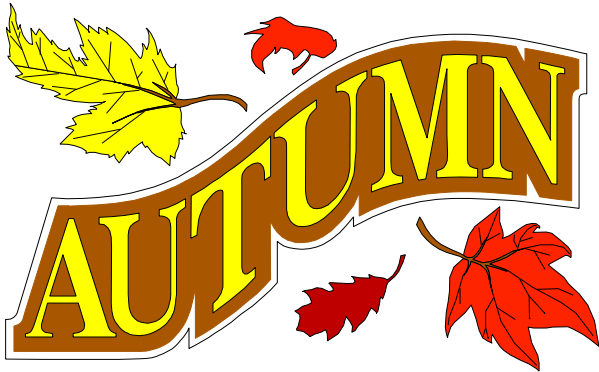


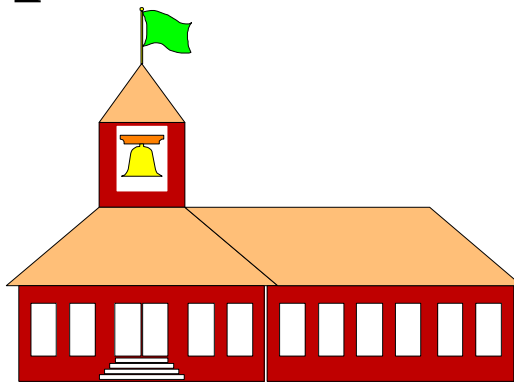
The Messenger-Sept. 2007

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
39 Exchange St
Milford, MA. 01757



THE MESSENGER

September 2007



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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September 2007

The Messenger

A word from the Pastor.....

One Thing To Seek & Ask For

One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the
days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the
Lord and to seek him in his temple.

Psalm 27:4

The phone rang one evening. At the other end of the line was the excited voice of a young woman. She said: “*I am....., I hope you remember me. I am now in Boston studying for my undergraduate degree. I remember my parents bringing my two sisters and me to the parsonage for ‘player meetings’ on Friday nights. We kids ‘played’ while you grown-ups ‘prayed’. I remember those times very fondly. We always looked forward to the cakes and goodies at the end. I learned back then that fellowship is very important to Christian growth.* She went on to tell me that she was a small group leader in the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship at the University, and she was hoping that she could bring her group to visit with us. We are the descendants of John Wesley - we are ‘going on to perfection! The Wesley brothers believed in ‘going on to perfection’ in our life- relationships, work, ministry and mission. Moving on to perfection does not happen automatically. Nurture, growth, accountability, uplifting fellowship and fun are the vehicles through which God works- in, and through us- ‘towards perfection’. Small groups in a congregation become the means of God’s grace to move us towards God’s perfection.

The writer in Psalm 27:4 captures a similar sentiment- ‘to dwell in the presence of the Lord’, ‘to gaze upon the Lord’ ‘to seek God’ and ‘gaze upon the beauty of the Lord’- is one thing to ‘ask of the Lord and seek after’. The beauty of the Lord reflected in us-moves us toward God’s perfection.

We have quite a number of small groups in our church family. May it be that each of us can find

an avenue for nurture, growth, accountability, fellowship and fun so that we can move on to God’s Perfection. Our warmest wishes and prayers will continue to be with all the students who will be away at school, especially the ‘first timers’. Have a great autumn season.

Pastor Dorothy

Sunday September 9!

Rally Sunday will have a new feature added this year; it includes a Reconsecration, Thanksgiving and Celebration of our renovated facilities- ‘exquisite siding work’ and ‘state of the art’ kitchen. We pray that these blessings will enhance our mission and ministry, and God will be glorified. Please invite family, friends and neighbors to this celebration. We have invited all the workers to this time of worship and celebration. It will be an opportunity to express our appreciation to them, as we give God the glory.

Small groups- Something for everyone

Disciple Bible Studies: Tuesdays at 7:30pm
Resumes on September 18.

Choir: Practice: Thursdays 7pm
Resumes on August 30

Tuesday Morning Bible Studies: 11 am;
Resumes on Tuesday, September 11.
We will be using The ‘Disciplines’ from the Upper Room. We will engage in an in-depth study of the assigned bible passages. Come learn and grow.

