gain a better understanding of this disease that is touching the lives of so many. This will be an all church program and we plan to invite our sister churches. (Read more about Joanne and her work further in this Newsletter)

Please remember our "Christmas Table" fundraiser on the first three Sundays in December, (4, 11, and 18). We will be accepting any donations for the Christmas Table all through November. See Mattie Cummings or Martha Hubley about any items you want to donate.

December 11 is our date for the Women's Fellowship Christmas Party to be held at the Church from 1:00 – 3:00 PM. All women of the Church are invited and as always, we will have a Yankee Gift Swap (\$5.00 limit on gifts).

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Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 15 at 6:30 PM. Karin Farmer will be leading devotions and Mattie Cumming will be providing refreshments.

Mattie Cummings  
Secretary

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## ***What Do You Know About Alzheimer's Disease?***

**More than 5.1 million Americans have been diagnosed with this disease. Maybe a loved one, a relative, a friend or an acquaintance suffers from Alzheimer's. Do you know how to react? Do you know how to help the carepartners?**



Joanne Koenig Coste

Join us on Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM on December 7 at First Community Church when Joanne Koenig Coste, the author of *Learning to Speak Alzheimer's* will enlighten us on this disease. She presently serves as an international consultant to healthcare providers and as an outspoken advocate for Alzheimer disease (AD) patients and families.

### Living with Memory-impairment & Caring for the Carepartner

We are living in a time when carepartner's burn out from the act of loving at a rate that is staggering! For every patient who succumbs to a memory-impaired disease or dementia, there may also be a carepartner who will lose their life from the issues that surround the act of caring for a loved one with a dementing process.

Carepartnering (the patient / caregiver relationship) in the upcoming years will bring moments of pain, celebration, doubt, fear, and joy. There will be days of saying, "this is the best thing I've ever done" and days of saying, "get me out of here." There will be additional strains on family relationships, finances, and dynamics but there also will be more knowledge, more human service programs, and more family support.

The idea of this presentation is to discover a positive interaction based on reordering priorities: not dreams for tomorrow but hopes for this hour's peace; not the perfectly coordinated home but painting the bathroom red if it helps him find the toilet; not trying to bring her into our reality but living for moments in her new world; not mourning the failures created by the disease but creating chances for success to happen; not focusing on lost abilities but capitalizing on remaining skills; not questioning, chastising, or reasoning but finding peace in his current time and place; and, most importantly, not hearing the failing words but listening to the emotion behind them.

When we learn and employ new carepartnering skills, we, the carepartner's, will endure a more positive journey. Throughout it all, whatever kind of caregiver we may be, each of us can learn to listen when words can no longer be spoken, to hear messages from deep within a loved one's eyes, and to provide the kind of loving care that transcends illness and applauds humanness.

Joanne is a past Chairman for the Board of Directors Mass. Chapter of the Alzheimer's Assoc and since 1977 has been facilitating support groups for both patients and for family members. More than 3 decades ago, Joanne designed the program and environment for one of the first Alzheimer specialized buildings in the U.S.

She has been selected by Readers Digest as a National Health Hero along with others: Katie Couric, Oprah Winfrey, & Rosalynn Carter. She was featured on NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw in January 2000 as a Woman to Watch in the 21st Century for her pioneering efforts on behalf of AD patients and families.

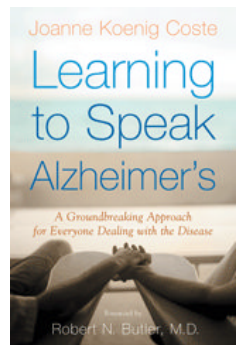
Joanne has appeared on many radio & TV programs across the country - NBC Today Show, NPR Talk of the Nation, The NY Times, and many other media venues. In 2001, Joanne Koenig Coste was inducted into The International Society of Poets.

Joanne is founder of The Program Directors' Alliance – a grassroots organization designed to elevate the status of those working with AD patients in the community. With an undergraduate degree in Education and Masters Degree in Counseling & Psychology, she is a member of the faculty at Cambridge College.

Currently Joanne is a contributing writer to: the AFA magazine Care ADvantage; Caring.com, a website for caregivers; the medical website WebMD; the South Shore (MA) Senior Newsletter; and the American Journal of Alzheimers among others.

She is the renowned author of the best-selling Learning to Speak Alzheimer's, currently available in three European countries, Australia, and Japan. Learning to Speak Alzheimer's has been selected by the World Health Organization for Medical School libraries across the country.

