



September 2017



A Marvelous Summer and a Full Fall at FCCB!

Transformation!

Landscaping work continues on our Georgetown Road side of the sanctuary with new plantings and a brick walk...lovely! Here's an update from Elder Dan Frasier on what's up with our Transformation.

- Relocated New Hope Tutorials from the FLC to the Christian Education Wing
- Got approval from Historic Commission to install a new door and side walk to the CE Wing.
- Excavated Georgetown Rd. side of church to divert water infiltration.
- Landscaped the front of the Church and removed over 15 dead or threatening trees including stump grinding.
- Cleaned out Danger Room, disposing more than 50% of its contents.
- Dehumidified Vestry.
- Installed new railings in courtyard and food pantry.
- Cleaned out Vestry kitchen and polished vestry floors, kitchen and main room.
- Moved youth room to the new location in the vestry.



WOW! So much going on! Please pray about your giving to our Transformation efforts as we long for our facilities to be a place where God can minister to us and the community. An easy and safe way is via [our website!](#)

Yard Sale a Success



Thanks to **Beth Santarpio, Anmarie Cote** and others, nearly \$2000 was raised toward new playground upgrades and additions. Many of you played a role and a thank you via email went out to everyone.

Youth Sunday



A beautiful summer day added to our cookout to celebrate Youth Sunday in mid June. **Brendan Wages** opened our service and our youngsters sang praise songs learned in Children's Church. We particularly thanked Children's Church leaders, **Leslie Van Volkinburg** and **Patty Chick**, who were presented lovely plants by **Elder Gerri White**. **Emili Van Volkinburg** performed a beautiful violin

solo and was interviewed by Elder Dave Allen after she graduated from Masconomet Regional High. Emili is off to UMass-Amherst this fall. Thanks to everyone who made it such a memorable day.

A Sad Season

Our church family suffered from losses of two gentlemen who contributed much to our body over the years. First we bid farewell to Scott Winslow at a memorial service on June 10, including a tremendous turnout of friends and family, many from far away. His children gave us more insight into who Scott was, not only as a loving father, but someone who had passion for all, including animals of all kinds. His profound leadership and love of the Lord will be missed at First Church. We remain in prayer for Scott's family and friends.

Only weeks later we celebrated the life of Loren Wood at his memorial service. Loren was an imposing figure in our midst for more than forty years, most prominent for his vocal contributions with the choir, including occasional, strong, solo performances. The choir, including some former members, was pleased to perform as a tribute to their former stalwart and friend. Loren, not only had strong spiritual beliefs, but also enjoyed a special relationship with God's creations and local history. As evidence of his deep beliefs he authored a book that confirmed his strong connection and love for the beauty that surrounded his life.

North Shore Gospel Partnership Prayer Night



We gathered for prayer with a number of local churches on June 8, a highlight of our FCCB year. North Shore Gospel Partnership includes seven area churches of different denominations with a common mission to provide leadership development, prayer and the starting and strengthening of local churches. The evening provided the prayer, discipleship and shepherding our elders have been promoting. We look forward to more times of fellowship with other congregations in our common purpose.

A Shell Cross

On June 7, the Kaiter's hung the beautiful, handmade shell cross in our Missions and Outreach Room (#22.) June created this wonderful piece, and Peter helped with framing and hanging. Elder Paul Sidmore offers use of the room for individual, or small group prayer opportunities. The setting, now including this marvelous addition, and is perfect for going before the Lord in meditation and supplication.



Great Banquet

Northern Virginia Great Banquet is a retreat that has had positive spiritual influence on our men and women who have participated and have met through the summer. The goal is to hold our own retreat, one for men and one for women, within the next eighteen months. If you have any questions, contact Michelle Robinson, our Great Banquet coordinator. Retreats continue to be held in Vienna, VA, including one in November, with a number of FCCBers inline to participate. Interested? Contact [Michelle](#), or [Pastor Andrew](#).

Kunkel Piano Dedication

Earlier this year, a beautiful Falcone piano was given to First Church by Gary and Doris Kunkel, and placed in the Coggin Room via Gini Havey's great planning. The lovely, valuable instrument will be used for services and choir



practice. Minister of Music, James Cassell, led a concert on June 25 to dedicate the piano. A number of FCCB pianists (Myra Denton, Gerri White, Becky James with Abby Cassell, and James Cassell) performed beautifully. As well, James reviewed the rich history of Falcone Pianos in Haverhill. Thanks to our dear friends, the Kunkels (now permanent residents of Florida) who were members of the choir for many years, for their generosity. And thanks to Helen Wallace for her donation of a new custom fit cover to protect this beautiful instrument.

Discipleship



A few days later, Ernie Turax of CBMC led an evening of instruction and discussion on discipleship, a full scale workshop, providing clear details and proven materials to help us in our Christian walk. Our attendees were very attentive!

