

JUNE 2008

Congregation,  
Ministers to all  
Rev. Donald Remick,  
Pastor  
Meg Clapp,  
Associate Pastor  
Rev. W. Roscoe Riley,  
Pastor Emeritus  
Chad Weirick,  
Minister of Music  
Deborah Bowen, Director  
of Christian Education  
Ed Melchin, Sextant  
Stacey Stahl,  
Office Administrator

**The Mission of the First Congregational Church of Hanover, United Church of Christ,** is to make the love of God and the God of love known as both continue to be revealed to us. We welcome all people into the full life and ministry of our church regardless of their age, gender, race, sexual orientation, ethnicity, class or economic standing, because we believe that no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. We gather people together in God's love that grounds us in a caring community and transforms our lives of faith. We send people out to make a difference in the world through compassion and justice.

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A monthly publication of First Congregational Church of Hanover, UCC

## OBEDIENT GIVING

**2 Corinthians 9:12-13** *This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.*

As our young people prepare for their mission trip this month, we see that their giving is not only edifying to their soul, but also acts a witness to their Christian faith. People will see their acts of service

and wonder why teenagers would pay to go on a trip to serve others. The answer is Christ. People will see a reflection of Christ in their words and actions. Please pray for them and for their impact on the lives of the people that they serve and that see them serve.

As you go about your busy summer, please remember to remain diligent in your pledges for the ministries and mission of our church. Let our church continue to serve others through the gifts and pledges of the congregation. Let us continue to be obedient and "overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God."

## NEW COMERS NIGHT & NEW MEMBER WELCOME

I would like to extend the invitation to new comers to our church to gather for a New Comer's night on May 29th. We will gather in the Church Vestry (where we hold coffee hour) from 7:30 till 9 pm. Those folks wishing to join the church will have the opportunity to do so on June 15th at the 9:30 am worship service. New Comer's night is a

great chance to meet some more church folks and hear more about the history, heritage and hopes of our church. It is not necessary for membership, but it is a wonderful time of fellowship.

If you are interested in joining the church, please call the church office by June 7. ~ Rev. Don

## MEANINGFUL SUMMER WORSHIP BEGINS JUNE 15

**June 1 - Communion**

**June 8 - BIG DAY!** Firemen's Sunday - 7 am Parade with breakfast to follow at Riley Hall, Church School Sunday and Kindergarten Graduation at 10 am (no 8:30 Worship Service), and All Church Carnival Picnic after worship

**June 15 - SUMMER HOURS BEGIN.** Church at 9:30 am. New Member Welcome. Guest preacher. St. John's Sunday

**June 21 -** Worship all day at the Labyrinth as part of Hanover Days

**June 22 -** Commissioning our Mission Trip group

**No Evening Worship or indoor Labyrinth til October**

**Monday Night Faith Conversations:** We will continue in June exploring the writings of the New Testament from the historical perspectives of Acts and Revelations to the letters to growing and emerging churches. Join us June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 - 9pm in the church vestry.

**ESpire -** Stay connected to your faith family by receiving weekly e-mails from the church with devotions and prayer requests. Contact the church office to get on the e-mail list or check out [www.fcchanoverucc.blogspot.com](http://www.fcchanoverucc.blogspot.com).

# FOCUS ON COMMUNITY

Local, National & International Outreach

## HANOVER DAYS

Again this year we will be hosting a table for our church at Hanover days on June 21. This will be a great opportunity to introduce people to some of the great things we have at our church. We will have a number of church fliers available for people to pick up. We will also have crafts for kids to make at our table.

**WE NEED folks who can help cover the table from 9 am till 4 pm.** There will be a sign up at coffee hour, but you can also call the church office if you can help.

We'll also have the Labyrinth open that day with Strawberry shortcake and lemonade as refreshments and a Harpist and flautist playing in the background. We would love (and need) your help with shortcake prep and hospitality.



**Habitat Returns to Hanover.** This spring we are beginning to form a committee in our town to coordinate the efforts to build a Habitat for Humanity home. Arnold and Barbara Itz have generously donated land for the home. Now we are beginning the work of planning, funding, scheduling, selecting, advertising and praying. If you would like to help with this community wide effort, please call the church office.

## TOOLS OF HOPE

Coming in June...CWS Father's Day cards! You can preview these in the vestry near our "Tools of Hope" fishing net. These cards not only picture, but also tell, the stories of those helped by our donations.

Your gifts supply disaster kits, tools, seeds, water and other essentials to those in need around the world. Thank you for your continuing support to those in need!

~ Cindy Shaw

## DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

It began with pancakes. Back on Martin Luther King, Jr., birthday celebration people from town gathered. The conversation began around experiences of racism and prejudice, subtle but unsettling, in our community. There was a lot of energy to keep the conversation going.

