First Church CONGREGATIONAL Boxford

News from the Pews

May 2016

We thought Spring had arrived in our April News from the Pews but winter snow did not want to hand over to spring flowers so easily this year. But the azaleas popped open and we are enjoying the view. Special thanks to Fran Roach who dusted off his shovel and went to work clearing the entryways to FCCB. We hope that News From the Pews will update you on FCCB ac vi es you may have missed, as well as alert you to upcoming events that you will not want to miss in May.

WOW

Its World Outreach Week and Thursday is Na onal Day of Prayer as we kick off the month of May. Special thanks to Eva Jeppesen for pu ng her ar s c skills to use in depic ng our theme this year...A Sampling of Na ons. Check out our WOW program for this year.

Included in this year's WOW is the Na onal Day of Prayer. Sign up for a half hour of prayer if you haven't already done so. It is a marvelous feeling when we cover twenty four hours in concentrated prayer. We have a few half hour slots s ll open. Just pop into the Coggin Room and add your name to the list to pray, so we can have a round the clock prayer effort to our Lord who graciously hears us. There are a couple of guides at the back of the church that will help you work through your me and I have a ached them here as well - Outreach Prayer Guide and FCCB's Na onal Day of Prayer Guide.

Looking back at April...

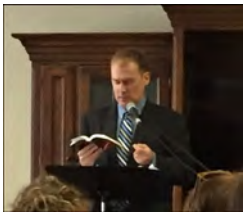
YARD SALE SUCCESS

April got off to a marvelous start with our Youth Yard Sale. Mike Haddad provided leadership and many hands provided support that allowed us to raise nearly $2500 toward the Dominican Republic mission trip in July. Thank you, thank you to all who donated and those who purchased items at the sale. Thanks to the ladies, captained by Doffy, who baked wonderful treats for sale. I understand Elisabeth Meyers special treats were gone in minutes! It also proved to be a great day in the life of the church as we met many new people in a casual, fun filled manner. Please keep the youth's planned mission trip in your prayers.

TEN NEW MEMBERS, PLUS ONE!

What a privilege to add to our membership list on April 3. Winter returned with some snow but we were warmed by the smiling faces of those who joined us: Glenn and Anmarie Cote, Alan and Cathy Huppe, Becky James, Kim Mahady, Emmanuel and Grace Muhammed, Brooks and Max Robinson. Praise God for those commi ed to being a blessing to our body. A week later, Todd Mazzeo was installed, as well. Praise God for each and every one!

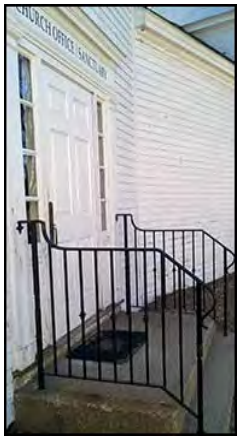
HEBREWS



Pastor Andrew has done a wonderful job of keeping Hebrews rela ve to our lives and deepening our faith. It has been a great experience as this sermon series plays out. Thank you, Pastor!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry con nues their work and reaching out to support those in need. How nice to see Ann Johnson back from recent surgery to lead her team. The several weeks Ann was missing just did not seem the same at First Church, as she is always serving us in a mul tude of ways.



GENEROSITY

Have you no ced the beau ful new wrought iron railings at the entrance to the office from the parking lot/FLC side. Wayne Graham no ced the need and created the beau ful addi on. They are swept to provide a par cular a rac ve se ng. Please thank Wayne when you see him. Rick Haywood is happy as he just crossed another need from his long list without breaking a sweat. Many thanks for blessing us, Wayne.

PCC BABY BOTTLES

Your generosity comes through once more as evidenced by our Baby Bo le results for Pregnancy Care Center. Over $900 was given to the center from FCCB and our February drive. This is the largest total in several years. Thanks to our members who volunteer for this organiza on, as well. Con nue to keep PCC in your prayers.

FOOD PANTRY

Hats off to Boy Scout Troop 57 with their food drive that benefited our Food Pantry. The boys really had a successful drive and the Food Pantry was overwhelmed. Thanks to a team of First Church men and youths who helped Leslie Olson si through all the dona ons and get everything shelved. Our Food Pantry has become quite a part of the Boxford community, as well as surrounding towns.

SPRING YARD WORK

Thanks to Tim and Debbie Staub for organizing a cleanup party the same morning of the Food Pantry ac vity. Fallen trees and branches were cut and burned. Thanks again to all who served. April 9 was a very busy Saturday at FCCB. Now, we need you for our Annual Spring Cleanup, this Saturday, April 30! It's me to Rake, Rake, Rake. Bring rakes, tarps, leaf blowers, gloves and other helpful tools

and if you have a trailer or truck, drive it on over. Any ques ons contact Tim Staub.