Associate Pastor Tom Fagan

Our search team worked diligently into the summer in pursuit of a new member of our leadership team and reached a successful conclusion with the calling of Tom Fagan. Tom is a Gordon College grad, recently receiving his Masters of Divinity from GCTS. With some recent experience at Free Christian Church, he comes with a terrific background. He will be married in October to Kori Dean, also a Connecticut native.



Join us on **September 6 at 6:00 pm** for a Meet and Greet with Tom (pizza included!) in the FLC.

Summer in the Pulpit

On the Sunday of July 4th Weekend, we had the privilege of hearing **Elder Dan Frasier** bring a sermon from James 1 on perseverance and how it strengthens our faith. How blessed we are as a church family to have lay people who understand God's word and are willing to share their knowledge for our edification. Then August 6, **Pastor Rolan DeLoach** shared from the pulpit. He has completed his valuable service at Middleton Congregational, and it was a delight to hear him again. His message fit well with our opportunity to join in the Lord's Supper.

Weekly Prayer Night

A very popular move back to Wednesday night for weekly prayer started in mid July. Please join **Elizabeth Kuczun** at 7:00 pm in the Coggin Room for a season of weekly prayer and supplication. The meetings are especially refreshing and spirit filled. We would love to have you join us in prayer to our heavenly Father. As we settle into the Fall season, be sure and mark your calendars for

Wednesday Night Prayer!

Summer for our Youth

A number of our youth attended Camp Berea in early August. **Chelsea Wood** was a participant in this year's COMPASS, headed by Bryn Clark, son of Steve and Christina. This marvelous experience included outward bound activities, intensive Bible study, witnessing, team building and a foreign mission program in Iceland. **Brendan Wages** spent nearly two weeks this summer in boot camp at Ft. Devens as a US Navy Sea Cadet. What a great opportunity to learn basic military skills, gain confidence and serve our country. We are proud of your service, Brendan!

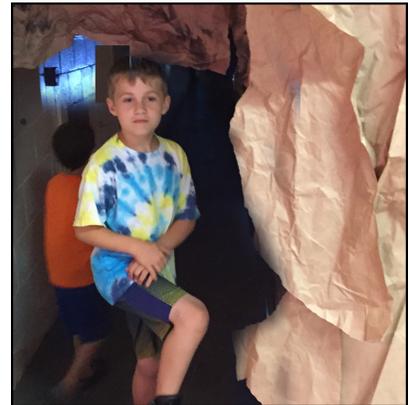
CCCC Annual Conference

Pastor Andrew was joined by Paul and Marcia Sidmore at the CCCC Annual Family Conference in Pittsburgh in July. They concurred it was a blessed and information filled gathering. An added treat was to be joined by Mike and Norma Haddad plus kiddies. The Haddad's are doing well as they minister in Derby, Vermont. We remember them with great fondness!



VBS

With our youth at Camp Berea and many of our adult volunteers committed, VBS leaders came up with an alternative plan. Rather than five successive days of lessons and fun, they opted for five Sundays in August worked well. The amazing group of volunteers created a marvelous "cave" in the vestry. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped coordinate, teach and serve. **Beth Santarpio** did an impressive job of leading and coordinating, assisted by her trusted aide, **Anmarie Cote**. We welcomed new children, as well as parents, who attended FCCB for the first time. We are truly blessed to have such creativity and commitment!

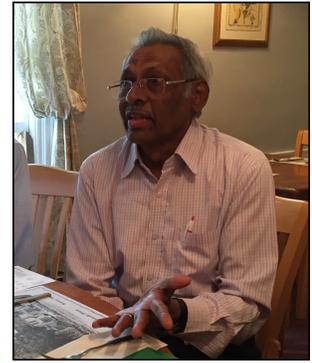


Men's Lunch

The popular men's group met over the summer, including birthday celebrations on August 1. **Spencer Campbell**, a regular attendee, turned



99! Praise God for his long life! Then last Tuesday we heard from Clement K, with his ministry in India. We continue our Men's Lunch in the Fall, Tuesdays at 12:15, Rowley Pancake House. All men are welcome for fun and fellowship!



Dr. Emmanuel and Grace Muhammed

What a joy to see the Muhammed's in August after a successful mission trip to their native Nigeria. They have much to share on this critical area of the world where God is clearly working. Look for an update from them soon!

Summer Slump

It is not unusual for many churches to have a slight down tick in gifts and pledges during summer months. We have experienced one of those "Summer Slumps" and Elder Don Wood is asking for our help to get us back on track. As we entered August we were nearly \$30,000 behind our budget year to date. The best way to give is [online](#)...it's safe and convenient.

And now for the Fall here at FCCB

Back to the Sanctuary

Starting September 10, we are back in our sanctuary after a summer in the cool FLC. Sunday School starts as well (9:00 am in the Coggin Room), with an emphasis on prayer. Set your alarm and "come on down!"



Operation Christmas Child is coming up in September-October. Last year we filled shoe boxes for children around the world, but unfortunately got off to late start. Chair Sue Slocum asks that we have the boxes filled and ready to go by October.

