

Help make us  
a 'safe church'  
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be?  
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# Concern In Action

September 2009 The monthly newsletter of Union Congregational Church newsletter@churchbythepark.org

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55 Rhoades Ave., Walpole, MA

Worship 10:30 a.m.  
handicap accessible

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Tuesday-Friday 8 a.m.-2:15 p.m.

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**You will be rewarded**

## Fair is on, rain or shine

Sept. 19, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Ask "Why do you work at our fair?" and you will get many answers. Money. Helping the church make funds to support our outreach programs, like the Walpole Food Pantry, City Mission Society of Boston and St. Paul's Table. Maybe it's social. Maybe it's to support the community. Maybe you like a bargain. Why not? Our attic treasures, books and toys are loaded with good buys. Or maybe you like to splurge on that special silent auction item. All of these are wonderful reasons to work for the church's annual Apple Harvest Fair.

Here is another reason: As a big THANK YOU, we have a post-fair party. No need to drive very far, it's in the Cofsky's yard, next door to the church. Stick around for the clean-up and then around



5 p.m., bring a chair and something to drink. We'll provide the pizza, salad and celebration cake. Everyone who volunteers at the fair is invited. Plan on staying late, enjoy the company, and share your fair sto-

ries. There is no better way to feel a part of our community than to work side-by-side with them.

More fair details on  
**Pages 6 and 8.**

# It must be Sept. — look at all this church school info

We have 122 children and youth enrolled in Sunday School – including 16 eighth- and ninth-grade students in Confirmation Class (led by Abby, Mary Dugdale, Jenni Lanni and Bill Morris.)

We will continue to use the same church school curriculum for grades Pre-K through Grade 7. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Our Grade 10-12

Senior High Class will be led by Katrina Evans and Scott Kerns, and will be utilizing a mix of materials – including a DVD series that is designed to engage teens in thinking about their faith “outside the church” – check it out at [www.Flannel.org](http://www.Flannel.org).

Church School registration is ALWAYS open!

**Sept. 13 – Rally Day:** Children’s Chapel Church School (up through Grade 3)

**Sept. 20:** Children’s Chapel Church School (through grade 3); 7 p.m. Church School Volunteer Training (Chapel)

**Sept. 27:** 10:30 a.m. Church school classes officially begin; 9 a.m. Church School Volunteer Training (Chapel)

## Kids’ worship

Children’s Chapel services for age 3 to grade 4 is held on the first Sunday of the month, our leaders will be Kathy Hinds and Barbara Maiewski, along with either Abby, Judy, or Jon Paul. We will focus the Children’s Chapel lessons on The Lord’s Prayer this year. These services have all the worship service parts as in the sanctuary – but much briefer, and at the children’s level. Brief church school is held afterward. NOTE: Grades 6-12 remain in the sanctuary for the full communion worship service on the first Sunday of the month.

Questions? Contact Church School Superintendent Kathy Hinds 508-740-0430 or at [uccchurchlady@hotmail.com](mailto:uccchurchlady@hotmail.com)

## Church School Volunteer training is MANDATORY this year

**W**e are in the process of strengthening our “Safe Church” policy, and part of that is insuring all church school volunteers are fully informed of safe church policies and will do their part to insure a safe church environment.

There will be three sessions offered – all church school volunteers will need to attend one session, including teachers, assistants, youth class assistants, substitute teachers, and hallway helpers. Youth leaders and paid staff who also lead our youth will need to attend one of these trainings.

Mandatory Church School volunteer training (chapel) schedule:

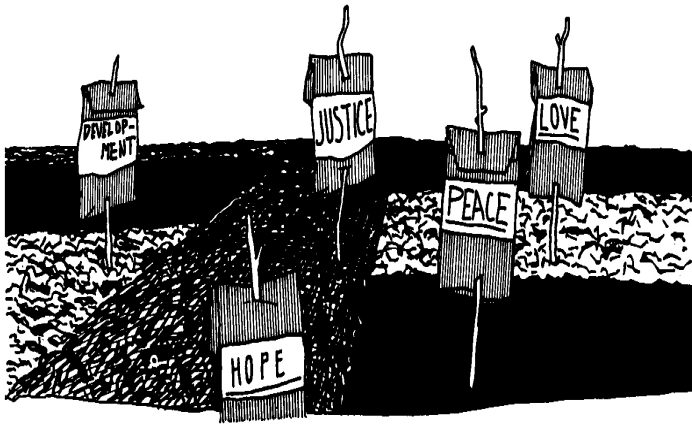
Sept. 20, 7 p.m.; Sept. 27, 9 a.m.; Oct. 4, after worship

