



THE CRITER

*A Monthly Publication of
The First Church in Marlborough (Congregational)
United Church of Christ*

October 2009



Memorial Service
November 1, 2009

See page 4



Polus Center
for Social & Economic Development

Women's Fellowship

See page 5

Welcoming
and
Living the Questions 2

See page 6

Council Update
and
Worship Leaders

See page 7



See page 8

The Journey...

God is Good, all the time. God has and is and will bless this congregation and the people in it. It is important to recognize, name, and celebrate some of the many ways God is Present, that Grace Abounds, and that prayers are often answered.

When we began our ministry together more than three years ago, one of the hopes and prayers was that First Church would attract families with young children. I want you to notice, to rejoice, and to thank God that that prayer is being answered. On September 13th, we didn't even have room for all the children that came forward for the children's time and the Sunday School was very well attended. Adding to the joy, on October 11th we will baptize perhaps as many as five infants and two elementary age children. And it isn't just young families who are joining with us. There are people of all ages attending worship regularly and considering membership.

I would raise up the people who care for one another, drive to doctor's appointments, listen on the telephone, go out for coffee, or send e-mails of encouragement. The Men's and Women's Fellowships offer service opportunities and friendship. There is a strong fellowship and yet, I continue to pray for a team who will take leadership in this ministry. Please join me in that prayer.

Consider also, the bequest of Maebelle Baldwin. Certainly that was a gift of God through Maebelle. This is a gift of time, giving the congregation the opportunity to consider the next steps with the settled pastor that likely will join you some time in 2010. This is an exciting time in the life of the congregation.

God is Good. Thank you God for your blessings and for your grace.

Rev. Betsy

Our Church Staff

Reverend Betsy Waters *Senior Pastor*
Russ Goliger *Music Director*
Jim Duncan *Organist*
Steve Kotsopoulos *UpPraisers Director*
Diane Burke *Bell Choir Director*
Anne Tennyson, Sue Buckingham, and Vicki Taylor
Sunday School Team

Amy Lapetina *Church Secretary*
Deb Marino *Clerk*
Cindy Vail *Moderator*
Chip Horne *Computer Systems Director*
Joanne Kotsopoulos *Treasurer*
Cliff Fenton *Sexton*
Sue Pellerin *Collector*
Jenn Bastien *Senior High Youth Director*
Steven Levy *Multi-Media Director*



CRIER POLICY: The CRIER welcomes all material submitted on a timely basis for publication. Every effort will be made to include all works submitted. However, the Editors need to reserve the right to make corrections to ensure quality of presentation and correctness of information, and to use a consistent format throughout. All material should be submitted with the writer's name and daytime phone number. When major corrections are necessary, we will make every attempt to contact the writer. Personal notes, such as thank you's, etc., will be printed as submitted. Overly long items may be shortened for space considerations. All material should be submitted before the published deadline which is the 15th of the month.

First Church Mission Statement

...is to welcome all to a positive environment for personal and spiritual growth through the Worship of God; to foster a caring, friendly, and inviting ministry of people who are committed to knowing God, God's will, and the teachings of Jesus Christ; and to reach out to all with Faith and Love.

SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

The search committee has had a very productive summer. We are closer to completing the church profile and are looking for your assistance by way of comments or suggestions. This will also help you understand the process.

We are planning a number of focus groups on different days and at various times, led by a member of the search committee. You will be contacted by phone and scheduled for a meeting time. If the day or time does not work for you, please pick another group meeting.

The following is the schedule with the leaders:

Day	Date	Time	Led by:
Sunday	Oct. 18	After Church	John Merritt
Sunday	Oct. 18	7:00 pm	Pat Kennedy & Laurel Hill
Tuesday	Oct. 20	1:00 pm	Janet Yurkus
Wednesday	Oct. 21	9:00 am	Jenn Bastien
Wednesday	Oct. 21	7:00 pm	Liz Mahoney & Jen Atsma
Thursday	Oct. 22	7:00 pm	George Pellerin

If you have any questions please contact one us on the Search Committee and we will try to answer any questions you have.

FALLFEST—A HUGE SUCCESS ! !

Thank you to all who participated in Fallfest.

First thank you, Thank You, THANK YOU to Nancy Battaglino. Wow! You are a great leader and organizer!! I hope you hear the cheers and applause. And thanks to Adam, your husband, not only for his help, but for lending you to us!

Other leaders -- (please forgive me if your name is omitted) Casey-Lee Bastien, Donna Merlini, Anne Tennyson, Sandy Stetson, Bob Murphy, Deb Beauregard, Renee Mograss, Cindy Ruggiero, Susan Hanahan, Marcia Fitzgerald, Kim Mattheson, Arnie Goodrich, Joan Beauchemin, and Cliff Fenton.

