

THE UNION COURIER

Union Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
The Reverend Gail L. Miller, Pastor

220 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450



Mid-Summer 2016



FROM THE
PASTOR

*There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens.
~Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Back in 2014, we began the *Stephen Ministry* program here. *Stephen Ministry* is a caring ministry whose purpose is to train lay people to visit, listen to, and pray for people both in the church and in the community who are facing stressful or challenging circumstances. *Stephen Ministry* can be a big help to pastors (such as myself) who wish we could be making ongoing visits to a number of people at any given time, but simply cannot due to the varying demands of a church such as ours.

Under the leadership of Andrea McDonough, we trained six people to serve in this capacity. Now, two years later, after prayerful consideration and conversation together, we have decided to suspend this ministry for the foreseeable future. While there may be a time for *Stephen Ministry* here, that time is not now. Over the past year and a half, our Stephen Ministers have not been called upon in the way we would have liked. There are all kinds of reasons why this may be, but the reality is that we're not using the skills and gifts of the people we've trained. And the time they are spending in continued training for *Stephen Ministry* is keeping them from serving in other types of ministries within or outside of the church. So, we're going to put *Stephen Ministry* on the shelf for now, and release the Stephen Ministers to use their new, or enhanced, skills in other ways. (Their last meeting will be July 16, and, gradually, the pew cards and brochures will disappear from the Sanctuary.)

I am very grateful to Andrea for her leadership, and to our Stephen Ministers: Greg Balligan, Paul Brown, Erica Davenport, Susan Davenport, Steve Legge, Sheila Mitchell and Karen Sherwin for their dedication to this ministry and care for our church.

We hope to offer classes/conversations to the whole church this year, using the excellent materials *Stephen Ministry* provides on topics such as: Listening, Caring for Those Who Grieve, and Relating Gently and Firmly. Stay tuned!

May these summer weeks bring rest, renewal and rejoicing for you and your families.

In Christ and in His love,

Gail

A sincere and warm "Thank You" for your generous celebration of our Ten-Year Anniversary as pastor and parish on June 5th. The "Sharing Christ—Changing Lives" bracelet, complete with the church's GPS coordinates (a Tom and Mary creation!) is a treasure! (And we were eating angel food cake at home all week...) Bless you, and thank you!



Our Church Family



Ongoing Prayer List—Refreshed as of June 1

This prayer list is refreshed twice a year (June and January). If you would like other names added (or any name removed), please email Carol Zaiatz (unioncc@uccgroton.org) with the person's name and the prayer request, or contact Gail Miller directly (gail@uccgroton.org). Thank you.

Anna Biocchi
Rosemarie Bradley
Vic Bunish

Sheila Craigen
Eva Facchini
Harold Gould

Liz Lienhard
Alex Martin

Joe Swales
The Vincent Family



- Ron Maciejowski (Lisa's father), having hip replacement on July 28.
- Hailey Sullivan, recovering from oral surgery.
- Residents of Orlando, Baton Rouge, St. Paul and Dallas; police officers and first responders everywhere.
- Connie and Bob Brown's daughter, Stacey Streeter, who is recovering from second degree burns.
- Catherine Detwiller, Chip Detwiller's mother, hospitalized after a stroke.
- The Zemlin/Fortier Family, in the death of John Fortier (husband/father).



HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY!

Milestone Anniversaries

- Dick and Sheila Smith, celebrating 55 years on July 22.
- Bonnie Martin and Mark Rzeznikiewicz, celebrating 10 years on August 5.
- Alison and Robert Rosenfeld, celebrating 10 years on August 26.