We are committed to creating a safe and healthy environment in which young people can learn about and experience God’s love. In order to ensure this, we will provide supervision for all activities and programs involving children and youth, and employ practices that provide for the safety of children, youth, and those who care for them.

During this training, we will begin to implement CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information) checks in conjunction with the Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board for all who are involved with our children and youth. We will also have a presentation of our safe church policies and allow time for questions/answers, to insure that all church school volunteers understand how to be part of our safe church!

No need to sign up for any specific class — just show up! We will be checking our volunteer roster to make sure that all church school volunteers attend one training session. We look forward to this training, and hope you do, too! Questions? Contact Abby or Kathy Hinds.

## Poverty



## A cup of joe at Union equals a cup of justice

All of the coffee served at our church during coffee hour or at the Apple Harvest Fair or other events is fair trade. But just what does that mean? It means that the small farmers who grow the coffee beans we brew is paid a living wage. It also ensures us that the farmers who grow the beans care for their small plot of earth with careful environmental stewardship.

We purchase our coffee from Equal Exchange, an organization that has worked tirelessly over the past 20 years to get fair trade coffee into all places of worship from small Lutheran churches in the Midwest, to mega churches in California, to synagogues in our own city. To learn more about the incredible ministry of Equal Exchange, check them out at [www.equalexchange.coop](http://www.equalexchange.coop).

Would you also like to have equal exchange coffee in your home? Sometimes buying fair trade coffee can be cost prohibitive. That said, when you buy in bulk or are part of a larger order it might be more affordable than you think. Contact Lois in the church office if you would like to add your personal order of equal exchange coffee to the church's order (and not to worry—they offer fully caffeinated coffee as well).

Additionally, this year, at the fair, Outreach Committee will be sponsoring an Equal Exchange fundraising table. The products help support small farmers with their community projects — from building new elementary school classrooms to installing safe water wells. By buying these products we will be making a difference in the world and be making friends across the seas.

## Pastor picks

### MOVIES

JP watched *The Mission* this summer with his on-line intro to religion class. After re-watching it his comment was simple: this movie is perfect. *The Mission* is about the experiences of a Jesuit missionary in 18th century South America. It stars Robert De Niro, Jeremy Irons, Ray McAnally, Aidan Quinn, Cherie Lunghi and Liam Neeson. In April 2007, it was elected number one on the *Church Times* Top 50 Religious Films list.

### QUOTE

“The God of peace is never glorified by human violence.”

—Thomas Merton

### SCRIPTURE

“God will take great delight in you, will quiet you with love, and will rejoice over you with singing.”

—*Zephaniah 3:17*

### SHORT TAKE

Seventy-one percent of Americans believe we should invest more in cleaner, newer energy sources, like wind and solar power, and “act boldly” to ensure greater energy efficiency in our cars, homes, and offices.

Source: *Campaign for America's Future*

### PRAYER

God said, ‘Let the waters be gathered together, and let dry land appear.’

We thank you for the beauty of the earth,

for the diversity of land and sea,

for the resources of the earth.

Give us the will to cherish this planet

and to use its riches for the good and welfare of all.

God of life:

hear our prayer.

—Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury

### BOOK

*Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*, by Barbara Kingsolver. Who would know that a read about food could be so interesting or that one could laugh out loud while reading about the mating practices of heritage breed turkeys? She has an incredibly insightful argument about why eating locally and in season is not only healthier, but better for the earth and for American farmers.

## Did you know?

How our church business gets done

*Seventh in a series.*

The **Lay Delegates** are members who represent the church at association and state meetings of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ.