A town wide committee is forming with the goal *"To help our community celebrate and cherish the diversity in our town and our world so that all people will feel safe and comfortable here being who they are."*

In the coming months this group will meet to imagine, dream, plan and engage our community in a broadening conversation to deepen our awareness, our sensitivity and our compassion. If you would like to help please call the church office.

## HEIFER PROJECT

Please remember to continue bringing in cans/bottles for Heifer Project throughout the summer. They can be left at Riley Hall. We still have another \$1,000 to raise to meet our \$5000 goal. With all the summer parties about to begin I am sure this number can be reached. Thanks for your continued support of this project.

~ Ruth Hall

## THANK YOU

THANK YOU again for your generous donations to Church World Service! Our congregation gave a total of \$225 by purchasing meaningful cards for Mother's Day. These "Tools of Hope" dollars will assist the many needy victims of our recent natural disasters. Your compassion gives hope to God's people in troubled areas around the globe. Many thanks!

~ Cindy Shaw

## CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS

### Thank You

Dear Friends, my family and I want to thank you for your caring thoughts at the death of my mother. Your beautiful cards, notes and prayers meant so much at a difficult time. The support of our friends in the church has been a source of great comfort. Love, Joan Thomas

### May 2008 Prayer Concerns

- Jim Murray - had an aneurysm while vacationing and now is in a coma

### May 18, 2008 Confirmands

Ryan Ahearn, Sarah Ahearn, Matthew Crowley, Andrew MacDonald, Kristin Falcione, Nicole Fournier, Julie Fraser, Justin Gardner, Erica Kelly, Cassandra Schell

### 2008 High School Graduates

Max Alexander, Eleanor Botelho, Travis Carlson, Adam Cook, Juli Courtney, Brianna Crowley, Brianne Greland, Matthew Hall, Mary Rafferty, Heidi Schweighauser

### 2008 College Graduates

Alison Cook graduated from Suffolk University, Allison Crosby from Tufts University, James Milley from Massachusetts Maritime Academy and Ashley Wall from American University

### 2008 Deaths to Date

Bradley, Janet 1/3/2008	Packard, Eileen 2/25/2008
Grahn, Frank 1/8/2008	Brasier, Ed 3/17/2008
Ward Murray 1/18/2008	Nancy Stewart 1/2008
Nicmanus, Erik 1/22/2008	Shirley Blanchard 5/13/2008
Leach, Walter 1/31/2008	
Kittredge, William 2/10/2008	



## YOUTH GROUP

### June Events

8- Mission trip fellowship-BBQ and how to pack for the trip

15- Father's Day Jr. High sponsored Water Country Trip-all youth groups welcome

23- Mission trip to New Orleans. See you at the airport-remember luggage limits!!!

30- End of our week of fellowship with the larger community that gathers to do God's work.

July 6- The "Big Easy"-gathering for worship-Yes it will be easy to be there at 8 am since you got up at 6am for the mission trip.

## CHURCH SCHOOL

I can hardly believe another Sunday School year has passed so quickly.

We will celebrate Children's Day on June 8, 2008, and we have a great program and a really fun time planned for after the worship service. The children should all gather in Riley Hall at 9:30 am and we will parade over to the church. The 6th grade class should meet in the Vestry at 9:30 am as they are the readers and ushers and the Pre-K and Kindergarten classes will be the greeters and should gather at the same time.

Following the service we will be having an All Church Carnival with hot dogs, popcorn, slush, cotton candy, moonwalk, music and games. There will also be a covered area with seating to get people out of the sun so you can enjoy the festivities. (If you don't like hot dogs, please feel free to bring a lunch of your choice.) We will provide drinks for everyone. We hope that

everyone can make it, not just the kids and their parents, as this is meant for the entire church to celebrate with the kids. See you there!

I want to thank all the children and parents for a wonderful Sunday School year. We could not do what we do without all the parents helping teaching and all the kids coming each Sunday. I look forward to next year!

We will be having a group Sunday School during the month of July for any parents who need it. We are planning a Beach Party theme and look forward to seeing the kids then. It will start July 6 and run until July 27, 2008. We hope this makes it convenient for some parents with younger children to come to church in the summer. And who doesn't love a beach party!

See you all on Sunday!

~ Deborah J. Bowen

# Empowering Leadership

## SUMMER BABYSITTING

During the summer months the Nursery is open during Sunday morning worship for those who bring little ones to church. 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 signup sheet located on the coffee table in the Vestry or speak to any member of the Diaconate.