Now for the list of volunteers and contributors -- I hope I thought of everyone!!!

Doris Asbury
Jenn Bastien
Ed Beauchemin
Allan and Betty Christensen
Peggy Clark
Christine Crocker
Choir members
Russ Goliger
Maggie Glynn
Liz Mahoney
Peter Nott
Shirley Ney
Kelsey and Sarah Hanahan
Belinda Thresher
Linda Warren
Janet Yurkus

Laurel Hill
Betty Hollis
Gary Hollis
Aaron Hollis
The Joyful Ringers
Chip Horne
The Kotsopoulos clan
The Merritts
Diane & Paul Gilcrest
Maddie Hasbrouck
Bill Davis
Pam Patten and Rachael
Thelma Nilson
Cindy and Bob Vail
Steven Veno
Sue Pellerin



And BIG thank you's to the Assembly of God Shalom and Cristo Salvator, Troop 41 of the Boy Scouts, the Indian Dance Troupe, and the band **APPLE CRISP** with our own Jordan Hanahan. And last, but not least, Amy Lapetina, our faithful Secretary/Helper with all things.
Thank you!

The first Sunday in October is World Wide Communion Sunday.



Just The Facts:

Fact or Fiction -
Mary Magdalene was a repentant prostitute in the New Testament.



Fiction. Most - if not all - respectable scholars concur that there is absolutely no biblical nor historical evidence that Mary Magdalene was a prostitute. The modern myth seems to stem from a statement on July 22, 597 (the feast day of Mary Magdalene) by Pope Gregory I. The intention (malicious or not) of the Pope is widely discussed. In 1969, the Vatican "quietly corrected" the error.

First Church (Congregational) Invites the Community to a Memorial Service

First Church in Marlborough (Congregational) UCC is offering a special Memorial Service on Sunday, November 1, 2009, at 6:30 PM. This Service will offer a time of remembrance and reflection of loved ones. Any person can be memorialized and his or her name will be listed in the Service program.

This year we will offer luminary bags in advance if you would like to take them home and personalize them in a decorative fashion, or a craft table will be available on Sunday, October 25, 2009, during coffee hour as well.

Candle lighting will take place in the common in front of the church from 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm and names will be read during the service in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm. Music, scripture and prayer will also be offered. Fellowship time and light refreshments will follow in the Parish Hall.

Please join us; all are welcome regardless of faith background or affiliation.

To ensure inclusion of your loved one's name in the program, please call the church office at (508) 485-6297 and give the secretary the necessary information. A suggested donation of \$5 for the memorial candle is appreciated with proceeds benefiting our community outreach ministries.

First Church is located at the corner of Bolton St. (Route 85) and High St. and is handicapped-accessible with an outside ramp, and a chair lift to the Sanctuary on the 2nd floor.



A Note From The Fallfest Basket Raffle Team

Our Fallfest Basket Raffle was a big success! Thank you, thank you, thank you to all of you who participated. Thank you to those of you who donated baskets. They were outstanding and showed that a lot of time, effort and energy went into their making.

Thanks to Sandy Youngstrom and Laurel Hill for their "ticket-selling" help that day.

Thanks to Amy Lapetina and Cliff Fenton for their "behind the scenes" help.

It was a fun event and could not have happened without all of us working together.

"Your" Basket Raffle Team,
Donna Merlini and Anne Tennyson



**E-Waste Recycling Day!!!!
October 10, 2009
9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

We are sponsoring a Fall Cleaning E-Waste Recycling Day on Saturday, October 10th, in our parking lot (look for a large trailer truck on our lot.)

If you have any old computer monitors, televisions, miscellaneous electronics, computer parts, or appliances of any kind, bring them on that day. It will be MUCH cheaper to dispose of them in this way. As you know, recycling supports the environment and prevents hazardous waste.

Message from Rev. Phyllis

Health Care: A Theological, not a Partisan, Political issue

"Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

"We're still waiting to be rescued. For my dear broken people, I'm heartbroken. ... Isn't there a doctor in the house? So why can't something be done to heal and save my dear, dear people?"

Jeremiah 8:21-22, (The Message Bible)

This past summer, we were witness to just how powerfully our society can be controlled by fears and prejudices instead of by faith and basic human dignity. I am saddened by the shouting that has replaced civil debate and prevented true communication. We are better than this! Health Care for all citizens is a moral and ethical imperative and an obligation inherent in our faith.