Recently, the training video also titled Learning To Speak Alzheimer's received international recognition with such awards as the prestigious WorldFest, Aurora, and Telly for excellence in educational filming.



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## Celebrations



On Sunday, September 25, 2011, we celebrated the Sacrament of Infant Baptism for Anthony Michael Micha, son of David and Kelly Micha.

We extend a warm welcome to Anthony, the newest member of our Christian community, and we ask God's blessing on him and his parents David and Kelly.

## *From The Desk Of The Collector*

As we begin the month of November, those who made a 2011 pledge to First Community Church will be receiving a statement that will indicate the financial support they have given through September 30. If there are any questions or omissions, please feel free to contact me. Most of the 28 pledges received this year are now current.

The special offering envelopes for “Thanksgiving” and “Christmas” are contributed to the Church’s General Fund. Of course, the special Salvation Army envelope will be contributed to that worthy cause. The Church has long urged members and friends to contribute to this mission in lieu of sending out Christmas cards to members of our church family. A Church Christmas card with the names of the contributors to the Salvation Army will be mailed about a week before Christmas.

Envelopes for 2012 will be assigned to those who have requested them in late December and be available for pickup at that time.

Thank you.

Jim Holmes, Collector

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## *Investment Committee*



The Investment Committee is looking forward to ending another year on a high note! We are happy to report that the Endowment Fund (before contributions to the General Fund) and the Parsonage Funds have both reported increases so far in the year. This comes at a time when many accounts have been hit hard by a volatile stock market. If the market continues its current trend, we should finish the year with even greater gains.

Significant credit belongs to our advisor, Peter Bradstreet, whose advice has been spot on in predicting trends over the last couple of years, allowing us to do perform much better than we otherwise might have.

2011 Investment Committee

Lou Dundin, Karin Farmer, Beverly Lees, Sandra McKeen, and Cathy Ten Eyck

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## *Spiritual Study & Growth Group*

**Thursday Evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 PM**  
**Led By Rev. Sanderson**

Our Spiritual Study and Growth Group meets every Thursday in the Vestry. We are continuing our exploration of “*Tibetan Wisdom for Living and Dying.*” In our meetings we listen to the

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teachings of Sogyal Rinpoche, the author of the international best seller *The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying*. Then we compare these Tibetan Buddhist teachings with the teachings of various streams in our own Christian tradition.

Sogyal Rinpoche grew up in the last generation of Tibetans free to learn Buddhism as it was traditionally taught in Tibet. He fled Tibet after the Chinese occupation in 1959 and later attended Delhi University and Cambridge University. He is the founder of Rigpa Fellowship, which has established Buddhist meditation centers in Great Britain, the United States, France, Ireland, Germany, and Australia.

In this series of 12 audiotapes (we listen to one 45-minute tape each session and then discuss it), Rinpoche presents a grand and transforming vision of life and death. He introduces us to Tibetan practices that can help us live fully while also preparing for the extraordinary adventure that death offers each one of us. What we call "life" and "death," according to Rinpoche, are merely shades of the same unbroken wholeness. By daring to see clearly the truth of our lives, and by exploring the part of us that is changeless and eternal, we can face the last moment of our life without fear.

Then perhaps we will grasp the deeper meaning of the Tibetan Buddhist teaching: "Death is like a mirror in which the true meaning of life is reflected."

This group is open to all. Even if you have not attended the first few meetings, please come! Every meeting is a teaching all by itself.



## *A Haiti Mission Update*

### *"His Royal Ministry"*

I Pet. 2:9

*Working with Haitian Pastors and Leaders  
to Build Up Christ's Church in Haiti*

Matt. 5:15  
Rev. 1:20

Mattie L. Cummings, Director  
20 Flagg Road, Southborough, MA 01772

Tel. (508) 481-2086

The following article is taken from the September 2011 issue of Habitat World, a publication of Habitat for Humanity.

### **Moving forward on a promise: The 2011 Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project supports local efforts in Haiti** by Phillip Jordan

Less than a month after the January 2010 earthquake forever altered Haiti's landscape, Habitat for Humanity made a bold commitment. Over the next five years, Habitat would seek to serve 50,000 earthquake-affected families, helping Haitians move toward safer, more secure, permanent places to call home.

