



## *Its Sum-muh!*



We've had a wonderful early portion of the year with fellowship, special events and lively times together. It seems like we've had more good tidings to share each month, and we are grateful for your positive feedback. Before we take a summer break with News From the Pews, let's review another blessed month at FCCB.



### **JULIETTE REBECCA ARRIVES, MAY 10, 2016**

The biggest news at First Church for May was the arrival of an 11 pound, 3 ounce beautiful baby girl at the James home. Congratulations to all! Welcome to the FCCB Family!



**SPRING CLEANUP** - Tim Staub mustered up the entire crew for a most productive operation and the grounds are in much better shape as a result. Marilyn Orth keeps the flowers fresh in front of the sanctuary entrance (our first photo above - beautiful, Marilyn), so please thank Marilyn next time you see her. Fran Roach and Bill Meyer can be found around the

grounds on any given day. Elder of Facilities, Rick Haywood, tells me that the completion of the outside painting of the sanctuary will begin very soon. A big thank you to all who help keep us ship-shape! A cleaning service has been contracted to keep the sanctuary and CE wing spiffy.

## **WOW**

What a kickoff to another great WOW to warm us up for summer. The little ones carrying the flags on May first reminded us that it never too young for us all to be introduced to missions. How about our elementary students singing "Hallelujah," with hand signs no less? They were a hit!



Thanks to Patty Chick and Mike Haddad, and helpers, for the preparation. Coffee hour featured Renee, young lady from China who Elder Paul Sidmore met over twelve years ago during one of his trips to the country he loves. With Paul's influence, she came here to study at Gordon College, converted to Christianity, and remained here as a teacher. Her testimony was just right for World Outreach Week.

## **MEN'S LUNCH - WOW**

Pastor Rolan introduced us to a couple from Chelmsford Street Baptist Church who recently served an E 3 Partners short term mission in Tanzania. Bill and Debbie provided a wonderful testimony of their eleven days, living in tents and sharing the Gospel among tribal natives in a very rural, arid area. They shared photos and touching stories of their trip that resulted in over 500 professions of faith.

## **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**

You answered the call to join those Christians around the country in prayer for a vigil of 24 hours, another aspect of WOW. Many thanks to those who organized, including Jim Houreas and Phil Chick. We virtually covered the entire 24 hour clock so your roles were critical. Pastor Andrew was so impressed he is considering trying more of these concentrated prayer times as we move forward.



**ALISON GILL** - What a nice surprise on Sunday, May 8, to have Alison with us for Children's Message, hosted by Paul and Marcia Sidmore. Thanks to our talented AV/Technology team, Alison joined us by Skype from India. To be part of the conversation was a thrill, and an historic moment for FCCB.

**WOW WINDUP** - Pastor Torli Kura (from Emmanuel Gospel Center, a local mission FCCB has supported for many years) shared "Gifts of Miracles" using Genesis 18 as text, and very cleverly weaving a Mother's Day theme, as well. His own experiences of survival during an African civil war made for an exciting true life drama with lessons for all of us. For Mothers' Day recognition, all women of the church were given book marks.



### **TRANSFORMATION - INSIDE AND OUT**

[Dan Frasier](#) has given us some important words on FCCB's buildings and grounds, how they are a visible testimony to our growth and dedication. Painting progress, landscaping and courtyard appearance are among the updates which we will be hearing more about. We'll be talking more about what this means for FCCB tonight at Gerri White's home (37 Chapman Rd, Boxford). We'll have more opportunities this summer and we'll keep you posted. Make sure you attend one of the meetings and give your input as well as ask any and all questions.



### **TIMBER!!!**

And speaking of transformation here at FCCB, we had a falling out with a dead tree hanging over our carriage house and it had to go. Rick Haywood, elder of facilities and Bill Meyer watched the proceedings, but we didn't want you to miss out. So if you like a little noise/action, [click here!](#)

### **CHOIR PARTY**

The choir enjoyed their annual cookout party prior to summer break at Four Mile in the community center. Here's James Cassell, our fearless leader, praying with Doffy, thanking God for all her ministry in the choir. He, with Abby at his side, are so gracious in sharing their immense gifts. There will be music throughout the summer, with special talents on



debted to our choir and our praise band for their consistently fine performances throughout the year. Whenever we have visitors, one of the compliments we often receive relates to our musical gifts.