Health Care is not only a basic human right, but is also a basic human need. The implications of this faith statement call us to an unwavering commitment to transform the health care system so that it provides for the needs of the patient rather than creating profit for the providers.

The Christian Church is called to a ministry of Diakonia – the ministry of healing, service, care, compassion, and hospitality, that is powerfully described by Matthew 25:31-46. (Diaconia is also the word from which we get our English word, "diaconate.")

Biblical narratives tell us that throughout Jesus' ministry, he was concerned about the health and well-being of the people of God. As God's disciples, we are called to this ministry of healing.

Health Care is a justice issue. All parts of creation deserve to be healed when broken, injured, or sick. This is our mission. Silence in the face of injustice is not an option.

What would Jesus do? Even better — What would Jesus have **US** do? Let us pray together to find a solution that is just and fair for all our fellow citizens and then work to see it implemented.

Rev. Phyllis



Women' Fellowship

October 13, 2009

7:30 pm

Devotions: Betty Hollis

Hostesses: Barbara McElman, Marlynn Stott, and Lois Carlson

Program: "THE POLUS CENTER"

Presented by: Brenda Calder

The Polus Center is a non-profit organization that provides services for handicapped adults. Brenda will provide an overview of the International and Domestic programs. We invite anyone who is interested in this type of non-profit organization to please feel free to come and learn more .

Operation: Invite, Welcome, and Connect Step Two - WELCOME

First Church in Marlborough has been inviting, welcoming, and praying for more people to walk together in the Way of Jesus. And people of all ages and stages are coming... Many people of all ages are worshipping with us, bringing their children to Sunday School, taking leadership in Fallfest, and enjoying the varied and wonderful music program we offer.

Welcoming is an important step. Day one: Research says 70% of people have decided whether to return before the sermon begins. The work of the greeters, ushers, and connectors is crucial! Hospitality is one of our core values and a wide-spread practice of greeting bears fruit.

But welcoming continues for the next four to six visits. Conversations that emphasize listening are crucial. Almost everyone comes to church with a need, and our challenge is to identify that need and provide some nourishment. Some common needs are loneliness, the need to connect with people of a similar age and stage or grief/illness. In the next four to six visits, the goal is that each person will have a significant conversation with six different people that in some way touches that need.

**One way to encourage welcoming is to have everyone
.... and I mean EVERYONE
wear a name tag.**

Wearing a name tag is an act of love and hospitality. People who are new to our community need to learn and associate about two hundred different names and faces. Name tags reduce anxiety, provide a subtle way to rehearse names, and encourage calling people by their names without fear of being embarrassed. Wearing name tags says, "I am open to a new friendship and conversation." Wearing ones name levels the playing field, diminishing the privileged position of having been in the congregation for a long time. Wearing a name tag says, "Welcome. We want you to feel comfortable."



Living the Questions 2

Living the Questions 2 is a DVD study and discussion series. The 20-minute video segments include conversations with leading voices of faith, sermon and lecture clips, digital stories illustrating aspects of an evolving faith, and concrete spiritual practices and disciplines. The participants then explore their own questions and beliefs.

Although this is a continuation of material shown last year, anyone can join at any time. The next section we will cover is The Call to Covenant. The weekly sessions are named: A Kingdom without Walls; Social Justice: Realizing God's Vision; Incarnation: Divinely Human; Prayer: Intimacy with God; Compassion: The Heart of Jesus' Ministry; Creative Transformation; Embracing Mystery.

The first meeting will be Sunday, October 25th, after coffee hour. Sessions will be a little over an hour in length. Please contact Rev. Betsy or Rev. Phyllis Frechette to enroll.

Happy October !!

The short summer is behind us as well as a very busy month of September. On behalf of Church Council, I am writing to bring back into focus some very major decisions we made at Annual Meeting last spring. Prior to our Annual Meeting we were facing some serious financial shortages and we met in small focus groups to discern our future direction. The outcome of those small group meetings resulted in the following item being placed on the warrant for annual meeting:

"To review the process and results of the April/May Focus Group meetings regarding the financial condition of First Church and to act on the following recommendations made by the Focus Summary Group:

- a) To form a volunteer group that would explore the possibility of a capital campaign and to elicit visions of future building use and needs.
- b) To form task teams for year-long fund-raising.
- c) To form a volunteer group to explore planned giving and increased giving.
- d) To form a volunteer group to explore opportunities to increase membership growth."

There was some discussion at the meeting in May, but in the end the congregation voted to accept the aforementioned ideas.

