



October 2017



September was a full month of FCCB action as usual! God is at work at FCCB!

Vision Night

Pastor Andrew welcomed us to a very special night, beginning with thanks for all the support you have given to him during his almost three years here and particularly as his family had grown. The history of our congregation is a favorite subject for Pastor Andrew, so it was no surprise that he quickly got into our history. Plus another wonderful quote from

Joshua as he read verse 3:15-16... *Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water's edge, the water from upstream stopped flowing.*



We were asked to point out some praises that occurred in recent times. One wonderful praise included the growth of young families and children as a source of blessing. We also looked at financial pressures that come with growth and need to be addressed. Our elder board has been attentive in this area as well. Lead elder Ron spoke of his own journey and the commitment we all need to make to be disciples. Then we had a time of sharing ... calendar management was a popular point of discussion. It was a very participatory evening ending with corporate prayer for a blessed future here at First Church.

Ministry Partners Visit

Both the Clements and Alison Gill were with us early in September to report on their respective ministries in India. It is apparent that the situation in India has proven more of a challenge lately. Gerri White hosted the Clements so we were able to enjoy their company for nearly two weeks.

The political situation in India has become more resistant and we ask you to keep them all in your prayers.



Welcome Tom and Kori

Associate Pastor Tom Fagan experienced a harrowing week to begin his calling with us at the end of August. After minor surgery, moving and other demands during his first full week, he was able to bring a message Sunday, September 3. Tom and Kori will be married on the 14th of this month back home in Connecticut. We wish them God's richest blessings in the days ahead. Many of you welcomed Tom at an informal "meet and greet" on September 6. On Sunday, September 24, Pastor Tom gave us his testimony as part of the morning service. The elders prayed over Tom and Kori for their upcoming wedding after Tom shared his spiritual life with us. May God continue to bless this young couple!



And don't forget to give best wishes to newly affianced Walter Woodward and Heroina Fils. Yay Walter!

Youth

Youth Group has returned after summer break, meeting on Sunday evenings. Pastor Tom has brought new enthusiasm and experience to our youth program. An exciting year is in store. Don't miss out, kids!!!!

Women's Connection



Our women are enjoying getting together for lunch once a month. Next Monday, October 2, they invite all women to join them at the Village Pancake House in Rowley at 12:30 for some great eats and even greater conversation.

Refreshed and Ready Sunday



September 10 brought us all together to welcome Alison Gill and to kick off Sunday School as well as many Fall programs. The cook out after church

was terrific, thanks to the "Grill Guys". The kids did some corn hole tossing as well!

Short Term Mission



I'm sorry to have missed so many events due to my E3 mission trip to Romania during the month. Our small team was blessed with great success, beautiful weather and marvelous cooperation from our hosts and Romanian volunteers. It was a lovely setting on the Black Sea, with our hotel on the water front of a nearby lake. I had the privilege of working with an outstanding lady evangelist and four translators. We were delighted to see 60 people come to the Lord in the daily activity of sharing the Gospel at our mission point medical clinics. Hundreds of new eye glasses were distributed and medical exams were provided to over 300. Many thanks to FCCB for support and prayers that led to our serving the Lord and seeing His work accomplished for His Glory. Once again, I recommend short term missions as an enlightened way to serve the Savior!

Prayer Emphasis

Pastor Andrew was encouraged by the emphasis on prayer at the annual CCCC Family Conference this summer. As a result, our Adult Sunday School this semester is devoted to Reflective Prayer. Those of you who have attended will testify as to the richness of the subject. Those leading our study from our church body include: Tom Pfizenmaier (pictured here), Dave Allen, Paul Sidmore and more. We are truly blessed to learn how prayer can become more meaningful as a daily discipline in our lives. Please make your way to the Coggin Room at 9:00 am, Sunday mornings this Fall.



Weekly Prayer Meeting

And speaking of prayer, Elizabeth Kuczun continues to bring godly leadership to weekly prayer sessions on Wednesday evenings in the Coggin Room. We have

seen an increase in attendance and would love to have more join us. It begins at 7:00 pm, Wednesday evenings!



Apple Festival

A big thank you to those who helped with the Apple Festival as we welcomed those who accepted our offer of free parking on our grounds. We gave out bottled water, tours and fellowship. Once again, the Gideon's were with us to hand out Bibles to visitors. Our table

offered baked goodies as we took a break from our historic apple crisps. Thanks to Norma Rushton, Cathy Huppe, Ann Johnson and many others who helped prepare apple flavored goodies, or worked at our table for the donations received. We received over \$600 for our local ministry partners. Lead Elder Ron Giovannacci tells me that our presence was one of the most inspiring events he has been a part of at FCCB. Dan and Lois Frasier hosted a slide show depicting the history of FCCB, another highlight of the day. Many more people are now aware of First Church and we thank all who participated to show our very best as a welcoming body .



