



The Link - May 2007

Faithlift Auction is a Grand Success

The Faithlift Auction was held in our vestry on March 31. Our proceeds from the auction were \$4,780 and sales from the kitchen and Youth Group bake sale were \$233.50, for a grand total of \$5,013.50! Many thanks to the auction committee: Alyson, Joyce, Lee, Michele, Robin, Tami, and Zelda. The committee hustled to round up donations, distribute publicity, and organize the event. We also greatly appreciate the excellent assistance we received at the event from Youth Group members who worked in the kitchen and served as “runners” displaying items for bidders. Our more valuable items were kept safe thanks to security supplied by Tom and Dan Swett and company. Kudos to the experts from Kelley Auctions who ran a smooth and professional operation and also donated some beautiful items to the auction. Finally, our thanks, of course, to all who donated items and to those who came to the auction and purchased some fabulous bargains!

Following is our list of auction donors. It is our hope that as you visit some of our local sponsors throughout the year, you might thank them on behalf of The First United Methodist Church and the Faithlift campaign.

Individuals

Marion Burgess
The Cox Family
Zelda Garrison-Desany
Ann Edelman
Anne Halliday
Marg-e Kelley
The Zaia Family
Joyce Swett
Bonnie and Glen Wilson

Local businesses

Affordable Limousine
Blockbuster Video
Chez Siam
Don's Flying Service
Edinboro Flower Shop
Engraveables
Joy-Den Jewelers
Kennedy's Market
Lazer Zone
Marlborough Country Club
Party Works
Piece 'o Cake
Professional Automotive
Red House Antiques
Stow Acres Country Club
Teamworks Fitness Center
Villari's Self Defense Center
The Vin Bin

Local businesses (Contd)

Wayside Country Store
Wayside Inn
Wayside Racquet and Swim Club
Wildwood Steak House

Corporate sponsors

Boston Marriott Long Wharf
The Boston Red Sox
Courtyard Marriott
Hampton Inn
New England Revolution
Providence Bruins
Residence Inn, Marriott
Wachusett Mountain Ski Area
Wal-Mart
Worcester Sharks
Worcester Tornados

Food Bank Report from Michele Rogers

Michele Rogers, Judy Chaves and Jim Rodlin are the mission hands and feet of our congregation at the Marlborough Food Pantry. Michele says that the shelves are starting to look quite bare again. The Boy Scout drive earlier in the spring boosted the inventory for a couple of months, but this extra supply is now depleted.

As the school year winds down and donors go on vacation, people forget to give to the food bank. Please remember that the food bank depends on churches to be mainstays of giving when others forget. With the price of fuel and heating oil so high, many families have struggled through the winter. Calls to the Pastor Linda and the church for help are increasing because many families who normally receive assistance with heating oil bills are receiving no help or reduced help this year.

Children who normally eat lunch at school will be home for summer lunch. No child in Marlborough deserves to be hungry. Please keep those struggling financially and those operating the food bank in your prayers this summer. Remember to pick up an extra item or two each time you go shopping.

Our Summer Shopping List for the Food Bank:

First Sunday in June: crackers (all varieties), cookies, raisins, granola bars, popcorn

First Sunday in July: diapers (size 3,4,5 are most needed)

First Sunday in August: shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste, deodorant

First Sunday in September: paper goods, toilet paper, paper towels, kleenex

Spotlight on Our New Members

We received the following persons into full membership on Palm Sunday:

Mathew Alexander, Alyson Cox, Sue Lodi, Michele Rogers, and Tom Swett. Welcome!

We pray God's continuing grace upon each of them as they continue in their Christian journey and also upon us as we nurture them in our Christian family.

Lay Speakers in Training!

Mathew Alexander, Sue Lodi and Jan Racca are participating in a five-week Lay Speaker training course. They are learning about United Methodist worship and sermon preparation. This is the first time in a long time that our church has had a corps of Lay Speakers to assist the pastor and lead the congregation in worship activities. Lay Speakers are a tremendous blessing to us, and we look forward to the enrichment of worship that they will bring to our congregation over the coming year.

Thank you

The Family of Weedon and Paris would like to thank all of you who expressed their sympathies to us. We deeply appreciate the cards, delicious meals, flowers, fruit baskets, memorial donations and words of comfort. Your expressions of love and friendship will always be remembered.

-Joan Parris and family

News from the Trustees

A Lift Project update:

The lift which will provide accessibility to all of the church *for* all of the church is installed and operational. The brand-new concrete walkway from the parking lot to the lift serves quite well for smooth, mud-free access. Soon, the addition of a working telephone line inside the lift tower will provide users a link with the outside world in case of emergency. Unfortunately, when we tested the lift on Easter Sunday, some metal wall panels were damaged, having been improperly installed, it appears, by the lift vendor. As of this writing, we are awaiting replacement wall panels, completion of the stained glass window, and most importantly, inspection and approval by a state inspector. The Trustees thank all of our congregation who have been supportive and patient during this complicated process. Monetary donations for the project are still needed and more fundraisers are on the way.