Council accepted as their responsibility to be the support system for these 4 groups, but we cannot be the driving force to ignite nor sustain them. This is where you as a congregation come in. Are there those among you who do have the energy/ideas/focus to be a member of one of these groups? Sign-up sheets will be posted in Parish Hall starting Sunday, October 4th. Let me gently remind you... just like some of the ministries we have tried to establish here, without energy and commitment, they have withered away. Our current financial situation does not allow us the luxury to let the necessary work go undone. Please consider giving of your time, talent and/or treasure to one of these four opportunities.

Liz Mahoney
Council Chair

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR OCTOBER, 2009

October 4th (Communion)

Ushers: Bill Davis (lead), Roberta Saart, Janet Yurkus, Sandy Stetson (bread), Al Christensen, Deb Beauregard (juice)

Lay Leader: Jim Saart

Greeters: Pat Kennedy & Trent Vartabedian

October 18th

Ushers: Frank Marino (lead), Sue Hanahan, Kelsey Hanahan, Barbara McElman

Lay Leader: Bill Davis

Greeters: Dick & Lois Carlson

October 11th

Ushers: Marian Hopkins (lead), Andrea Merritt, Sue Hanahan, Roberta Saart

Baptism Helpers: Donna Ziegler, Barbara McElman

Lay Leader: Sue Pellerin

Greeters: George & Suzanne Duquette

October 25th

Ushers: Bob Murphy (lead), Bob Vail, Cindy Vail, Bill Davis

Lay Leader: Paul Hasbrouck

Greeters: Andrea & John Merritt



2009 MEETING HOUSE FAIR



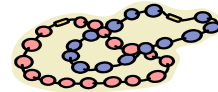
The Meeting House Fair is coming November 21, 2009, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.
As usual we will be looking for donations.

The Silent Auction has become a popular part of the fair. If you have something you would like to donate to the auction or you have a question about an item please see Laura Lane.



Do you have a special candy you make? Let us try it. We need baked goods, cakes, breads, pies, and squares. Use your imagination - we will take it all. The "Cookie" table is popular and needs lots and lots and lots of cookies.

We have a jewelry table that is very popular, so clean out your drawer or jewelry box and donate the jewelry.



The craft, knit n' purl, and Christmas tables will all graciously accept any and all donations.

Are you a gardener? Do you have house plants or have you started some plants? We just happen to have a plant table that needs plants.



There is a book room with many books, but of course we will take more. Children's books are always very popular.

There is the trash & treasure room – they will accept all types of items, **BUT NO** computers and associated equipment, and no exercise equipment, large furniture, or televisions.

Look for more information in the November "Crier".



A Spaghetti Supper, being sponsored by the Men's Fellowship Group, is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21st, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

HEALING SERVICE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18TH 10:00 AM

Please join us Sunday, October 18th for a Healing Worship Service that will focus on people with cancer. Come for yourself, come for a friend, or come for a family member.

All are welcome.



HELLO,

A huge **THANK YOU** to all of the Church volunteers who tirelessly take us wherever we need to go, Doctor's appointments, to Church, the grocery store, the bank and to meetings. If that isn't enough, you visit, bring flowers check in by phone, bring food and just care about us. It means we are not alone and God knows we are cared for.

T is for the **time** and **tireless** energy

H is for **helpfulness**

A is for **awesome** effort

N is for **never** letting us down

K is your never ending **kindness**

Y is **yes** for our calls for help

O is for **outstanding** service

U is for **unending** support and **understanding**



Evangelism - an over-emphasized, out-of-date Christian policy indicative of fire and brimstone, media charlatans, and street preachers that are twenty-six cards shy of a full deck. Evangelism caused Christianity to spread throughout the Mediterranean ring in less than forty years, caused Christianity to spread into parts of Russia, Persia, and India by 200 AD, and caused the conversion of Ireland by 500 AD. However, evangelism is an outdated process that has no place in post-modern Christianity.

Really?

There is a good chance that you are sitting in that favorite pew of yours every Sunday (well, almost every Sunday) - thanks to Evangelism. Many Christians can think of certain people that inspired them to take their first steps in Christian faith, or to continue when it just didn't seem to make sense. Evangelism is how we leave our Christian legacy.

For most people, evangelism is hard, and is better left to those with "the gift". However, evangelism is NOT necessarily about talking God to everybody you meet. Evangelism can be about inspiring others to move forward in their spiritual journey - by actions OR words (preferably a combination of the two). It's about living a life that causes others to say "Whatever they have, I want!".

What would your life look like if someone hadn't planted the seeds of faith in you? (Besides being in bed on Sunday morning. ;-)).

Evangelism: it's a GOOD thing.



