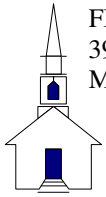


The Messenger-October 2007

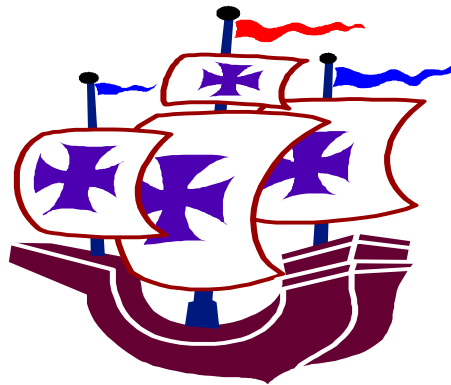


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
39 Exchange St
Milford, MA. 01757



THE MESSENGER

October 2007



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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The Rev. Dorothy Asare, Pastor
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The Messenger

From the Pastor

What are you expecting from the Lord?

You who call on the Lord, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem. And makes her the praise of the earth. Isaiah 62:6b-7

Great expectations are wonderful, for they foster hope and make us poised for action. At the end of August, I was away on a retreat in the idyllic setting of Geneva Point, New Hampshire. Geneva Point is on beautiful Lake Winnepesaukee. The cottage I lived in overlooked the lake, flanked by the forest and the mountains, the surroundings were awe-inspiring. I was woken from my sleep at 3:30 am one morning, with my cell phone ringing. I jumped up, fumbled for my cell phone, and excitedly said: "Hello Ohene." Then I realized the caller had the wrong number, some technical support person was calling from India. You see, My son Ohene and his wife were expecting our first grandchild at the time. The baby was due anytime then. I was expecting a phone call with the great news, and that shaped my response and reaction to that phone call.

The prophet Isaiah tells us- the people of God- to have an expectation and call on the Lord until that expectation comes to pass. What are some of our expectations; what do we want the Lord to do in our lives, in our families, in our church family, and in our world? There are changes in the air, the leaves are taking on beautiful fall colors and the air is getting cooler. Let us have great expectations as we cooperate with God to establish our labor of love.

I wish you God's blessing.

Pastor Dorothy

Congratulations to Jane Anne Riegel and John Jairo Riuz Pineda. They wedded each other on Saturday, September 22 at Milford FUMC. May the Lord establish their home, bless them and continue to make them a blessing.

Small groups- Something for everyone

Disciple Bible Studies: Tuesdays at 7:30pm

Choir: Practice on Thursdays 7:30 pm

Tuesday Morning Bible Studies: at 11 am;

Sunday Morning Bible Study: 9am.

Seekers: a women's study group

Diners' Club: share a meal and fellowship; 2nd Saturday of the month.

Christmas Fair Task Force: Meets on 1st & 3rd Monday of the month

Focus Groups- in different homes to hammer our mission and vision.

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

Readers for October

Oct. 7	Laurie Lovell
Oct. 14	Gail Perry
Oct. 21	Fran Hollister
Oct. 28	Teresa Creber

Ushers for October

Oct. 7	Teresa Creber, Cyndee McGovern
Oct. 14	Elaine Quinn, Betty Milo
Oct. 21	Fred Sprague, John Beattie
Oct. 28	Paula Malnati, Ruth O'Connor

Coffee Hour Host and Greeter

Milo Family



October Birthdays

Oct. 4 th	Tara-Lyn Barbieri
Oct. 5 th	Brian Ahronian
Oct. 7 th	Linsey Levandowski
Oct. 8 th	Garth Creber
Oct. 15 th	Cheryl Creber Ray Conklin
Oct. 18 th	Jane Benson Jane Riegel
Oct. 19 th	Jeanne Terrell
Oct. 21 st	Winthrop Dickinson Pam Rao
Oct. 26 th	Chris Terrell Katarina Whitney
Oct. 29	Susan Levandowski
Oct. 30 th	Melissa Hastings Adam Salter Edith Ashley
Oct. 31 st	Andrew Chu

Seekers

Hi!

It was great to see everyone on Monday. For those who were unable to attend, below are the dates until the end of 2007.

Book: "The Glass Castle" by Jeannette Walls
October 15 pages 1-110
November 5 pages 111-192
November 26 pages 192 to end

CHRISTMAS DINNER December 17
(remember the ornament exchange)

See you soon
Fran

Sunday School

Our Sunday School year started off with lots of smiling faces (and some new ones too!) filling the Sunday School rooms!! It's amazing how some grow so much over the summer months!

With the start of a new Sunday school year, as usual, we will begin our UNICEF projects. The children will learn what just a few pennies can do for needy children and adults in our world. They will be trick or treating for UNICEF during church school time and they will have a cider and donut sale. Please help support the children on this project.

As always, we have a wonderful caring group of dedicated teachers who willingly share their time, talents, smiles and faith with our children. Please give them support in whatever way you are able.

Also, please feel free to come and visit the Sunday School rooms. The elementary class does lots of hands on projects that are displayed, and they would love for you to see them.

As with any job, more hands make the work lighter, so if you have a Sunday or two (or more) you would like to help out with the Sunday School, we would love to have you.

Lisa Ruscitti 508 473-4194

Focus Groups

Our Next Step Leadership group is organizing Focus Groups to meet during October. Our hope is that everyone in our church will attend just one focus group meeting. This will be a meeting that will give people the opportunity to respond to specific questions (see below) that will help us define what we want our church to be and how to achieve that.

Everyone's opinion is IMPORTANT and that is why we need YOU! Our hosts will be calling you with an invitation to join a focus group. The commitment is to just attend ONE gathering and spend some time with your church family. So please be ready to say, "Yes, I will be there."

The questions that will be asked at each focus group are:

- 1) What activity or aspect of your church participation is particularly meaningful or spiritually life giving? Give an example. *What could be added to our church life that would be important for you?*
- 2) What do you think God's intention is for the church? What does God want us to achieve/be?
- 3) Who are the people with whom we seek to be in this ministry and what needs are we trying to meet? Who are we called to be in ministry with? *Are there people who aren't here that we may be called to serve?*
- 4) Consider the responses, make a list of points of agreement and points that need further dialogue, or points that we do not want to lose.

World Communion Luncheon

Get ready for delicious food from around the world. On World Communion Sunday, October 7, our church will celebrate with foods from around the world. Our committees will be providing food from:

Trustees – Mexico
Higher Education – Italy
Christian Education – Columbia
SPRC – Tahiti
Finance – USA
Outreach – Portugal
Worship - Holland
Senior High SS – China

ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18.

The annual charge conference will be held on Sunday, November 18. The District Superintendent will meet with the Staff-Parish-Relations Committee at 9:00 am, and the charge conference will immediately follow our worship service. Reports of chairpersons of committees are due in the church office by Sunday, Nov. 4. Please take note and make sure we have your reports.

CHRISTMAS FAIR Saturday, December 1 – 9:00 am

The Christmas Fair Task Force has been working hard; we trust that you also have been working hard making awesome items for our Christmas Fair. The task Force meets in the Wesley House on Mondays Oct. 1, 15, 29 at 7:30 pm. Please come for fun, creativity and fellowship.