From November 5-12, that pledge will take new shape, when more than 400 international volunteers work alongside Haitian families to build 100 core houses in Leogane, Haiti. The

November event is the first of back-to-back Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Projects scheduled to take place in the country. Each year, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, give a week of their time to lead volunteers in building homes and raising awareness of the need for affordable housing. In 2011 and 2012, the Carter Work Project heads to Haiti.

“Like the rest of the world, Rosalynn and I were heartbroken to see the devastation and despair that the earthquake brought onto a country already so impoverished,” says President Carter. “We are pleased to join Habitat volunteers and the Haitian people to rebuild homes and to bring attention to the ongoing support needed for Haiti’s recovery.”



This November, a field in Leogane’s Santo community will be filled with neighbors and volunteers building 100 new Habitat houses.

Photo by Jason Asteros.

International volunteers will dedicate their time and resources to support efforts in Leogane, a town about 20 miles west of Port-au-Prince. The earthquake that flattened the country’s capital actually had its violent epicenter eight miles below the dry ground of Leogane, damaging or destroying more than 80 percent of the town’s structures and leaving thousands homeless.

Since the earthquake, more than 27,000 Haitian families have partnered with Habitat through a variety of construction programs: emergency shelter kits, transitional and upgradeable shelters, and repairs. Habitat’s housing damage assessments and household mapping and surveying have benefited

thousands more.

The earthquake also left survivors without the means to rebuild and without jobs to make a living. Habitat Haiti has trained locals and provided job opportunities through the construction of upgradeable and transitional shelters for those who lost everything.

The 400 international volunteers supporting this year’s Carter Work Project will build with many of those Haitians trained through Habitat’s local resource center. Together, their work will help 100 families craft a new future for their resilient community. Eventually, this site will provide as many as 500 families with a healthy, secure place to heal, grow and thrive.

From the very beginning, Habitat has worked in partnership with families here to envision this new community, called “Santo.” Once the land was secured, Habitat engaged potential new homeowners in the design, planning and decision-making for the new neighborhood.

Habitat has worked with these families to address all the needs the community might have: house designs, environmental concerns, employment opportunities, proper water and sanitation, education and infrastructure. The community also is helping Habitat identify the most vulnerable families that need to be reached first.

“We are doing this right from the beginning,” says Claude Jeudy, Habitat Haiti’s national director. “If this is also in the hands of the local community from the start, we can better ensure we’re increasing self-sufficiency among the families and that we’re creating sustainable solutions.”

## *Our Gifts We Bring*

Our Missions Offerings are donations made above and beyond our gifts of the Pledges that we make to support the First Community Church of Southborough's General Operating Budget.

Bob Farmer, our Treasurer, has provided us with an update of what we have collected and donated as of October 31, to the Missions that we have chosen to support this year.

| <i>MISSIONS – OCTOBER 2011</i>                                   |                   |                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                                                                  | COLLECTED         | DISBURSED         |
| Straight Ahead Ministries                                        | \$515.00          | \$515.00          |
| Assabet Valley Pastoral Counseling                               | \$220.00          | \$220.00          |
| Abby's House                                                     | \$410.00          | \$410.00          |
| Worcester County Food Bank                                       | \$350.00          | \$350.00          |
| Church World Service                                             | \$325.00          | \$325.00          |
| Love Loaves-Heifer Project                                       | \$20.00           | \$0               |
| Heifer Project                                                   | \$355.00          | \$375.00          |
| Rape Crisis Center                                               | \$575.00          | \$575.00          |
| Haiti – His Royal Ministry                                       | \$540.00          | \$540.00          |
| Haiti Earthquake Relief                                          | \$140.00          | \$140.00          |
| Stop Girl Trafficking Project<br>(American Himalayan Foundation) | \$305.00          | \$0               |
| Tibet Mission                                                    | \$282.50          | \$0               |
| Salvation Army                                                   | \$15.00           | \$0               |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                                                    | <b>\$4,052.50</b> | <b>\$3,450.00</b> |

## *From The Editor*

The deadline for the December 2011 Newsletter will be **Sunday, November 20**. Remember to include any dates for meetings or events you would like listed on the calendar.

Articles and/or dates for the calendar may be submitted to Cheryl Holmes by:



(508) 460-0142



244 Flanders Road  
Westborough, MA 01581



caholmes@charter.net

## *Oh The Weather Outside Is Frightful....*



Our general policy as a church is to try to hold worship whenever we can, if only for a few people. We believe that if you want to make the effort to attend on a snowy day, we should be there for you. However, we wouldn't want you to be hurt either walking or driving to church in inclement weather. We also need to remember that our Pastor and our Organist come from quite a distance. It may be a lot easier for some of us to get to the church than it would be for them. Above all, we don't want you to end up driving to church on a snowy or icy day only to find that church has been cancelled.