October 2009 at The First Church in Marlborough (Congregational) United Church of Christ

Worship Service: Sunday @ 10:00 am with Sunday School and Nursery

Sunday Choir Rehearsals: Chancel Choir @ 8:45am; Children's Choir @ 9:30 am

Music: Joyful Ringers: Monday @ 7:00 pm **Chancel Choir:** Tuesday @ 7:00 pm

Sweet Adelines: Wednesday @ 7:00 pm

Bible Studies: Monday @ 6:00 pm, Wednesday @ 10:00 am

AA: Friday @ 8:00 pm, Early Risers: Saturday @ 6:45 am, Sunday @ 6:45 am

Assembly of God Shalom: Worship Thursday & Sunday @ 7:30 pm ; **Choir** Thursday @ 5:00 pm

Our Father's Table (OFT): Third Tuesday of every month

Indian Dance Group: Tuesday @ 6:00 pm

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1 7:00 Search Committee	2	3
4 10:00a Worship 11:30a Baptism Class 11:45a UpPraisers	5 6:00p Bible St. 7:00p Bells	6 7:00p Choir	7 10:30a Bible St.	8 7:00 Search Committee	9	10 9-3:00 E-Waste Recycling Day
11 10:00a Worship Baptisms! 11:45a UpPraisers	12 6:00p Bible St. 7:00p Trustees 7:00p Bells	13 7:00p Choir 7:30p Women's Fellowship	14 10:30a Bible St.	15 7:00 Search Committee Crier Deadline	16	17
18 10:00a Worship Healing Service Focusing on Cancer 11:45 UpPraisers	19 6:00p Bible St. 7:00p Diaconate 7:00p Bells 7:30p Missions	20 5:00p OFT* 7:00p Choir 7:30p Men's Fellowship	21 10:30a Bible St. 5-7p Spaghetti Supper	22 7:00 Search Committee	23	24
25 10:00a Worship 11:30a Living The Questions 11:45a UpPraisers	26 6:00p Bible St. 7:00p Council 7:00p Bells	27 7:00p Choir	28 10:30a Bible St.	29 7:00 Search Committee	30	31 

THE BOOK OF LIFE

HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1st Jean Dunn
2nd Judith Johnson, William Tripp
5th Ashley Tessier
13th Trenton Vartabedian
15th Larissa Hannay, Agnes Morrice
17th Diane Gilcrest, Timothy Martin
18th Andrew Ducey
19th Marjory Carpenter, Cheryl Eaton, Ivy Gram
20th Lori Hannay
21st Paul Gilcrest
26th Timothy Beauchemin
27th Linda Bryant, Elizabeth Cooke
28th Nicole Brossi
31st Jody Maher, Piper Kinney



"Winter is an etching, spring a watercolor, summer an oil painting and autumn a mosaic of them all."

- Stanley Horowitz



HAPPY OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 7th Larry & Mary Wenzel,
11th Shawn & Karen McCarthy
12th David & Sandra Youngstrom,
Glenn & Betty Owens
21st Jean & Ivan Dunn
24th John & Andrea Merritt
30th Rodney & Joanne Willis.

And if tonight my soul may find her peace
in sleep, and sink in good oblivion,
and in the morning wake like a new-opened flower
then I have been dipped again in God, and new
created.

D. H. Lawrence

(The missing Thank You)

Thank You

Grateful thanks are sent to all First Church members and friends (some, through the "Crier" learned of our loss.)

The outpouring of cards, flowers, visits, meals, and phone calls on Fred's passing have been tremendous.

We appreciate your thoughts and prayers so very much.

*God bless you all,
Betty Hollis and family*



First Church in Marlborough
(CONGREGATIONAL)
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
37 High Street
Marlborough, Massachusetts 01752

Senior Pastor
Rev. M. Elizabeth Waters

Worship Service

Sunday 10:00 AM
Nursery Care
Sunday School

All are Welcome!

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday - Friday
8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
508-485-6297
has answering service
508-485-2969
rings through

Church e-mail and web
addresses:

office@firstchurchnet.com
crier@firstchurchnet.com
b_waters@firstchurchnet.com
<http://www.firstchurchnet.com>

Newsletter Editor:

Sandy Stetson

Newsletter Volunteers:

Amy Lapetina and Anita Stetson

CRIER DEADLINE:

15 October 2009

MEETING HOUSE FAIR

Don't forget our Fair will be held on the Saturday
before Thanksgiving at the Church on the Hill.

November 21, 2009

9 AM – 3 PM

Ham & Bean Supper with entertainment at 6:30 PM