July Birthdays

| | | | |
|------------------|------|------------------|------|
| Charlie Bridge | 7/1 | Mary Kubick | 7/15 |
| Joanne Hanson | 7/2 | Rylan Rosenfeld | 7/16 |
| Eleanor Ferrero | 7/2 | Brent Emerle | 7/18 |
| Reaghan Carleton | 7/3 | Leslie Howard | 7/18 |
| Peg Lloyd | 7/3 | Cassie Sampas | 7/19 |
| Sara Clinton | 7/3 | Caroline Clinton | 7/19 |
| Jennifer Gervais | 7/4 | Cameron Grasso | 7/21 |
| Bob Goudey | 7/4 | Betsy Bridge | 7/22 |
| Chip Detwiller | 7/5 | Colin Grasso | 7/24 |
| Lisa Maciejowski | 7/7 | Amy Sjoborg | 7/24 |
| Paige Carleton | 7/8 | Destiny Bou | 7/26 |
| Lynn Manalo | 7/9 | Caden Rosenfeld | 7/27 |
| Robert Houde | 7/10 | Brey Robinson | 7/28 |
| Eleanor Kubick | 7/10 | Sarah Flynn | 7/30 |
| Abigail Howard | 7/10 | Bryce York | 7/31 |
| Cloe Bridge | 7/13 | | |
| Finley Clinton | 7/14 | | |

August Birthdays

| | | | |
|--------------------|------|------------------|------|
| Maya Milner | 8/1 | Kristina Hnath | 8/26 |
| Jack Van Pelt | 8/1 | Jennifer Boucher | 8/27 |
| Ellen Hargraves | 8/8 | Makaila Meehan | 8/28 |
| Meghan Byron-Kelly | 8/8 | Beth Hughes | 8/29 |
| Diane Landry | 8/8 | Nancy Bugbee | 8/30 |
| Kristin Ansted | 8/9 | Alex Platt | 8/31 |
| Leo Biocchi | 8/13 | Jason Zambuto | 8/31 |
| Janice Flynn | 8/16 | | |
| Patrick Daly | 8/16 | | |
| Bebe Goudey | 8/17 | | |
| Jenna Plausse | 8/20 | | |
| Pete Hnath | 8/21 | | |
| Matt Carey | 8/23 | | |
| Pat Woods | 8/24 | | |
| Macie Bridge | 8/25 | | |
| Steve Legge | 8/26 | | |

Leigh Maynard, our friend from *Common Cathedral*, is celebrating his birthday on July 25. If you'd like to send him a card, his address is: 140 Harvest St., Apt. 1 Dorchester, MA 02124

If we missed your birthday, it is not in our database. Please email unioncc@uccgroton.org to give us your birthday. Also, we would like to recognize significant anniversaries — would you share that information with us?

September Courier The next Courier will be the September issue. *Email your submission to Carol Zaiatz at unioncc@uccgroton.org by Tuesday, August 16. Thank you.*

Church News

Gail's Vacation

Pastor Miller will be away July 18—August 6. She'll return to worship on August 7 and to the office on Tuesday, August 9. The Reverend Marvin Caldwell () or Reverend Skip Lloyd () or () will be available for pastoral emergencies in her absence. Guest Preachers will be The Reverends Roger Lier and Kaz Bem.



Summer Office Hours

Carol Zaiatz' hours are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:30 a.m.—5:30 p.m. **The office is closed on Mondays. If Gail is out of the office on Wednesday, the office will also be closed that day.** Carol returns to her four-day work after Labor Day (September 6).

Office Closed August 1-5. Carol will be on vacation August 1—August 12. Since both Gail and Carol will be away August 1-5, the office will be closed that week. Erica Davenport will stop by the office periodically to collect mail, check voicemail and email. Gail will be back in the office Tuesday, August 9, and Carol will be back Tuesday, August 16.

2016 Graduates

- **Travis Spencer Bugbee** graduated from GDRHS. He will be attending the University of Connecticut in the fall, studying in the Honors Program in Computer Science.
- **Jocelyn Byron-Kelly** received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Fitchburg State University. She majored in Exercise and Sports Science. She hopes to pursue a Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy.
- **Dan Flynn** graduated from GDRHS and is going to Salem State University. He was awarded a Billy Hamilton scholarship.
- **Sarah Flynn** earned a Bachelor's Degree in Child Psychology from the University of Massachusetts. She wants to continue her studies.
- **Ben M. Gambuzza** graduated from Bishop Guertin High School (Nashua NH). He will be attending Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, majoring in Political Science/Philosophy with a Music Minor.
- **Casey Sjoberg** graduated from GDRHS. She will be attending the University of Kentucky in the fall.
- **Emily M. Townsend** graduated from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor's Degree in Advertising/English. She is currently looking for a Job and will be back in the area in early August.