## DISCUSSION GROUP

The Discussion Group will meet on Wednesday, June 18 at 7:30 pm at Riley Hall. The topic is U.S. Defense Policy. During the cold war the U.S. had a clear defense policy that focused on containing and deterring Soviet Communist expansion. Since the fall of the Soviet Union no clear defense policy with wide spread support has emerged. Should we have a policy of using preemptive action or should we place more emphasis on diplomatic and economic cooperation to help solve international problems? Join us to discuss this interesting topic. For more information contact Hal Thomas at 781-826-7952 or halhanover@msn.com.

## TRUSTEES

The Trustees will meet on Thursday, June 19 at 7:30 pm. This is a change from our normal second Thursday of the month, since I had a conflict on that date. Thanks, Hal

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

The 2008 Committee Chairpersons are listed below:

**Diaconate:** Al Alexander and Ruth Hall

**Finance Board:** Mary Dunn

**Board of Trustees:** Hal Thomas,

**Outreach and Service:** Cindy Shaw

**Christian Education:** Beth MacDonald

**Stewardship Committee:** John Fox

**Music Committee:** Dayna Scribi

**Flower Committee:** Meredith Crosby

**Greeting Committee:** Karen Wilson

**Ushering Committee:** Ken Blanchard

**Memorial Fund:** Janice Bancroft

**Investment Committee:** Rich Zawalich

**Pastor-Parish Relations:** Don Springhetti

# Stockholder's Letter - Youth Mission Trip

*"He has shown all of you people what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? But to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."*

*Micah 6:8*

For the last few years we have offered our youth a chance to change their lives by changing the world.

We travel together to places in our country where they can make a difference by helping our brothers and sister who are in extreme need. We have built homes, distributed food, hugged kids, painted walls, tilled gardens and found that our understanding of ourselves and our world changes as faith was engaged in action.

This trip may be one of the most life changing and soul shaping events in their lives. We ask the youth to pay half to one third of the cost and we rely on their work of fundraising for the remainder.

We need your help to make it possible for more youth to go and experience why Christ asked us to find him in the least of these.

This year we are returning to New Orleans to help in

gulf coast hurricane relief and rebuilding.

Stockholders please make a gift to help cover the cost of the trip (Approximately \$600 per youth). Any gift you give will help us make this trip a reality. It will help us shape the lives of the youth who are both the present and future of our church. It will help us to bring the love and compassion of our church's faith into the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Stockholders receive a note from our youth telling stories about their experiences on the trip

Stockholders are invited to a dinner in the fall where the youth share their stories with pictures. Poetry and prose

Stockholders know that the experience of helping the kids serve others and right the wrongs around them will not happen without them.

*"Be the change that you want to see in the world."*

*Mohandas Gandhi*

.....  
Name

Address

Phone Number

E-mail Address

## CALENDAR

# First Congregational Church United Church of Christ

*Where God is still speaking*

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**The June Spire will be the last issue  
for the summer until mid-August  
when we gear up for fall.**

## Laura's Country Church Fair

The Moonlighters are making themed Gift Baskets for our 2008 Laura's Country Church Fair. In addition to the filler items listed below we are in need of baskets (all shapes and sizes), wired ribbon for decorating the baskets, and large handled shopping bags for transporting. Here are some suggestions for filler items (donation box in the coat room):

Address books  
All occasion cards  
Aprons  
Baby layette items  
Baby toys  
Barrettes/hair clips  
Bath sponges or scrubbers  
Bird books  
Bird feeders  
Bird seed/suet/suet holders  
Birthday party items  
Body glitter/Body lotion/Body wash  
Books on tape

Boxed cookies  
Boxed note cards  
Boxed tea bags  
Brush/comb sets  
Bubble bath  
Candle holders  
Children's books  
Children's games  
Clay flower pots  
Cocoa mix packets  
Coffee mugs  
Cook books  
Crossword books  
Day planner calendars  
Eye shadow compacts  
Facial masques  
Fancy crackers  
Fancy paper napkins  
Gardening gloves  
Hair care items  
Head bands  
Kitchen towels  
Lip gloss  
Microwave popcorn/Microwave soups  
Nail care items  
Nail polish  
Napkins/placemats  
Packaged candy

Paperback novels  
Photo albums  
Plant food  
Playing cards  
Pot holders  
Potpourri/Potpourri holders  
Potting soil  
Pretty pens/pencils  
Puzzles  
Quick bread mixes  
Scented candles  
Scented soap  
Seed packets  
Shower gel  
Small bird houses  
Small garden tools  
Small gourmet coffee packages  
Small picture frames  
Small stuffed animals/Small toys  
Stationery  
Tea towels  
Wooden spoons, spatulas, etc.

Any food items should have "Best Used By" dates no earlier than 12/31/08.

~ Judy Blodgett