

CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARY EVENTS

BOOK DISCUSSIONS: The Congregational Library, 14 Beacon St., Boston, is hosting free book discussions at noon. Bring lunch and a copy of the book. The June 12 book is *Mr. & Mrs. Prince: How an 18th Century Family Moved out of Slavery into Legend*; July 23 is *American Gospel*.

WALKING TOUR OF CONGREGATIONAL BOSTON: Congregational Library Directory Peggy Bendroth will guide participants to the city's famous landmarks from Old South Church to Park Street. \$10 charge. Dates: July 19 & 26, July 3, 10, 17 and 31 at 1 pm.

CONGREGATIONAL HISTORY: 5-week course on each Sunday in July at 1 pm. \$75 fee. Scholarships available. For more info call 617-523-0470.

CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS

No prayer requests were offered last week. Prayer requests are offered by members of our congregation and will be included for one week only. To include a prayer concern next week please contact the church office at (781) 826-4762 or office@fcchanoverucc.org or use the bottom portion of this form and give to an usher or put it in the offering plate. Please be sure you have permission for us to publish the names you pass along.

Please pray for these situations this week:

- The 2008 Mission & Vision of our church
- The safety and growth of the Children & Youth of our church as they end another school
- For the safety of church members who travel this summer
- For the town to rally around the Hanover Habitat build
- For the upcoming Mission Trip

If you would like to receive this list each week by e-mail along with our InSpire, our monthly Spire, weekly personal and family devotions and occasional news from our church, please send an e-mail request to the church office.

For updates to this list, check out our ESpire blog: fcchanoverucc.blogspot.com

Cut here and give to an usher or put in the offering plate

PRAYER REQUEST FORM

Your Name

Relationship to person(s) for prayer request



*in*Spire
June 8, 2008



Weekly announcements from First Congregational Church of Hanover, UCC

Persistent, Emerging Faith by Meg Clapp

When I think about this story (Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26), I am amazed by this woman's faith. It is a pushy faith. An elbow-my-way and don't-take-no-for-an-answer faith. It is a faith that doesn't quit. And I think that Jesus, was pleased. We see a bold, persistent faith that Jesus seeks in us. As disciples we learn from this story that we must always pray and not give up. To ask and it will be given to you, Jesus is saying to us disciples. "Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."

Jesus is seeking to produce in you and me the kind of faith that motivated the hemorrhaging woman to touch the hem of his garment. But if we aren't quite there yet, he is entirely willing to prop up and encourage our faith until it can grow some more.

Faith is often expressed in us at that raw, growing edge of life that is acquainted with fear but not overcome by it. Our woman has spent twelve years in sickness, embarrassment, and frustration. But she has pushed through. She has just been powerfully and instantly healed, and she is aware of the healing. How true to life.

515 Hanover Street, Hanover MA 02339
781-826-4762

Church Website: www.fcchanoverucc.org
Devotions and Prayer Requests: www.fcchanoverucc.blogspot.com
Weekly Bible Study: www.fccfaithconversations.blogspot.com
Office e-mail: office@fcchanoverucc.org

Our Church's Strengths Include

Caring for Youth & Children, Meaningful Worship,
Empowering Leadership & Focus on Community

HERE ARE THOSE STRENGTHS IN ACTION:

CARING FOR YOUTH & CHILDREN

CHURCH SCHOOL: Our rotation-style classes ended last week. We will be having Summer Sunday School sessions from July 6 - July 27. Children can be dropped off at the beginning of the service in Riley Hall. We are looking forward to a great time this summer!

Today the Church School children are leading our 10 am worship.

JUNIOR YOUTH: Meeting today!

SENIOR YOUTH: Mission trip fellowship and BBQ today!

ALL-CHURCH CARNIVAL after the 10 am worship service today. Please join us for food, fun and fellowship. **FOOD:** We will have a hot dog bar, slush, popcorn and cotton candy. **FUN:** Moonwalk, music, egg toss, pudding eating contest, face painting and carnival games. **FELLOWSHIP:** All church members are invited to attend and meet old and new friends.

MEANINGFUL WORSHIP

CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION SUNDAY worship service is at 10 am today. Children from our Beginner class through Grade 7 will lead us in worship, sing songs and serve as greeters, ushers and readers. The service reflects the lessons they learned this year. Many thanks to Deborah Bowen and all of the Sunday School teachers for their leadership and care of our young people.

SUMMER WORSHIP begins next Sunday, Father's Day, June 15, with one worship service at 9:30 am

NEW MEMBER INSTALLATION: New members will be welcomed into our faith family next Sunday, June 15

SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER: We will keep our Sanctuary open until 12:30 following our 10 am worship for those who would like to pray.

LABYRINTH FIREWALKS continue Wednesday evenings.

FAITH CONVERSATIONS: Travel through the Bible with Rev. Don on Mondays at 7:30 pm in the church vestry. June 9, is the final gathering time. *Faith Conversations* are posted on www.fccfaithconversations.blogspot.com for anyone to review.

EMPOWERING LEADERSHIP

TRUSTEES MEETING: Thursday, June 19 at 7:30 pm. Note: this is a change from our normal second Thursday of the month.

HANOVER DAYS: Volunteers are needed to make and serve Strawberry Shortcake and lemonade on Saturday, June 21 and to help with the Labyrinth worship. We also need folks who can help share information and crafts with people who come to our table at Sylvester field. Please contact the church office or sign-up in the vestry.

SUMMER SPIRE: Articles and event dates are due for a combined July and August church newsletter. Please e-mail articles to the church office by noon on Monday, June 23 at office@fcchanoverucc.org.

SUMMER BABYSITTING: We are looking for mothers, fathers, grandparents or anyone who enjoys being with little ones to help out in the Nursery during the summer months. Commitment would only be for one week. If interested, please fill out the sign-up sheet located on the coffee table in the Vestry or speak to any member of the Diaconate.

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FOCUS ON COMMUNITY

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: Community volunteers needed to fund raise, coordinate food, etc.; information session on June 12 at 7 pm at Riley Hall. Also, the Family Selection Meeting for the build on the donated Itz land will be on Tuesday, June 24 at 10 at Riley Hall.

HANOVER DIVERSITY COMMITTEE meets on Tuesday June 10 at 7:30 pm at the Parish Hall. *The mission of the Hanover Diversity Committee is to help our town celebrate and cherish the diversity in this town and world so that all people will feel safe and comfortable here being who they are.* All those interested in helping in this movement are welcome to attend.

GIFTS OF HOPE . . . Our Focus on Fathers! Honor your father, who has given so much to his family, with a Father's Day card from Church World Service. These cards depict the gift of new hope to less fortunate fathers and their families around the world. With photos, stories and prayers they tell how CWS has provided gifts of needed supplies and equipment. An assortment of cards is on display in the vestry and can be purchased for a five dollar donation. Thank you for your contributions.