The **Memorial Gifts Committee** administers the program of memorials on behalf of the congregation and the donors of memorial gifts. They maintain a list of possible needs appropriate for memorial gifts. They also communicate with donors and families of persons in whose name gifts are given.

The **Stewardship Committee** is responsible for encouraging a healthy stewardship of time and talents among the congregation.

## Green living



## How many trees have we saved?

Here is a guess of what our church has done in the last year:

- 11 newsletters have been sent out electronically to more than 150 people. Each newsletter is usually at least five pages. That's 8,250 pages of paper saved = about 17 reams of paper
- We printed a third as many annual reports this year. The annual report was 27 pages. That's about 2,000 sheets of paper saved = 4 reams of paper
- We've been printing fewer bulletins each week, asking everyone to share (and it's been working — nice job remembering what you learned in kindergarten.) By November, we decreased the number of bulletins we print by more than a third. How many sheets of paper we have saved is hard to calculate since bulletin sizes change from week to week. Our best guess 15,000 sheets of legal size paper saved = 30 reams of paper.

**GRAND TOTAL: 61 REAMS of paper!**

- *Just how much is that?* Imagine 61 reams of paper stacked up in our church office. That's enough for a great kid-sized fort
- *The approximate weight of all this paper?* 320lbs!
- *How many trees does that equal?* Well according to the Mass Audubon, every ton of paper recycled saves 17 trees. (Don't forget, we've been recycling more actively this year. Each week we recycle about 25lbs of paper= 1300 lbs). Abby's fuzzy environmental math would like to suggest that with paper reduction alone we have saved more than two trees. Now this may still not seem like a big deal, but imagine if someone came to your yard and cut down two trees without your permission. You'd want to save those trees wouldn't you? Further, we are not factoring in all of the chemicals, industrial waste, and energy it takes to cut down two trees and make the paper.

This is good news and we should be proud of our church's effort to reduce our paper use. So do you still wish you received the CIA in the mail? I do to. I prefer to read the newsletter on paper, but I'm starting to get use to reading it on my computer screen and I like the full color. And well, it's worth it if I've helped save some trees.

## Our church family

### CONDOLENCES

Our sympathies, thoughts and prayers go to the family of Peter Nixon on the death of his mother, Louise Nixon.

### BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Baptism was celebrated for Jack Hazeldine on August 9, 2009. Jack was born on April 20, 2008. His parents are Jackie and Jim Hazeldine.

### BEST WISHES

Best wishes to Lindsey and John Thayer, who were married on August 8 at Union Congregational Church.

### ADDRESS CHANGE

Kristen Syrek's new address is 26 Kittredge St., Walpole, MA 02081, Phone: 508-660-8709, Cell Phone: 508-904-7087.

### COLLEGE ADDRESSES

We would like to have an updated list of addresses for college students. If you have a college student in your family, please e-mail the address to the church office so that we can update the files.

# Everybody needs a cause

When I learned about the Civil Rights Movement as a young kid, I asked everyone I knew who was alive in the '60s if they had been a part of the movement. Perhaps this was naïve, but for a child who grew up long after the Civil Rights Act had shaped our country's laws and affirmative action was an established cultural practice, I thought there was only one side of history the adults in my life would have been on. I remember being a bit disappointed by my parent's semi-neutral responses. Why hadn't they marched in Selma? Hadn't they sensed the urgency of the moment? Why didn't they remember more than just watching the events of the Civil Rights Movement unfold in the newspapers or on the evening news?

I often ask myself, what will my children ask me in 20 years? Will they be proud of me or semi-disappointed by my lack of action of causes in my time?

I believe the movement today with the same significance, the same potential to reshape our nation and our relationship with others, is the environmental movement.

I am sure one day my children will criticize me for driving a minivan and ask why we didn't own a hybrid earlier. They may ask how I could have just watched some of our neighbors throw out piles of trash week after week and not confronted them about recycling more. It will be difficult to explain the challenges I faced and the complex choices before me during this time.