Have you and your family shop for appropriate shoe box contents ([click here for a listing](#)) that will help bring joy to a child who might not otherwise celebrate Christ's birth. Samaritan's Purse sponsors this outreach serving millions of children each year. Questions should be directed to Sue, or to Leslie Van Volkenburg! A good way to get into the holiday spirit early!

Apple Festival Ministry

This year we are taking a new approach to the Apple Festival. We'd love your help with this outreach

ministry! Here are some areas in which you could volunteer...

Parking Attendants

Tent Volunteers

Tour Guides

FLC Monitors

Contact [Pastor Andrew](#) to "sign up".



Our Ministry to Children



We love our children here at First Church. Our Children's Ministry leadership (above you'll see David Allen - CE Elder, Tom Fagan - Associate Pastor, Beth Santarpio, AnMarie Cote, Leslie Van Volkinburg and Patty Chick) met and have our kid's schedule ready for parents, starting September 10th. This includes nursery, Children's Church and Children's Sunday School. [Click here for the details!](#)



And speaking of kids, we will be hosting an every other week MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) Friday mornings starting late September. If you would like to join, or help, see [Pastor Andrew!](#)

Mission and Outreach

The Clements will be with us this Sunday at 9:00 am before worship, sharing about their ministry in India. **Alison Gill**, another of our ministry partners, also serving in India, will be with us Sunday, September 10, in our service as well as sharing more of her ministry after the service in the Coggin Room so plan to stay!

Refreshed and Ready - Sunday, September 10

We'll kick off our Fall Season with our traditional BBQ after church. This year our great Grill Masters are firing up the grill cooking hamburgers and hot dogs. We are asking for donations of salads and desserts



to accompany the hamburgers and hot dogs. Please contact [Jo Noyes](mailto:Jo.Noyes@fccc.org) (978-887-9742) or [Ann Johnson](mailto:Ann.Johnson@fccc.org) at(978-887-8478), as soon as you can so that they can keep track of what is being donated.

Apple Festival Team

The Boxford Apple Festival, held on the third Saturday in September is a nice community gathering signifying Fall is here. Interested in helping on our "Boxford Apple Festival Outreach Team" ? We are strategizing and praying for connections this year at this year's Festival (Saturday, September 16.) Some needs are parking attendants, handing out water and just being available. See Pastor Andrew for more. Volunteers are always needed to help us provide visibility and warmth. Look for more details on how you can help!

Topsfield Fair



Some of our newer attendees may not be aware of a long FCCB tradition of offering services on the Sunday mornings of the local Topsfield Fair. Look for more information in the next few weeks!

Prayer List

Praises for **Chelsea Wood** and her marvelous COMPASS experience this summer. Praises for all our youth who are returning to college. May they be safe and continue a godly walk.

Praises for our **new Associate Pastor** Tom and his future bride, Kori. October 14 is their special day!

Praises for a blessed **VBS** and terrific leadership.

Praises and congratulations for **Mark Hertenstein**, first on his marriage to Susannah Walden, as well as his recent calling to the staff of a church in Fredricksburg, VA. We will miss Mark's smile and peaceful manner.

Praises for the marriage of **Stephanie Robinson Wilbur and Tag Wilbur!**

Please keep **Sandra Hawxwell** in prayer as it has been a difficult summer for her. Pray also for **Jack Hawxwell** as he provides care and encouragement.

Pray for **Darryl Beckerleg** and his family as he copes with surgery. The strain on Dick and Jan has to be trying, but their faith is strong. Pray for healing, comfort and strength!

Vic Pimental is still in need of prayer as he continues his battle with cancer. Pray for strength and comfort for Vic, Louanne and family.

Please pray for healing for the **Allen's** precious grandson, "Zeke".

We continue to receive heartwarming reports from our **ministry partners** around the world. Please lift them all up in prayer and support those visiting soon!

Continue to lift up the **Muhammeds** as Grace's mother went home to the Lord this summer. Emmanuel and Grace were able to visit with her just prior to her passing, as they began their mission vision.

A **prayer guide** ([click here!](#)) is available for my Romania mission trip and I would covet your prayers for a safe, blessed expedition to Constanta. Again, thanks for the support I continue to receive from FCCB.

Pray for our church leaders as they share "vision" for our future!

Pray for **our elders** and First Church as we deal with budget issues. May our finances show improvement.

Blessings,



Rick Denton

[Website](#)

[Adult/Family](#)

[Youth](#)

[Outreach](#)

[Resources](#)

[Who is Jesus?](#)

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST



FORWARD TO A FRIEND

First Church Congregational Boxford

978-887-5841

office@firstchurchboxford.org

www.firstchurchboxford.org

First Church Congregational Boxford, P. O. Box 326, Boxford, MA 01984

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by office@firstchurchboxford.org in collaboration with

Constant Contact 

Try it free today