



## The Link - November 2007

### Our Annual Mission Trip to Boston Harbor on November 3rd!

Thanks to our energetic youth group, our church has developed a helpful mission relationship with Seafarer's Friend in Boston Harbor (Chelsea, to be exact). This project has become an intergenerational effort in our church, with persons of all ages collecting personal care items and sewing Christmas ditty bags and knitting stocking caps. Our youth have put up shelves and packed ditty bags on site at the Seafarer's Center.

This year, we have planned a special and desperately needed project. We will roll up our shirt sleeves and move all furnishings from the downstairs area to the upstairs area and vice versa. This will make the chapel area more visible upstairs, in keeping with the real purpose of Seafarer's Friend, which is to offer spiritual and humanitarian comfort to lonely seafarers.

To complete this mission in one day, we need adult helpers along with youth. Please bring simple tools and dollies for moving boxes and heavy items. Bring your own lunch.

The plan is to assemble into carpools and leave the North Grafton Church no later than 8 AM on Saturday, November 3rd. Parking there is limited, so we need to carpool in as few cars as possible. We will caravan over to the Marlborough church and pick up people there and then proceed to the harbor. We will leave Marlborough at 8:45 and plan on being in the harbor by 10 AM. We will work until noon, have lunch--BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH-- and then finish our work in early afternoon. We can take tours of the commercial harbor to see which ships are in and perhaps to meet and worship with any crews that are able to come to the Center that day. We should return to Marlborough around 4:30 PM and North Grafton shortly thereafter.

I need to know right away who is planning to go. Leave a message by email or phone mail, or let Lay Leaders Joyce Swett or Marla Levitre know, or if you are a youth in Marlborough, let Lee Caissie know.

This year, we are dedicating our efforts to the honor of Rev. William (Bill) Fleming, the Harbor Chaplain who retired in October due to his battle with pancreatic cancer.

The work of this mission trip is critical to ongoing support of harbor ministry. Please mark your calendar and let me know if you will be going for sure.

Blessings,  
Pastor Linda

### ***November 18 is Consecration Sunday***

Not only will we celebrate a harvest of special food offerings on November 18, but we will also bless the pledges to support our 2008 church budget. The Administrative Board and Trustees encourage everyone to be present on this day to pray for the future of our church.

We absolutely must go into 2008 with firm assurances from our members that we will have the “bare bones” amount of \$64,000 to keep our doors open and basic bills paid throughout the year. Relying on special appeals to pay routine bills is a practice that we are trying to avoid this year because it creates an atmosphere of uncertainty and anxiety for everyone. Additionally, the Trustees are going to need “second mile” giving toward necessary roof repairs, fire alarm system, and other critical repairs that must happen in order to keep our building habitable.

### ***Remember the Food Bank in November!***

The shelves at the Food Pantry have been regrettably very bare this Fall. Please make a special effort to bring any staple food items to the church for our First Sunday giving on November 4. Also, make a “second mile” donation behind Price Chopper under the big Post Office Food Drive Tent on Saturday, November 10. On Sunday, November 18, we will boost our commitment to the hungry in our community by supporting the youth of our church whose tradition is to take up a special offering for Harvest Sunday. Please bring extra items for their basket and also purchase a \$20 grocery store gift card to ensure that needy families will have “fixings” to go along with their Thanksgiving turkeys this year. More families than ever are having to make the choice to eat or stay warm this winter. Our commitment must remain faithful and steadfast.

### ***Join our 2007 Advent Study***

Pastor Linda will be leading this year’s Advent Study, “Preparing My Heart for Advent.” The group will meet Monday nights at 6 PM for one hour on the following dates: November 26, December 3, 10 and 17. The study booklet provides daily reflections and questions as a spiritual guide through the Advent and Christmas seasons. Anyone with a Middle School or higher reading ability is welcome at the study, which will meet in the Pastor’s Office.

### ***Our New Book Bin in the Churchyard!***

The Trustees are pleased to announce the placement of a large container from GotBooks. We will be paid 5 cents per pound, or about \$90 per full container to collect the following: books (even used textbooks!), CDs, DVDs, comic books, and videotapes. Please, NO MAGAZINES--they will take up space, and we won't get paid for them! Please drop your donations into the box anytime. Encourage your neighbors to get rid of those used books, tapes, CDs, etc. that are cluttering up their houses! This is an easy and environmentally friendly way to recycle and to help the Trustees keep their monthly budget needs afloat!