For example: Is it better to live in an old house that leaks like a sieve in the winter than build a new, more efficient home which requires more natural resources to create? Will my children be satisfied to know that we did many things in our older home to increase its efficiency, like lower the water heater's temperature, change the filters in the old



furnace regularly, and make sure all the windows were sealed properly? Will they be satisfied if I answer their earnest questions with, "Well I was using canvas bags for 10 years before everyone else was. And I used cloth diapers for all of you." I'm not sure. My guess is that like most teenagers they will be critical. But perhaps underneath their critique they will really be asking if I grasped the *urgency* of the moment?

Instead of waiting for the next generation to ask us these questions, perhaps too late, I would like to ask each of us, as disciples of Christ, as fellow church members, as co-inhabitants of this beautiful earth God has bestowed upon us: do we truly understand the urgency of this moment?

This Rally Day, Sunday, Sept. 13, the children will be teaching us about the climate crisis and what we can do to help change the terrifying course our planet is on. We have two choices before us: we can attend Rally Day and feel hopeless, thinking there is little we can do. Or we can attend Rally Day and be moved to action by the sea of young faces who will inherit the earth from us, be it a mess or be it a paradise. We can decide that we will change some of our practices, knowing that even small changes, like using the canvas bags our church kids decorated, can and do make a difference. We can decide that the environmental movement isn't just another movement out there, but *the* movement of our time. We can decide we want to be on the right side of history and join the throngs of people trying to save God's planet. And we can remember first and foremost that we have been claimed in the waters of our baptism as Disciples of Christ

Grace and Peace,

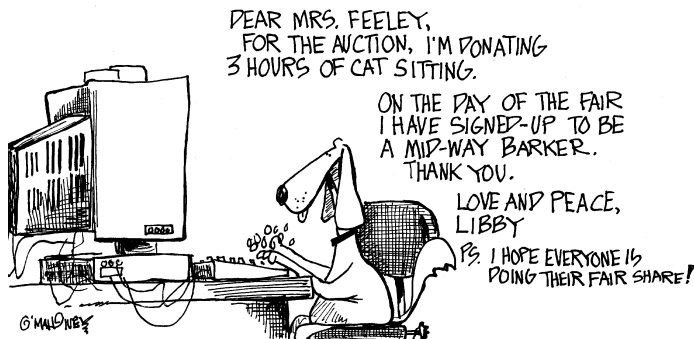
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Abby'.

The Rev. Abigail Henrich

Unioncongregationalchurch@msn.com

## SILENT AUCTION

Have you contacted Cathy Feeley about your donation? All items need to be in as soon as possible to ensure proper display. Contact Cathy at [feeleycs@comcast.net](mailto:feeleycs@comcast.net) or 668-3884. Can you spare some time to help wrap up baskets?



Could you pick up items from a donor? The deadline for getting your Silent Auction donations into the printed booklet is Sept. 7. Donations will be accepted past this date, but will not necessarily be included in the booklet. Once the list is available online at our website ([www.churchbythepark.org](http://www.churchbythepark.org)), please check to make sure your item is there, that it is listed correctly and that the dollar amount is correct. Contact Cathy if any of your info is wrong. This area of the fair requires a lot of work but the reward is the large amount of money raised by this one area. Can you help? Contact Cathy Feeley. And remember, tax-deductible receipts are available in the church

office. Most donations to our fair are considered tax-deductible, non-cash donations. Please calculate the value of your items and ask Lois in the office for a receipt (668-1355.)

## PLANTS, PLANTS, PLANTS



Dried flowers, perennials and even bulbs are big sellers for the garden booth. Do you have questions about digging up and dividing your plants? Our plant lady loves gardening and is really knowledgeable. Contact Christine Cofsky (660-1943.)