### **WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS**

On Wednesday, May 25 we had our last Wednesday evening meal for the season. Pictured here are just a few of the key contributors to the festivities. We are grateful to the Haywoods and their leadership and hard work. Doug Bartlett lends his talented gifts to the biweekly event as well. Many others, including the Community of Care team, help to make these evenings full of fun, food and fellowship.



### **MEMORIAL SUNDAY, MAY 29**

Our tradition of joint services with Second Church on the Sunday of Memorial Weekend, paying tribute to our veterans, past and present, took place at First Church this year. Ceremonies after the service were performed by the local American Legion. Plus, Elisabeth Meyer's brownies and Benson's ice cream continued as an important part of our tradition. The message of the morning was given by Rev. Laura Biddle, who is pastor at Second Congregational while Laura Gronberg is on a sabbatical.

## VBS

It's time to register, and we have a [live link](#) on our website. So invite your friends, your family to bring the kiddies to an amazing week of summer fun all centered in Jesus and his amazing love. If you'd like to help, see Kerry Langlois or Beth Santarpio.



## AND MORE...

**Have a great summer Mark** - Mark Hertenstein has served us well as an intern from GCTS this past year. He not only worked with our youth group but was also a contributor to the Adult Sunday School classes. Mark is returning home to Alabama for the summer to serve an intern role in his home church. We look forward to seeing Mark come Fall. Keep Mark in your prayers, please?

**Congratulations to Andy and Liz** - On May 14, Andy and Liz Minich were joined as husband and wife at First Church. We wish the lovely couple a blessed future together.

**Peter Kaiter** - Keep Peter and June in your prayers as he begins healing after surgery last month.

**Young Adults** - Our young adult group had another time of fellowship hosted by the Robinson's this month. This group is beginning to flourish and will become more populated as college students return for summer and future outings. Thanks to Taylor and Michelle for being such good hosts.

**Time and Talents** surveys were received from many of you. Our Community of Care is getting to know how you might like to serve at FCCB and, even more importantly, what your gifts God has given you. If you did not receive or complete a survey, or you have more questions, see Elder John Noyes.

**Women's Connection** is taking off at FCCB with their second time of fellowship May 13. Be praying for this wonderful ministry.



**Lee Truax** and his parents, from Leominster, MA visited on May 15. Lee came all the way from Tennessee to see his former associate, Pastor Andrew. His comments concerning evangelism in the workplace provided a challenge for all of us. Lee is President of Christian Business Men Connection in Chattanooga.

**Testimonies** have been refreshing to hear from FCCBers on Sunday mornings. This month, sixty year member Loren Wood talked with us May 22 on how the Holy Spirit had been with him in a variety of situations, including some harrowing mountain climbing adventures. Loren continues to serve in a number of ways at FCCB, most notably as one of our senior choir members.

### **PRAYERS**

We were saddened to learn of the passing of **Marcy Thompson**, who served First Church and Boxford Academy faithfully for many years. Keep Bob and the Miles family in prayer as they mourn her loss.

**Pray** for the Youth Mission Trip to Dominican Republic, July 8 to 16.

**Pray** for VBS from August 1 through 5. Keep leaders, Kerrie Langlois and Beth Santarpio in prayer.

**Pray** for the Haddad family and a safe, comfortable pregnancy for Norma.

### **JUNE EVENTS**

We're looking forward to our Children/Youth Sunday on June 12 followed by our traditional picnic. By the way, we're going to continue our Children's Church this summer. It's a great way to support our young families and help grow our children in the Lord. We have a wonderful lineup of teachers, but are in **need of assistants**. No teaching or preparation is involved, just your time in the classroom, supporting the teacher and students during this sermon-time activity. If you could help for two or even just one Sunday during the summer, please contact [Patty Chick](#) by email or give her a call at 978-887-2409. Thank you!

On June 14, at 6:30 PM there will be a special End of School Year Bash, featuring live entertainment. **Bryson Lang** (I hear he is a hoot!) will be featured in the FLC, all are welcome! Here are a [few testimonials](#). Plan to invite your friends as well. There are info cards at the back of the church, so pick one up

On June 16, Andrew Briggs will be with us presenting **Loving Neighbors in a Global Community**. Come hear his amazing vision. To learn more about his ministry, here's his website [Freedom in Creation](#). Again, we have more

information at the back of the church. Pick up a couple of cards and use them to invite your friends.

Sunday morning services will remain at 10:30 AM throughout the summer.

**Remember to keep your pledges and tithes up to date during the months ahead!!!!** May you all have a blessed, enjoyable summer,

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*