The Trustees need you...

To serve on the Board. Everyday maintenance and overall improvements to our church facility are the responsibility of the Board of Trustees. Currently, the Board is down to just two members (Joyce Swett and Alyson Cox) and we are afraid our own homes are falling apart as we attend to the pressing needs of this old church. You can help serve on this Board if you can attend one meeting per month and help throughout the month in one or more capacities. Could you be a financial secretary? Attend to building maintenance? Organize fundraisers? Help to prioritize and accomplish capital improvements? Communicate and work with tenants? You can do it! Please join us. The next two Trustees meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, May 2 and Wednesday, June 6 at 7:00 p.m.

THE COST OF THE LIFT HAS NOW EXCEEDED \$100,000!

This lift is an investment for the future of our church. We believe that increased access to all will increase the hospitality of our church.

However, we must now pay the bill. If you have been “meaning to” make a significant contribution to the lift, please do so immediately. Also, plan on making extra contributions to the lift via memorial gifts. Make all checks payable to First UMC Marlboro Trustees.

Please do not confuse the operating budget obligations and the Trustee building obligations. They are two separate but equally important part of our church health. Failing to keep up our pledges puts daily church operations and programs in jeopardy. Failing to fund the Trustees puts our ability to maintain our building according to safety standards and building codes at risk. Please give regularly and generously to both.

We are tentatively planning a public ribbon cutting ceremony after church on May 20, right before our potluck community appreciation luncheon.

WHO (Women Helping Others) will host a potluck luncheon after church on Sunday, May 20. We are pleased to be sharing fellowship with representatives from the many community organizations with whom our church partners throughout the year. Please come and break bread with us. There is a sign-up sheet in the vestry for those who care to bring a favorite dish.

WHO's next business meeting will be **Wednesday, May 16, at 7:15 p.m.**

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Homeless shelter update

Thanks to the following people who have prepared and delivered the meals on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

January – Zaia Family

February – The Cox family

March – Lee Cassie and the youth group

April – Laretta Field and her daughter Janet

On May 19th, the Searles family will prepare the meal. June 14th Pastor Linda is in-charge. She needs volunteers to meet at the church at 2.00 PM on that date.

Volunteers are needed for September, October, November and December. Interested persons please see Joan Parris – Coordinator.

From the Education Committee:

- The Education Committee is now accepting registrations for Vacation Bible School, "Trading Places", K- grade 5, to be held June 25 th- 29th from 6 - 8 pm. Registration forms are available in the Vestry on the bulletin board or via the Website Admission is \$5 per person. Registration forms and fee may be mailed or hand carried to the church office
- Offering envelopes (bright colored) for children will be available in a basket located in the rear of the Sanctuary for weekly pick up or take home and return. This offering will go directly to the education budget.
- The Education Committee will sponsor the Children's Sunday Pot Luck Luncheon, June 10th, following the service. Please sign up for your favorite dish to bring and share on the coffee hour table in the Vestry.
- Youth Group Fundraisers

Starting in May the Youth Group will be holding a Spare Change Drive to benefit the Extreme Faithlift. Look for the decorated containers on the Coffee Hour Table to drop your spare change in at any time. Once again this year, starting in May the Youth Group will be holding a Bottle and Can Drive. Please use the large box in the Vestry for your drop off.

Sue and Art urge you to prayerfully consider the following:

1. **We are taking in \$1000 LESS per month that we need to meet our basic, bare-bones operating budget. Please help by bringing your pledge amounts current.** As the summer begins our giving goes down and causes severe stress on our ability to keep our bills paid.
2. If you are a new member, please ask Pastor Linda, Art Bastian or Sue Lodi for a box of your own offering envelopes and consider pledging a regular amount to the church.
3. Spend some time this summer spearheading a special fundraiser for the church budget. You will have fun and help the church be able to carry out its ministries at the same time!

Photos from April 2007 Occasions



Palm Sunday when new members were taken in.

Youth doing the Yard Sale on April 28



Micaela Garrison-Desany holds up a Hummel figurine for bid at the auction

Michele Rogers and Philemon Chose study the catalog of items up for bid



Brittany Edelman, Christopher Caissie, and Zachary Edelman man the concession stand at the Faithlift Auction on

All Fund Raising to tithe to Conference support

Our congregation is assessed apportionments every year by the Annual Conference for our support of the conference and other programs they do each year. For several years we have not been able to pay 100% of these apportionments. This year, we have made a concerned effort to not only pay this year's monies, but also try to catch up on some of the monies we still owe from last year. As a result of Art Bastian's plea toward this endeavor, the church has been able to pay towards our apportionments while still paying all our current bills. But we still have quite a way to go.