## TOYS

Kids: Sort through your toys and games, contribute to the fair (and make room for a few new purchases, too!) Place donations in the Choir Room. PLEASE make sure the games and puzzles have their pieces... and toys are clean. If your toy requires batteries, it would be a thoughtful donation to include them in a baggie taped to the side of the toy. This is a really hard area of the fair to get ready. PLEASE TELL YOUR KIDS IF THEY VISIT THE ROOM, THEY NEED TO LEAVE IT AS THEY FIND IT. For more info, contact Lauren Durso (660-7685) or Anne Cimon ([bostonanne@comcast.net](mailto:bostonanne@comcast.net))

## APPLE CRISP

Get out your peelers for a great night of peeling and slicing apples for our famous apple crisp. Then take a pan of the ingredients home with you to bake in your oven and return to the church on Saturday morning.

## FISH CHOWDER

Always a sell-out, workers are needed to help make the chowder. Contact Barb Maiewski (668-0168.)

## COUNTRY STORE

Did you ever notice the homemade goodies offered by the Country Store? Maybe you have something to contribute this year. Some possibilities include produce from your garden, jams, fudge, and dog treats. Contact Pam Doty (660-1063) with your ideas and questions.

## BAKED GOODIES

Big sellers are pies (especially apple) and small sweet breads. Cookies and bars should be wrapped in packages of 6, 12 or a few singles. All items must be wrapped and include a list of ingredients, (as required by the Board of Health.)

## Quiz

# Bible brainteaser — are you game?

Can you find the names of 25 books of the Bible in this paragraph? This is a most remarkable puzzle. Someone found it in the seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping himself occupied for hours. One man from Illinois worked on this while fishing in his john boat. Roy Clark studies it while playing his banjo. Elaine Vicks mentioned it once in her column. One woman judges the job to be so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help calm her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's fact. Some people will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. The truth is,



from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Something in our genes is responsible for the difficulties we have. Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation may help, books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. And punctuation or spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete. Remember, there are 25 books of the bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph!

Have the real answer? Send to newsletter@churchbythepark.org so we can print the answer for folks next month!

## Worship

### Do you know how to podcast?

Some members of the church would like to listen to our weekly worship services, but we don't even record them yet! If you know how to record and podcast, then please contact the office so that we can set that up, and better serve our sick and shut-ins.



**Towards the end of September Union Church will be collecting our Strengthen the Church special mission offering. This offering helps each of us to be a part of the growth and future of local congregations and Conferences of the UCC. Through this offering we further our commitment to be a multiracial, multicultural, open and affirming and accessible church to all. We strengthen and renew other congregations, and we fund leadership for new congregations. We provide exciting and new programs for our youth and young adults and fund leadership development for the whole church. With this offering we help other churches and we help ourselves continue to be forward thinking and great!**

Union Congregational Church  
 55 Rhoades Avenue  
 East Walpole, MA 02032-1128



# September 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 7-9 p.m. AA Mtg- Chapel	3 7 p.m. Diaconate – Parlor	4	5
6 10 a.m. worship	7 <b>Labor Day</b>	8 7:30 p.m. Cabinet – Parlor	9 7-9 p.m. AA Mtg; 7:30 p.m. choir	10 7 p.m. Cub Scouts HHH	11	12
	<b>FAIR: More sorting-cleaning-displaying Every evening 7 – 9 pm</b>					
13 Rally Day and toy room dedication; 10:30 a.m. worship; 7:30 p.m. confirmation class	14 <b>FAIR: Spread the Word: Tell everyone you know about our fair, held rain or shine</b>	15	16 7-9 p.m. AA Mtg; 7:30 p.m. choir	17 <b>FAIR: Peel apples at 7 p.m.; set up silent auction and the hall at 6 p.m.; Outreach Committee at 7:30 p.m.</b>	18 <b>FAIR: Work all day; fish chowder 6 p.m.; drop off baked goods; set up midway;</b>	19 <b>FAIR – come early and stay late! Official time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.</b>
20	21	22	23 7-9 p.m. AA Mtg; 7:30 p.m. choir; 7 p.m. art class	24 3:45-6 p.m. Cub Scouts; 7:30 p.m. Prudential	25 10-11 a.m. Mom's Group	26
27 9:15 a.m. Jr. choir 9:15 a.m. Question- ing the Faithful 10:30 a.m. Worship	28	29	30 7-9 p.m. AA Mtg; 7:30 p.m. choir; 7 p.m. art class			