Annual Stated Meeting (June 12) Summary

Our Operating Budget continues to be favorable. It was also pointed out that in the past five years we have given \$33K from our budget to the Missions Committee, \$25K in special collections, nearly \$14K for The Christmas Fund and \$50K toward Mission Trips — good job!

Our Endowments Fund is \$396K at the end of April and continues to track with the market.

There was a FaST update, which included the progress on the Master Plan, options for the Parish House and more formal parking. There will be a Special Congregational meeting in October where a Building Plan will be presented and, if possible, approved. The FaST team meets with our architects every two weeks with updates available both in the weekly Friday email (look for the button on the left) and a printed copy at the back of the Sanctuary.

Church Council (June 22) Summary

In September the FaST Team will present a possible building project with a question and answer period. In October there will be a Congregational Meeting to vote on the proposed building project.

September 1st is the due date for all committees to give their 2017 budget to the Finance Committee; please see your liaison (or contact Liz McQuillin to find out who your liaison is).

The *Stephen Ministry* shared an update (see front page) and invited feedback regarding topics we'd be interested in learning about in an Adult Education Forum.

A small task force is forming to consider what options there are for the Parish House if the building project moves forward. If interested, contact Rev. Gail or Stefanie Lempp.

Sunday School / Bible Study / Missions



Even though the fall program year feels a way off, we are busy at church preparing for Sunday School. We are adjusting the classes to keep the number of kids per class in balance and assigning room in the Parish House accordingly.

Sunday School Teachers this year will teach in teams (3-4 teachers per team per grade). Each team will divide up the Sundays as fits their schedules, and coordinate directly with each other. This will provide consistency for the kids and ready support for the teachers, while simplifying communication regarding the kids and the classes. We are still seeking teachers to join the 4/5 grade class team. Contact anyone on the committee if you are interested in helping as a teacher (or being on our "sub" list).

Christian Education Committee

—Anne Cahill, Chair
—Anne Larsen

—Jean Armstrong
—Krista Kubick

—Kelli Hnath

—Diane Landry

Bible Study

Wednesday Evening Bible Study Thursdays (July and August only) 7:30 p.m. in the Pastor's Office

The Present Word: The Gift of Faith Our study moves into exploring issues of faith through stories and familiar individuals found in the New Testament. "There are opportunities to witness people's faith as they are tested, supported, and celebrated. Jesus accompanies these people every step of the way, just as he accompanies us." The first unit focuses on text from Mark's Gospel when people's faith is tested during the final weeks of Lent, including Palm Sunday and Easter. *Contact: Janet Kennedy*

Thursday Morning Bible Study is on break for the summer. They will resume in September.

Missions Committee



Hagar's Sisters Event (June 16)

The Volunteer Appreciation Event held on June 16 was a big success! Everyone at Hagar's Sisters are extremely grateful for the support provided to them by our Missions Team. The room was beautiful! With the help of your Missions Committee and others, *Hagar's Sisters* were able to celebrate the people who help them serve the women who come to them for hope and healing.

Missions Committee

—Julie Platt, Chair
—Lynn Manalo

—Brenda Barker
—Halsey Platt

—Pete Hnath

Help the Homeless—Invitations to Serve this Fall

Outdoor Church (Cambridge)

Monday, October 10 (Columbus Day Holiday)
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (approx. times)

Children in upper elementary grades and their families are welcome to join Pastor Miller and Sophia. Meet at church, make sandwiches and assemble sack lunches; then head to Alewife and to Central Square. We walk a route organized by the Outdoor Church (a homeless ministry in Cambridge), handing out lunches, and extending the warmth of God's love. Questions: Gail (978-448-2091)

City Reach

Friday-Saturday, November 18-19

5:00 p.m. Friday—5:00 p.m. Saturday

Reserve your spot via email to Gail Miller (gail@uccgroton.org). The trip will cost \$100/person—\$65 is a required donation to City Reach to fund their program and \$35 is for transportation, food, etc.