EMMANUEL GOSPEL CENTER

What a wonderful visit on April 10 with Rev. Dr. Gregg Detwiler, Pastor Torli Krua and Kadija as they shared their stories of redemp on from wars in Africa. It was a very special coffee hour to set the scene for WOW. Thank you, Michelle Robinson and the M&O team. Pastor Krua will be our featured speaker May 8 as we cap off our WOWeek.

AND MORE...

Becky's Baby Shower was held on April 17 and it was a wonderful celebra on of the impending addi on to the James household. Lots of help from Gail Wayne and Chelsea Wood was appreciated.

The Robinson's hosted an opportunity for young adults to gather in fellowship, as one more small group has been encouraged and established. Over twenty answered the call and plans are underway for future gatherings in May and June. Soon college students will be joining the group for the summer months.

The Clay's hosted an informal dinner party on their deck last Saturday to help us all get to know our new members. It was a terrific evening of fun and fellowship for all, with wonderful food, a fire pit, trampoline, yard games and warm conversa ons.

Play Dates for li le ones have become a new tradi on at FLC with the most recent one on April 21. Mike Haddad played frisbee with some of the kids as it was a beau ful day outside.

Pastor Andrew celebrates his birthday in May so the staff got together at his favorite restaurant (aka Wendy's) for an early birthday bash. Gino, one of the Wendy's staff wanted to get in on the fun! Happy birthday Andrew!

MEN'S BREAKFAST

What a treat to have Kris Mineau join us for our April gathering. Kris is not only commi ed but possesses infec ous enthusiasm for the Lord. Kris told his amazing story of being jet fighter pilot who ejected during a supersonic flight over England and the long recovery that followed. His experiences led to a deeper faith and a true commitment to the Lord in many phases of his life ever since. Thanks to Taylor Robinson for introducing Kris to FCCB.

FIRST LADY OF FCCB

Mona Kuczun was truly the backbone of our church body, with dedica on beyond words for decades. For more than 60 years she toiled to make us a dedicated body, feel loved uncondi onally and encouraged in the work of the Lord. We will miss her warm smile, her posi ve comments and godly wisdom. A wonderful memorial service took place on April 22, as everyone had opportunity to pay respects to the family and to remember this marvelous saint. It seemed to be exactly what Mona would have arranged. Thanks to all who helped make the colla on a warm event a er the service. Please keep all the Kuczun family in prayer as they grieve

their loss, knowing that Mona is with her Savior.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA GREAT BANQUET 57 and 58

David Allen, David Wages, John Noyes, Ron Giovannacci and Paul Parisi were among the men a ending the very special retreat in Vienna, Virginia the weekend of April 22. A week later, Cathy Huppe, Lois Frasier and Tanya Duncan will be par cipa ng this weekend in the women's version. Ask them about their experiences! How nice that Moderator Ian Fitch and Elder Don Wood were able to serve on the host commi ee for the men's retreat. Way to serve, gentlemen! Pray that soon we can host our own Great Banquet.

MEMORIAL WEEKEND TRADITIONAL JOINT SUNDAY SERVICE

On the Sunday of Memorial Weekend, we join with our friends from Second Congrega onal church for a joint service, also honoring our US Military Veterans. Special ceremonies will not only be part of the service, but also a er service. A special treat is always Benson's ice cream and Mama Meyer's brownies. Look for details in the bulle n.

MEN'S WEEKLY LUNCH

Men, if we haven't seen you of late, come on down to the weeklyTuesday lunch at Rowley Pancake House. It is always a good take, and on May 3 we will have a very special tes mony from a brother represen ng New Brothers' Fellowship. Do not miss this special WOW luncheon!

PRAYERS

Praises for all the blessings to our congrega on as we grow!
Praises for Northern Virginia Great Banquets # 57 and 58.
Keep the Kuczun family in prayer as we all miss Mona!
Pray for Pastor Larry Schell and family for a swi recovery.
Pray for the those in Ecuador and Japan impacted by the earthquakes.(I served in the coastal area of Ecuador four years ago with E 3 Partners and that area has suffered before from similar disasters.)
Pray for the refugee situa on.
Pray for the James family and the new baby to come!
See you at Na onal Day of Prayer on May 5!!!!

Blessings to all,

Rick

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. II Cor. 13:14

STAY CONNECTED

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