Lookin' Good!

Transition Inside and Out continues on a record pace with more and more improvements in sight. The lawn on Georgetown Road benefited from recent rains and looks grand. Plus the town removed some dying trees along Georgetown Road as well. We are still Transforming!

Helping our International Neighbors

The International Initiative, a need originally placed on the heart of Michelle Robinson, to help



seminarians from overseas became a reality via our Missions and Outreach. Elder Paul Sidmore tells me that the initiative was never more at work than this past month. First Church provided clothing, bedding, toys, food, back to school needs and other necessities for the families of international seminary students and families. More than a dozen families from our congregation answered the call with supplies, including our Food Pantry. The Allen family even delivered beds and mattresses recovered from their attic. Thanks to all who participated in loving our neighbors from afar!



FCCB Servants

We are so thankful for those who take their time and talents and help First Church. To name just a few...

Bill Meyer is on the job helping get our electrical doors functioning

David Allen worked on our electrical board in the education wing. Laudatory sparks for David!

Cathy Huppe took it upon herself to complete the Coggin Room update with new curtains/drapes. Beautiful!

Louie DeGeorge and **Glenn Cote** put their carpentry skills to use and produced a great sandbox for the kiddies.

Wayne Graham provided us with some handsome and much needed railings for various steps.

Thank you everyone for helping us here at FCCB!

Surprise Visitors

Steve and Christina Clark joined us for the final Sunday in September, and we were so delighted to see them. If you remember, Steve was the lead on our pastoral search



committee so crucial in calling Pastor Andrew. The Clarks also brought along, Bryn, their son who heads COMPASS (Gordon College leadership development program), and his wife, Molly, whom we support at Inter Varsity Fellowship. Molly will visit us soon to update us all on her ministry.



Food Pantry

Now that we are back into routines, let's not forget our Food Pantry. We help an awful lot of people with this outreach, including some of our international friends. Thanks to Elaine Gould, Sandy Houreas, Leslie Olson and Susan Humerian for their leadership and helping hands. Let's fill those carts near the church office for a good inventory before the cold months.

Here is an update as to needs

- Spaghetti
- Salad dressing
- Canned corn
- Tomato products
- Kids snacks for lunch
- Applesauce cups/fruit cups
- Baking mixes
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Deodorant and soap
- Paper products

You may leave any items in the Food Pantry cart by the mailboxes (during the week - Tuesday-Thursday, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm or Friday, 8:00 am to noon or Sunday mornings.) Thank you!



Metal and Electronics Recycling Day

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We are once again sponsoring a recycling of metal, electronics and appliances here at First Church. There are small fees per item, and First Church receives a percentage of the "take" so "bring 'em down" to First

Church, Saturday, October 28, from 9:00 to 2:00. Thank you!

Topsfield Fair

October means fair time in these parts! We will host a morning service on October 1 and 8. Preaching at the Fair

Topsfield Fair

on October 1 will be Pastor Rolan and the Middleton church worship team, with Pastor Andrew and our worship crew scheduled for October 8. We will still have services and Sunday School here at FCCB both Sundays.



Operation Christmas Child

Our project leaders, Sue Slocum and Leslie Van Volkinberg, have us set up in plenty of time this year. Please pick up your boxes in the Coggin Room and fill them for a return to the church no later than October 29. We would love to have a record number of boxes from FCCB this year.

MOPS



Our new program for mothers of preschoolers is up and running, every other Friday here at FCCB. If you have questions, talk to Pastor Andrew.

GO

One of the great traditions of FCCB was to attend Vision New England's Congress for so many years. This Christian Conference held each year in Boston during February was enjoyed by many. The newest version is the GO Conference to be held this year in Springfield, MA on February 16 and 17 with several internationally known speakers. Reservations can be made through goconference@visionnewengland.org . Grab a friend, spouse, fellow FCCBer, etc. and sign up!

Prayers

Pray for Anne Harrington and her new life and responsibilities in Montana, as she cares for ailing relatives.

Pray for the new MOPS program and adequate helpers.

Pray for our ministry at the Topsfield Fair, that some will come to know Christ through our services.

Pray for Reid Smith, who has had a difficult summer adjusting to new medications and procedures. Of late he is seeing a specialist for symptoms that have not previously been an issue. This gives great cause for concern for the entire family. We miss Reid!

Pray for our FCCB Vision as shared on September 27.

Please keep Vic and Louanne Pimental in prayer as Vic's illness remains severe. May God bring peace and comfort.

Darryl Beckerleg continues to receive treatments in North Carolina and we remain in prayer for the entire family. These past couple of weeks have been very trying.

Praises for our "Vision" for FCCB!

Blessings,



Rick Denton

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