### ***Help wanted***

We only have half the number of Trustees we need according to our church law. Please consider joining this group. This is a good time to join. Requirements would be to attend one monthly evening meeting and help make decisions about building maintenance. Right now a major project is helping the Holy Trinity Anglicans transition to our church building. This means some PR work and just basic hospitality as they get acquainted with our building and our routines. If you can help, please see Pastor Linda, Joyce Swett, Alyson Cox, Les Lambert or Ann Bastian. We need at least 4 more Trustees by the beginning of 2008 so that we can submit the required slate of church officers to Conference.

***The Ad Council meeting*** dates for the remainder of the year will be changing to the following times. Next meeting: Monday November 5th 7 PM in the meeting room. Following meeting: December 3rd 7 PM in the meeting room. Please contact Tom Swett at 508-485-0815 if you have any questions regarding these changes.

***The Youth Group*** would like to thank all of those that have contributed to the past Fundraisers we have sponsored. With your contributions we have raised the following:

\$ 194.70	Spare Change Drive (All that debris, buttons, stamps, nails, tacks, etc. that were pulled from the change was worth the Drive!)
\$ 46.30	Bottle and Can Drive (A sticky job but someone has to do it!)
\$ 802.00	Fall Yard Sale (One man's junk is another man's treasure!)
\$1,043.00	TOTAL FUNDRAISERS to date

We will continue our Spare Change Drive until further notice. We will suspend the Bottle and Can Drive until next summer. We will hold another Yard Sale in the Spring!

***The pledge amount for*** 10/28/07 was \$ 635.00. Thank you.

### ***November 4 is All Souls Day***

The first Sunday in November is a special day of worship and Holy Communion. We remember the cloud of witnesses who surround us by lighting candles of remembrance and saying prayers and blessings for those saints who have died during this past year. All who mourn the loss of loved ones are invited to attend this service and to light candles.

### ***Daylight Savings Time is on a different schedule this year!***

We make our clocks "fall back" on Sunday, November 4. Make sure you set your clocks back one hour before going to bed Saturday night so that you will be on time to Sunday service!

### ***Nicaragua Material Aid is Being Shipped***

Our church has participated in the New England Conference Mission to Nicaragua by furnishing much-needed storage space for material aid over the past year. Our church, along with many others, has collected light-weight clothing, plus supplies for medical, sewing, and school projects. On Sunday afternoon, November 4, members of the Nicaragua Planning Committee will be coming to our church to pick up the supplies which have been stored behind the stage in the vestry. They will be labeled, taken to a shipping container, and then delivered to a harbor for shipment in November. Thanks to all who have donated items. They will arrive in time for Christmas and distribution for the new school year which starts in February in the southern hemisphere.

***The Marlborough Interfaith Thanksgiving Service*** will be held at Immaculate Conception Church on Monday evening, November 19 at 7:30 PM. Pastor Linda will be preaching. There will be a reception following the service. The public is invited to attend.

## ***North Grafton Church: Suppers are back!***

Beginning Saturday, October 20, the North Grafton United Methodist Church will once again be hosting church suppers on a monthly basis. Reservations are required. There will be two seatings: 5 PM and 6:30 PM. Reservations for the October 20 dinner are required by October 15 by calling 508-839-2839. The menu this month is oven baked beans, ham, coleslaw, rolls, apple crisp, coffee, tea or milk. Price: \$8.00 adults and \$4.00 for children aged 10 and under. The November 17 dinner will be preceded by a workshop at 3:30 on Five Wishes, an important document that should be filled out by anyone over the age of 18. Five Wishes allows anyone to state wishes for treatment and personal care in case he or she becomes unable to speak for him or herself for any length of time. A panel of parish nurses, psychiatrist, tax expert and estate planning will be available to answer questions. The fee of \$5 covers just the cost of materials. No products or services will be sold at this workshop. The November 17 Methodist Church dinner will also have 2 seatings, 5 PM and 6:30 PM. Reservations are required. The phone number and prices are the same as the October dinner. The menu will be announced at a later date.

### ***Help wanted***

Some of the faithful volunteers who have been staffing our office during the week are experiencing schedule changes. Therefore, we need a couple of new volunteers who could come in on a weekday (preferably Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday) either in the morning or afternoon to do simple, routine tasks. Please speak to Pastor Linda if you can volunteer about 3 hours per week.