Sunday Morning Bible Study: 9am
Resumes on Sept. 16.

Seekers: a women’s study group
Resumes on Monday, Sept.17

Diners’ Club: share a meal and fellowship
Saturday Sept. 8

Christmas Fair Task Force: Meets on
Monday September 10 & 24

Focus Groups- Training event for hosts, recorders and facilitators will be held in the vestry on Saturday September 15.

Others: If you have a vision for a small group, there is always room for more.

Renovations

Cost of siding: Final figures.

The Chairperson of Board of Trustees, Mr. Dennis Kling, signed the contract on Tues., July 23, 07. This is the payment plan:

Total Cost: \$121,783.76 (One hundred twenty one thousand, seven hundred eighty three & 76/100 dollars)

Deposit paid: \$20,000 (twenty thousand dollars)

Remainder: \$101,783.76 dollars, one hundred one thousand seven hundred eighty three and 76/100 dollars will be paid on a monthly basis for 60 months at 6% APR, fixed.

Beginning August 1: Trustees pay \$ 1,967.77 (One thousand nine hundred sixty seven, and 77/100 dollars) to Royal Thermal View for 60 months.

Total cost of kitchen renovations - \$31,327

For their vision & tenacity, our vote of thanks goes to our Board of Trustees!

Dennis Kling, Ed Hollister, Dick LeBlanc, Scott Vanseth, Bryant Hopkins, Brad Lovell & Ernest Iacovelli

Anything worth doing, is worth doing well!

A Wish & a Prayer

I opened the suggestion box in the back of the sanctuary. There were 8 pieces of paper with suggestions on them. 2 were asking for us to work on the ‘praise & prayer time’ to make it more participatory for the congregation. 2 ask for more fundraisers & 4 were a request for a children’s choir. One read “The children will also like to sing in a choir just like the adults”. That broke my heart, so I took the papers and spread them before the Lord in prayer. I know God answers prayer. Let us pray together for this heart-felt wish by the children of the church.

Readers for September

Sept 2	John Beattie
Sept 9	Laurie Lovell
Sept 16	Barry Kutz
Sept 23	Donna Kling
Sept 30	Bill Eltzroth

Ushers for September

Sept 2	Dick and Jennie LeBlanc
Sept 9	Ruth O’Connor, Muriel Kearsley
Sept 16	Dennis Kling, Arthur Knust-Graichen
Sept 23	Edith Ashley, Karen Grand Pre`

Greeters & Coffee Hour Host



September

Birthdays

If your or your child’s birthday is not listed, please call the office so we can update our Birthday List. Thanks!

Sept 5 th	Paul Benson
Sept 12 th	Kathleen Vanseth
Sept 13 th	Joel Barbieri
	Stephanie Kling
	Marjorie Sugden
Sept 14 th	Alden Allen
	Christine DiAntonio
Sept 19 th	Cynthia Zerquera
Sept 22 ⁿ	Paul DiAntonio
	Gail Perry
Sept 23 rd	Lindsey Marts
Sept 24 th	Lorraine Fenton
Sept 25 th	William Eltzroth
Sept 26 th	Amy Nasalski
Sept 28 th	John Gilbertson
Sept 29 th	Lyn Lovell

Attention All Parents and Guardians

Is your young adult going off to college or serving in our Armed Forces?

We would like to keep in touch with the young adults of our Church family while they are away from home.

Once you know your child's college address or service address and/or e-mail, please forward it to me at jhollis509@comcast.net.

Fran Hollister – Higher Education

Calling All Women to Join Seekers

Seekers is a covenant group that meets regularly throughout the year **and is open to all women**. We extend our faith through our fellowship and discussions centered around literature. Each year we select readings that we hope will help us expand our understanding of today's world from a Christian perspective. We share the responsibilities of leading our meetings.

Our first meeting this year will be on Monday, September 17th at 7:15pm at Fran Hollister's house, 10 Nolan Ave., Milford. During our first meeting, we will spend timesharing as well as scheduling our next meetings. We try to be faithful to completing our meetings by 9:00pm.