In anticipation of snowy or icy days, when we would not want people to go out, the Diaconate and the Minister have put together a policy and procedure for the cancellation of our Sunday service. The decision of whether to hold or cancel church because of weather will be made by the Pastor, who lives in Foxborough; the Moderator – Lou Dundin, who lives in Grafton; and Bob L'Heureux, Chairman of the Diaconate who lives in Southborough.

We will not post the cancellation on the telephone tape at the church number because that would entail someone trekking to the church and re-recording the message. We will also not be posting it on our website.

Notice of the cancellation will appear on the three Boston television stations:

**Channel 4 (WBZ) -- Channel 5 (WCVB) -- Channel 7 (WHDH)**

In addition, WBZ News Radio will read the list of cancellations twice every hour – at :05 and at :35 past the hour. We are listed as “First Community Church – Southborough.”

The decision will be made and the cancellation will be called in to these stations by 8:30 AM Sunday morning by the Pastor, who alone has the secret, encrypted code numbers that enable our church to appear on the cancellation list for each station.

## *A Special Time*



*It seems so natural somehow,  
When colored leaves are due,  
To turn thoughts to Thanksgiving Day  
And people dear to you.*

*The season is a special time,  
A day that's set apart  
For thanking God for sending friends  
So special to the heart.*

*June Masters Bacher*



# Thank You

## *From Our Missions*

Dear Friends:

Thank you so much for your generous gift to Heifer International. Through your gift, a struggling family will receive the gift of livestock and training in its care to overcome hunger and poverty. Your support means better nutrition, health care, and education that will help them build a better future.



As spring approaches, families all over the world are looking forward to a new season of hope and promise rather than one of need and desperation. Through Heifer's cornerstone "Pass on the Gift," your gift will continue to help more and more families for years to come. Because of you, hundreds of families in villages all over the world will become self-reliant.

Thank you once again for being Heifer International's partner for a better world.

Sincerely,

Pierre U. Ferrari  
Chief Executive Officer

## *From Our Friends*

Dear Reverend Sanderson and Church Members,

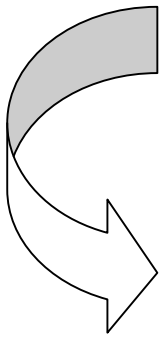
Thank you so very much for welcoming our family to your church and for baptizing little Anthony. The sermon was really very beautiful and meaningful and we enjoyed listening to it. You have a lovely church and friendly congregation.

Fondly,

David, Kelly, Jackson, Andrew and Anthony Micha

## *With Our Special Thanks To --*

- ◆ Nancy Alley for not only supplying all our summer and fall flowers from her beautiful gardens, but for filling her sister's shoes (Martha Hubley) to deliver and arrange the altar flowers while Martha was away last month. We can't thank you enough.
- ◆ The Stewardship and Growth Committee for their fine efforts to hold a first time Flea Market (minus the fleas) to help raise money for the General Fund. Thanks to all those who set up booths, advertised, cooked, and cleaned up. A big thanks to Darlene Sanderson and David Sickles for organizing the event.



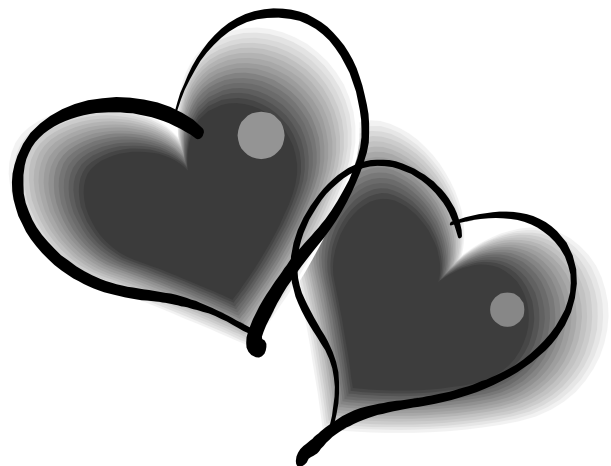
# LOOKING AHEAD

The Advent Potluck & Christmas Tree Lighting Event  
Saturday, December 3

Joanne Koenig Coste  
Guest Speaker and author of  
*Learning to Speak Alzheimer's*  
Wednesday, December 7