### ***Stewardship Campaign***

We are kicking off our annual stewardship campaign. Over the next weeks, you will be receiving a newly formatted pledge card. You will be asked to pledge your support to the 2008 church operating budget as well as to the building improvement budget of the Trustees. Please prayerfully consider your 2008 pledge and return your card ASAP by mail or offering plate. Our Consecration Sunday for blessing our pledges will be on Sunday, November 18, just before Thanksgiving. We must have pledges totaling no less than \$64,000 in order to keep our doors open and utilities paid in 2008. We have cut everything out of this budget that can be cut, so there is no wiggle room. We simply must go into 2008 knowing that this money will be available. The Trustees and Administrative Board is appealing to all church members and friends to fund the budget without relying on special appeals throughout the year. Additionally, we must raise about \$9600 immediately to repair a major leak that was discovered in the sanctuary roof behind the organ pipes. This leak must be repaired "before the snow flies" in order to ensure the integrity of our sanctuary roof. Please give generously as "second mile" giving or as a memorial to this effort.

### ***Grocery store gift cards***

We are collecting grocery store gift cards in \$20 denominations to give to the Food Pantry for Thanksgiving. The Food Pantry gives family certificates for turkeys. Our gift cards of \$20 will ensure that families of four can purchase the "fixings" to go with their turkeys. Simply purchase a gift card on your next shopping trip and put it in the offering plate on Sunday. If you are unable to do the shopping personally, please mark your donation for "thanksgiving Food Bank" and put it in the offering plate or give it to Pastor Linda or Joan Parris, Mission Chair.

## Church Calendar for November 2007

1	Thursday	7:00 PM	Worship at New Horizons with Holy Communion All Souls Day
3	Saturday	8:30 AM	Mission Trip to Seafarer Friend in Chelsea, Boston Harbor
4	Sunday	11:00 AM	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
		11:25 AM	Sunday school
		Noon	Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall
		2:00 PM	Nicaragua Material Aid Picked Up for Shipment
5	Monday	10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan
		7:00 PM	Administrative Council, Meeting Room
7	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Trustees, Meeting Room
8	Thursday	7:00 PM	Worship at New Horizons Assisted Living
10	Saturday	9:00-3:00	Food Drive at Price Chopper
11	Sunday	11:00 AM	Morning Worship
		11:25 AM	Sunday school
		Noon	Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall
		Noon	Mission Committee, Meeting Room
12	Monday	10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan
		TBA	Tentative Mission Trip to Salem Economic Ministry in Phillips, Maine
15	Thursday	7:00 PM	Worship at New Horizons Assisted Living
17	Saturday	9:00-3:00	W.H.O. participates in Senior Craft Fair
		3:30 PM	Five Wishes Workshop at North Grafton Church
		5:00-7:00	Church Dinner at North Grafton Church
18	Sunday	11:00 AM	Morning Worship and Harvest Sunday Consecration Sunday for Stewardship Campaign
		11:25 AM	Sunday school
		Noon	Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall
		Noon	Worship Committee, Meeting Room
		Noon	Youth Group Meeting
		7-10 PM	Simon Mall Evening of Giving
19	Monday	10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan
		7:30 PM	Marlborough Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Immaculate Conception Church, Pastor Linda preaching
21	Wednesday	7:15 PM	W.H.O. (Women Helping Others), Meeting Room
22	Thursday	All Day	Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
		7:00 PM	Thanksgiving Service at New Horizons Assisted Living
25	Sunday	11:00 AM	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
		11:25 AM	Sunday school
		Noon	Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall
		Noon	SPRC, Meeting Room
26	Monday	10 AM	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan
		6:00 PM	First Session of Advent Study, Pastor's Office
29	Thursday	3:00 PM	All Souls Ecumenical Service, New Horizons
		7:00 PM	Regular Worship at New Horizons

## *Pictures from October 2007 activities*



Our thanks to those who helped with several fund- and friend-raisers in October! Our youth raised a record-breaking amount at the Fall Yard Sale. Joyce Swett, Judy Chaves and Michele Rogers worked hard to resurrect our annual church rummage sale. And pictured here, the first-ever Gifts Galore Home Vendor Sale coordinated by Ann Bastian.

Congratulations to Jan Racca for completion of the Advanced Lay Speaking course in Discipleship. Graduation was on Sunday, October 21. Picture here are keynote speaker, District Superintendent Ron Wilson, Instructor Bruce, Jan, and Instructor Rev. Ernest Belisle.



Congratulations also to Advanced Lay Speaking School graduate Mathew Alexander, who completed a course in Caring Ministry. Here, he poses with the course instructor after five weeks of intense study.

### *From the Mailbag*

Card from Bess Cowan: To Pastor Linda and the Church Family

“You’ve been so very nice to me. I wish I knew some way to let you know the gratitude I feel but just can’t say. So I hope this special thank-you will show, at least in part, the warm appreciation that is coming from my heart. Many thanks for all your prayers, cards, telephone calls and visits and flowers. God bless you all.

In Christian love,  
Bess Cowan.



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**Address Correction Requested**

**Pastor Linda Stetter**