For our first book, we have selected The Glass Castle by Jeanette Walls. Each person will be responsible for getting her own copy of this book. It is available on Amazon.com at a very reasonable cost.

If you have any questions about Seekers, please feel free to contact Donna Kling at 508-478-4088 or Fran Hollister at 508-478-8048. Enjoy your summer and please plan to join us this fall.

A Tisket. A Tasket, Please Help With a Christmas Fair Basket

You don't have to be creative to help with this project and no meetings are required.

The next time you are in Fellowship Hall, look for the Christmas Fair bulletin board. (You can't miss it!) Select a theme of your choice for a gift basket. Next step – collect items related to the theme, put them in a bag or box and label with basket theme.

You can drop off your items at the church office and the Christmas Fair elves will do the rest.

Donations Needed

Christmas Fair Elves need the following items for other projects:

- New Gold skeleton keys
- Clean, clear plastic 1 or 2 liter bottles
- Clear cellophane gift basket bags

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Just a reminder that your SPRC is there for YOU! If you have questions, concerns, suggestions for our church or any of the paid staff, please contact one of our members. If we don't know the answer for you, we'll help you find one.

Our members include Donna Kling, Gail Perry, Lisa Ruscitti, Cheryl Creber, Brian Richter, Denise Kennedy, and Laurie Lovell.

There will be a meeting of the SPRC on Sunday, September 16 at 11:30am.

Administrative Council

Our Administrative Council will be meeting **Sunday, September 30 at 11:30am.**

It is extremely important that chairpersons make sure that they or a representative from their committee is at this meeting. We will be making plans for the coming year, so bring your calendar, and dates and activities that relate to your committee.

Focus Groups

During October Our Next Step Leadership Team, with guidance from our consultant, Betsy Waters, will convene several Focus Groups with the intent that all in our congregation will have the opportunity to attend one of these groups. During these meetings each person will have the chance to express his/her thoughts about what they believe the vision should be for our church. From these meetings we will then be able to develop a living Vision Statement that will help us determine what we need to be doing.

Some people will be asked to help with these focus groups, by being either a host, a recorder, or a facilitator. There will be training for each of these responsibilities on Saturday, September 15 from 9:30 – 12:30pm at the church. Betsy Waters will provide the training so that all will understand what their jobs involve.

This is an important opportunity for each of us. We are all the church and we need to hear everyone's voice.

We will schedule the focus groups for a variety of times and will provide childcare for at least one of the group meetings. So be ready when you receive your invitation to join one of our focus groups.

Below is our current Mission Statement and as you can see it is very general and needs to be refined:

**The First United Methodist Church of Milford is a community of faith that will strive to:
Lead all to faith in God through Jesus Christ.**

Be a faithful community that embraces with love and compassion the diversity that encompasses all of God's children.

Serve others as Jesus did, in our community, in our nation, and in our world.

Pray regularly for God's will to be done here on Earth as it is in Heaven.

Be good stewards of our environment and all of God's creation.

Evening Service Task Force

At our June Administrative Council meeting, a task force was formed to support our Evening Service Program. If you are not familiar with our Evening Service, it is held one Sunday a month and is designed for those persons with special needs. We have some very faithful groups that look forward to this service each month.

We will be having the Task Force meeting on Tuesday, August 28 at 7:30pm at the church. Our Evening Service will resume in September.

If you would like to support this wonderful program, please join us at this meeting or contact the church office.

World Community Luncheon

Do you like to eat good food? Do you like to try new food? Would you like to travel around the world but don't have the time or money? Well then, plan to be in the Fellowship Hall after church service on October 7 and you will get good food, new food, and a "taste" of world travel. It's our Annual World Community Luncheon.

Each Church Committee will be preparing food from a different country. **Each committee should select a country and leave a message in the church office stating what country they will be doing.** We will contact you if there is a duplication.

Below are the committees and the countries that have already been selected:

- Higher Education & campus Ministry – Italy
- SPRC – Tahiti
- Trustees – Mexico
- Worship –
- Christian Education –
- Finance –
- Outreach -