## Write down these dates!!



### *Birthdays*

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Shirley Hutchinson | 4 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Rachel Hooper      | 5 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Beverly Lees       | 12 <sup>th</sup> |
| Ethel Armstrong    | 12 <sup>th</sup> |
| Austin Renaud      | 13 <sup>th</sup> |
| Mackenzie Renaud   | 13 <sup>th</sup> |
| Earle Watkins      | 17 <sup>th</sup> |
| Dennis Roy         | 20 <sup>th</sup> |
| Garcia Passley     | 20 <sup>th</sup> |
| Ann Deschamps      | 25 <sup>th</sup> |
| Sharon Willman     | 26 <sup>th</sup> |

# CELEBRATIONS

### *Anniversaries*

|                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Diane & Ron Sickles      | 8 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Darlene & Paul Sanderson | 18 <sup>th</sup> |



# For we are laborers together with God...(1 Corinthians 3:9)

## Lay Leaders

November 6 - Mattie Cummings  
November 13 - Pat Grogan  
November 20 - Bob L'Heureux  
November 27 - Barbara Crane



## Greeters

November 6 - Lee Cummings  
November 13 - Cathy Ten Eyck  
November 20 - Marjie Lowry  
November 27 - Beverly Lees

## Coffee Hour Hosts

November 6 -  
November 13 -  
November 20 -  
November 27 -



## Memorial Flowers

November 6 - Joyce Harrington  
November 13 - Lynn Webster  
Cheryl & Jim Holmes  
November 20 - Garcia Passley & John  
Williams  
November 27 -



## Deacons for November

Bob Farmer & Bob L'Heureux

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Monday                                                                                                                                           | Tuesday                                                                       | Wednesday | Thursday                                                                                   | Friday                                                                                                           | Saturday                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                  | 1<br>5:00 PM<br>Choir Rehearsal<br>6:00 PM<br>Diaconate Meeting               | 2         | 3<br>7:00 PM<br>Spiritual Study & Growth Group                                             | 4                                                                                                                | 5<br><br><i>Set Your Clocks Back 1 Hour</i>         |
| 6<br>10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal<br>11:00 AM Sunday School<br>11:00 AM Worship Service<br><i>Sacrament of Holy Communion</i><br>Coffee Hour following Worship Service                                                                                           | 7                                                                                                                                                | 8<br>5:00 PM<br>Choir Rehearsal<br>6:00 PM<br>Trustees Meeting                | 9         | 10<br>7:00 PM<br>Spiritual Study & Growth Group                                            | 11<br><br><i>Veterans Day</i> | 12                                                                                                                                     |
| 13<br>9:15 AM Adult Bible Study<br>10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal<br>11:00 AM Sunday School<br>11:00 AM Worship Service<br>Coffee Hour following Worship Service                                                                                                   | 14                                                                                                                                               | 15<br>5:00 PM<br>Choir Rehearsal<br>6:30 PM<br>Women's Fellowship             | 16        | 17<br>7:00 PM<br>Spiritual Study & Growth Group                                            | 18                                                                                                               | 19<br><br><i>Annual Pie Sale</i><br>8:30 AM – 12 PM |
| 20<br><b>STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY</b><br>&<br><b>THANKSGIVING SUNDAY</b><br>9:15 AM Adult Bible Study<br>10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal<br>11:00 AM Sunday School<br>11:00 AM Worship Service<br>Coffee Hour following Worship Service<br>*December Newsletter Deadline* | 21<br>2:30 PM<br>Spiritual Exploration Reading Group<br>7:30 PM<br><i>United Parishes Ecumenical "Service of Thanksgiving"</i><br>Pilgrim Church | 22                                                                            | 23        | 24<br> | 25                                                                                                               | 26                                                                                                                                     |
| 27<br><b>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b><br>9:15 AM Adult Bible Study<br>10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal<br>11:00 AM Sunday School<br>11:00 AM Worship Service<br>Coffee Hour following Worship Service                                                                  | 28<br>2:30 PM<br>Spiritual Exploration Reading Group                                                                                             | 29<br>5:00 PM<br>Choir Rehearsal<br>6:00 PM<br>Stewardship & Growth Committee | 30        | <b>November 2011</b><br><b>Missions -- World Vision</b>                                    |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                        |