Youth Mission Trip

Youth Mission Trip to Queens, New York June 26—July 3

The Missions Committee would like to thank all of the Youth Missionaries and Advisors who travelled to Queens, NY, representing our church while serving in retirement homes, community gardens and cleaning parks in the Queens area. What a wonderful way to Share Christ and Change Lives beyond the borders of our town.

Youth: Taylor Ansted, Arianna Boucher, Matt Carey, Ryan Carey, Mary Cocossa, Taryn Emerle, Jack Foster, Emily Hanson, Jason Hnath, Kristina Hnath, Robert Houde, Jack Horsman, Aiden Luth, MacKenzie Luth, Katie Milano, Alex Platt, Brey Robinson, Kaylyn Sampson, Sammi Smith, Sophia Smith, Nathan Townsend, Lauren Weilbrenner, Maggie Wickham, Olivia Wirta, Bryce York, Bill Zhao

Advisors: Mary Hanson, Tom Hanson, Pete Hnath, Stefanie Lempp, Gail Miller, Halsey Platt.



Youth Mission Trip (cont.)



Just So You Know

Union Congregational Church United Church of Christ

220 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450
978-448-2091
www.uccgroton.org

The Reverend Gail Miller
Cell phone: 978-877-2177
gail@uccgroton.org

Office Hours
Tuesday—Friday
9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Carol Zaiatz—Office Administrator
unioncc@uccgroton.org

Summer Hours (through Labor Day)

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
8:30 a.m.—5:30 p.m.

(Church Office is closed Saturday—Monday)

Music Director: Bernard Crane

Cherub Choir: Bonnie Marchesani

Handbell Choir: Cheryl Townsend

Church Officers

Moderator: Stefanie Lempp

Treasurer: Dennis Carey

Clerk: Lori McElroy

Collector: Bob Goudey

Internal Auditor: Bruce Wyman

Prayer List: Feel free to call the church office to add or remove names from the prayer list.

Booking Events: When planning meetings, please call the church office to be sure the space is available and give dates/times to Carol so she can input them into the calendar.

Sermons: Copies of Pastor Miller's sermons are available on the website.

Weekly News Email: This is sent out Friday afternoon through MailChimp.

Name Tags help us become friends. Please wear yours. Sign up on the nametag list in the church hallway, call or email the church office. You can use one of the blank name tags until yours is ready.

Committee/Ministry Contacts

Buildings & Grounds:
John Brooks

Barb Lefebvre

Christian Education:
Anne Cahill

Church Council Member-at-Large:
Pat Woods

Diaconate:
Greg Balligan

Steve Legge

Endowment:
Mary Hanson

FaST:
Tim Dumont

Kitchen Ministry:
Joel Hughes

GPS:
Stefanie Lempp

Missions:
Julie Platt

Pastor Parish Relations:
Bebe Goudey

Stewardship & Finance:
Liz McQuillin

Technology Ministry
Mike Smith

Mary Hanson (webmaster)

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Summer Fun—All Are Invited!



Breezy Picnic Grounds (Douglas, MA)
Monday, August 15
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

This place is great! Swimming, waterslides, picnic, sandy play areas, game rooms, snack bar. Bring a picnic lunch and join us for some or all of the day.

**Old Fashioned “End of Summer”
Fellowship Church Picnic**
Sunday, August 28, after Worship
11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.



Please bring your blanket for the ground and a side dish or dessert to share. Sandwiches, chips, and beverages will be provided. Get ready for some fellowship, food, and “old fashioned” fun! Contact: Janet Carey () for questions or if you would like to help.

*We hope you will continue to worship with us
on Sundays when you are not away!*