At this month's Ad Council meeting, payment of this Conference Support was discussed. Discussed, voted on and passed is a program to aide the Conference Support by all organizations in the church family. Beginning immediately, any fund raising project run by any organization within the church, must tithe (10%) of their profit directly to the General Fund for our Conference Support payment. The remainder of the fund raising project will be used for whatever purpose the fund raiser was established for. If an organization wishes to give more toward the Conference support that would be greatly appreciated too. This tithe by all organizations fund raising plus the continued support from individuals within the congregation will continue to help us support the Conference.

If you have any questions regarding this program or our Conference Support commitments, please see a member of the Ad Council, Chair of Ad Council – Tom Swett or Pastor Linda.

Mission Committee

The mission committee held its first meeting in Feb 2007. Members present were Joan Parris –Chairperson, Eric Searles, Lorna Dyer, Pastor Linda and Judy Chaves.

The mission committee works very closely with W.H.O. (Women Helping Others). We will continue to do the monthly donations to the Marlboro food bank, Sea Farers, Migrant Workers in Maine.

We supply Adult and Baby blankets, Back-Pack for needy back to schools, Christmas baskets for our Shut-Ins. Also for needy teens and younger children we have collection boxes in the vestry for Sea Farers to collect knitted caps, puzzles and National Geographic's, personal items (shaving gear, deodorants).

Homeless Shelter – new and slightly used towels and Bed linens.

Marlboro Food Bank – Please see the bulletin for monthly donations.

It has been brought to our attention that the Charles Lyons Foundation Trust provides medical necessities to needy children of Marlboro, like reading glasses, hearing aides, special shoes etc. We are going to work with local social services and local school nurses to reach out to the children. If any of you know of a child in need for any of the mentioned items, please see any member of the missions committee.

- Joan Parris, Chair Person

Meet our New Financial Secretary!

Tim Howe recently “retired” as our Financial Secretary. We are thankful for his time in the position. Now, we welcome Sue Lodi as our new Financial Secretary. She has sent out quarterly pledge statements and will coordinate with Treasurer Art Bastian to keep us abreast of our budget progress.

Church Calendar for May 2007

May 1	Tuesday	7:15 PM	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
May 2	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Trustees, Education Room
May 3	Thursday	7:00 PM	Worship at New Horizons Assisted Living With Holy Communion
May 6	Sunday	10:00 AM	Church School
		10:30 AM	Coffee Hour Fellowship
		11:00 AM	Morning Worship with Holy Communion Guest Preacher: Rev. Bill Fleming, Harbor Chaplain, Boston Seafarer Friend Society
May 7	Monday	Disciple IV	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan
May 8	Tuesday	7:15 PM	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
May 10	Thursday	7:00 PM	Worship at New Horizons Assisted Living
May 13	Sunday	10:00 AM	Church School
		10:30 AM	Coffee Hour Fellowship
		11:00 AM	Morning Worship with Mother's Day Celebration Mission Presentation of Pillows, Pillow Cases to Homeless Shelter
		Noon:	Youth Group Meets
May 14	Monday	Disciple IV	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan
May 15	Tuesday	7:15 PM	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
May 16	Wednesday	7:15 PM	W.H.O. (Women Helping Others), Vestry
May 17	Thursday	7:00 PM	Worship at New Horizons Assisted Living
May 19	Saturday	9-Noon	Pre-Annual Conference Meeting, St. Matthew's in Acton
May 20	Sunday	10:00 AM	Church School
		10:30 AM	Coffee Hour Fellowship
		11:00 AM	Morning Worship Celebrating Ascension Sunday Reception of New Members
		Noon:	Community Appreciation Luncheon hosted by W.H.O.
May 21	Monday	Disciple IV	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan
May 22	Tuesday	7:15 PM	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
May 24	Thursday	7:00 PM	Worship at New Horizons Assisted Living
May 27	Sunday	10:00 AM	Church School
		10:30 AM	Coffee Hour Fellowship
		11:00 AM	Morning Worship, Pentecost Celebration
		Noon:	Staff Parish Relations Committee, Education Room
May 28	Monday		Memorial Day Holiday, office closed
May 29	Tuesday	7:15 PM	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
May 31	Thursday	7:00 PM	Worship at New Horizons Assisted Living

Special Sundays in May

On May 13, we will observe **Mother's Day**.

On May 20, we will host a Community Appreciation Luncheon.

On May 27, we celebrate Pentecost, the birthday of the Church.



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Address Correction Requested

Pastor Linda Stetter

